CHAPTER – III

RESEARCH DESIGN

This chapter deals with the statement of the problem and meaning of undertaking the study in terms of objectives and process of analyzing the objectives in the form of formulation of appropriate hypothesis. Further, the methodology of this study is spelt out in the mode of data collection, methods of data analysis, statistical techniques and limitations of the study.

3.1 Methodology

This study attempts to examine the “Assessment of Information Needs and Use Pattern of Biologist of Select State Universities of Tamil Nadu” and it traces out the information needs and seeking behaviour of users in terms of exploratory approach. It is primarily a fact finding venture. The identified facts are cross-tabulated with status of the respondents. Thus it gives analytical orientation to this study and the design of this study is partly exploratory and partly analytical in nature.

Designing of the Questionnaire

To collect the information about assessment of information needs and use pattern of Biologist of select state Universities of Tamil Nadu, the investigator used questionnaire.
At the outset preliminary questionnaire was developed. The outline was discussed with the research guide, after discussion the questionnaire was developed and given a trial run among some respondents of the university.

The final questionnaire (Appendix I) was distributed to all the respondents of selected universities of Tamil Nadu. The necessary instructions related to the filling up of a questionnaire also passed to the respondents.

**Content of Questionnaire**

The questionnaire used in the present study was divided into 12 parts. In the first part, personal information of the respondents was asked. The second part of questionnaire related to information about seminar / conferences attended & books and paper published by the respondents. The third part of questionnaire covers the various formal & informal sources used by the respondents and their opinion about the university library collections. The fourth part the questionnaire related to the information of use pattern followed by the respondents. The fifth part of the questionnaire collected the data about usage of various information services by the respondents. The six parts cover data about information gathering behaviour of respondents. The seventh part of the questionnaire given the data about nature of information needs of the respondents. The eight part of questionnaire provide information related to respondent’s opinion about the
library collection. The ninth part of the questionnaire collect the information about various channels used by the respondents to access the information. The tenth part of questionnaire has given data about constraints faced by respondents in using and searching information in the libraries. The eleventh part of the questionnaire was related to impact of new information technology on information seeking behaviour of the respondents. The last part of the questionnaire provides information about suggestion / remedies collected from the respondents to make of the library in the efficient way.

3.2 Data Collection

There are 19 state universities functioning in Tamil Nadu, out of these the researcher has selected only four state universities for the present study namely, Annamalai University, Bharathidasan University, Bharathiar University and Madurai Kamaraj University. The researcher employed a well structured questionnaire for collecting the data from the four state universities of Tamil Nadu. The questionnaire was prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand the items. At first, a pilot study was conducted to test the feelings of the respondents in answering questions. Here no sample study, the questionnaire were distributed to all 791 respondents of the selected universities. The respondents were personally requested to fill up the questionnaire at their earliest convenience in order to help the investigator to collect the same during his next visit. The
investigator had to make second and third visits to the colleges for collecting the filled-in-questionnaires from the respondents. During these visits, the investigator could collect questionnaires only from 710 out of 791 respondents to whom the questionnaires were distributed. This constitutes 89.76% (710/791) of the total response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>No. of Questionnaires Distributed</th>
<th>No. of questionnaires received back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Annamalai University</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bharathidasan University</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bharathiar University</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Madurai Kamaraj University</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>791</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 Data Analysis

The collected data were classified and tabulated according to the objectives and hypotheses stated. For proper arrangement of the data, a master table was prepared by the researcher and was subjected to statistical treatments.
In order to test the hypotheses, the chi square test and two ways ANOVA were applied. The general data interpretation was made with the help of percentage analysis. On the basis of the obtained data, respondent’s status wise interpretations were made.

3.4 Statistical Techniques Used

Percentage analysis, chi-square test and two way ANOVA have been applied to analyse the data collected for the study.