ABSTRACT

This study attempts to examine the Information-Seeking Behavior and use pattern of faculty members under Bharathiar university affiliated colleges. In this study the mode of collection of data, its presentation, analysis and interpretation are also presented. The primary data for this study has been collected through a questionnaire survey of 70 colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University from four districts of Tamilnadu.

The purpose of the study is to know about the information-seeking behavior, purpose of information search, awareness about library services, use pattern of information sources, usage of library services, sources to get required information, preference of library materials, use pattern of e-resources, satisfaction of library facilities, materials, services and barriers faced by the faculty members.

The purpose of the study is to identify the information needs of the faculty members. The key research objectives are i) To evaluate the information seeking behavior of the faculty members affiliated to Bharathiar University. ii) To study the purpose of information search, use pattern of information sources, awareness about library services from the faculty members. iii) To examine the sources to get required information from the faculty members. iv) To find out the satisfactory level of the library services and also the problems faced while seeking information from the faculty member.
A problem for the study is essential for any research activity. Many resources are available to the faculty members, but the question which arises is, are they aware of these resources and facilities? Due to the rapid growth of information and communication technology, there are more opportunities to know that teachers have no excuse for being ignorant. There are studies based on information-seeking behavior, but the transparency in information seeking behavior is not clear about the college faculty members. Hence the researcher felt the need of undertaking the present study to identify the growth of information-seeking behavior. The problem identified by the researcher for the study is entitled as "Information seeking behavior and use pattern of faculty members under Bharathiar university affiliated colleges: A study"

The research has been carried out in college located in four districts namely Nilgiris, Tirupur, Erode and Coimbatore under Bharathiar University. The present study is conducted on a sample of 1050 questionnaires distributed among Arts, Science and management faculty members of Bharathiar University affiliated colleges. A total number of 730 filled in questionnaires were returned back. 406 from Arts, 266 from Science and 58 from Management. The researcher has selected all the 730 questionnaires for the analyses.

The key findings of the study reveals the personal profile of the faculty members, frequency and purpose of visit to the library, purpose of information search, awareness about library services, use pattern of manual as well as digital resources, satisfaction level and the problems faced during the information search. Most of the faculty members visit the library regularly. Evening time is the most
preferable time for faculty members to visit the library. Majority of the private college and government college faculty members use the library for their preparation of lecture and for browsing internet. It is clear that more number of college faculty members are aware of internet services, question bank, OPAC and barcode transaction services. Email usage followed by online enquiry are also familiar among the college faculty members.

Majority of the private college faculty members have given first preference to use text books as their use pattern of information source, followed by reference books and e-resources as their second preference. Pro quest data base is widely used by majority of the college faculty members followed by Ebsco. N-list, Inflibnet data base is popularly used by Arts college faculty members followed by Delnet for resource sharing. Sage Publication is frequently used by most of the college faculty members followed by Oxford University Press. Sage knowledge e-books are popularly used by many of the faculty members followed by Cambridge e- books. Question bank is used by all the faculty members. Open access journals (DOAJ) is also used by majority of the college faculty members. The reference service and text books are mostly used by the faculty members. The faculty members prefer Internet to get the required information followed by other college libraries. The highest number of faculty members use text books to carry out their class room teaching and research work followed by Question bank. Journals are also frequently used by the faculty members to get required information. More number of faculty members below 30 years of age use E-books, E-journals, databases followed by internet services. The faculty members between 30-40 years of age prefer E-books
followed by E-journals. The faculty members between 40-50 also use E-books
followed by E-journals and Databases. The faculty members above 50 prefer E-
books, E-journals and databases. Majority of the government college faculty
members are satisfied with the facilities like stack, computer facilities, drinking
water, luggage and cleanliness. Most of the private institution faculty members are
satisfied with the toilet facilities followed by cleanliness. Furniture and stack
facilities are also good in private colleges. Majority of the government college
faculty members are satisfied with journals followed by reference books. More
number of the private college faculty members are satisfied with text books
followed by Question bank and E-books. More number of private college faculty
members has given excellent grade to OPAC and question bank facility, whereas
the government / government-aided college faculty members have given excellent
to Assistance by the library staff. Majority of the government faculty members face
lack of training followed by lack of time. The maximum number of private college
faculty faces lack of time followed by lack of training.

To conclude that the objectives of the study have been achieved by
evaluating in depth of information seeking behavior of the faculty members under
Bharathiar University colleges and finds that most of the government and private
college libraries function in an efficient way to fulfill the needs of the faculty
members. Even though the faculty members face some difficulty in getting the
required information, they obtain their goals and deliver enhanced teaching to their
student community.