Chapter 6
Conclusions and Suggestions
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CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 Introduction

The present study “Use of Periodical Literature in Medical College Libraries affiliated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad” was concerned with the Medical science fraternity and its 400 Dissertations. Information was collected from the appended bibliography at the end of each dissertation and also questionnaire was separately designed for the users as well as librarian. The data collected was tabulated and analyzed. Bibliometric techniques were used in the analysis. The findings in relation to the objectives (1.4) have been discussed.

6.2 Conclusions/Findings

The conclusions / findings have been presented under the following headings.

1 Form-wise distribution of cited literature.
2 Chronological distribution of citations.
3 Authorship pattern of citations.
4 Ranking of journals.
   4.1 Bradford’s law of scattering
5 Language-wise distribution of citations.
6 Indian and Foreign distribution of citations
   6.1 Geographical distribution of citations in Country wise
7 Ranking of authors
8 Survey

The Present Study cover the dissertations submitted during 2001 to 2012. It was assumed that more than 800 dissertations are submitted to the medical colleges affiliated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, hence the subjects undertaken in the study. Only 400 dissertations were available for the study, and hence, 400 dissertations were considered for the present study.
6.2.1 Form-wise distribution of cited literature

1. Out of 12348 citations, it was found that the Journals are the major form of media used with citation count, of 9481 (76.78%) of total literature used, where as the Books is used in 879 (7.12%). Amongst citations of Dissertations 254 (2.06%) of citations, while the Internet 1207(9.77%) , Report 352 (2.85%), Encyclopedia 175(4.42%). This indicates that, “Medical Science study and research in Marathwada is mainly based on periodical literature” (hypothesis no. 1) is valid and it also indicates that, “ Digital media has only limited impact on the medical science community” (hypothesis no. 4) is valid.

6.2.2 Chronological distribution of the citations

2. Pre 1940 accounting to 25 (0.26%), followed by year 1940-1949 accounting to 251 (2.65%) citations, maximum number of citations are covered during the period of 2000-2009 accounting to 2488 (26.24) and in the period of 1990-1999 accounting to 2312 (24.39%) citations. And the without year citations are 208(2.19%).

6.2.3 Authorship Patterns of the citations

3. Out of total number of 9481 citations 122 (1.29%) are by single author, followed by 450 (4.75%) citations by two authors, 856 (9.03%) citations have three authors, by four authors 1234 (13.02%), citations by five authors is 172 (3.21%). The finding also shows that the maximum citations are from more than five authors i.e 4465 (47.09%) citations respectively.

6.2.4 Ranking of Journals

4. The journals are most preferred publication used by the researchers in their study. The citations which are cited in various journals have been considered in the above table. “Lancet” scores the top position with 306 (3.23%) citations, second rank goes to “American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology” with 301 (3.17%) citations, followed by “Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology” with 288 (3.04%) citations respectively.
6.2.4.1 Bradford’s law of scattering

5. The data was analyzed to test applicability of Bradford’s Law of scattering; the total numbers of 9481 Citations were divided into 3 equal zones, i.e 3160 citations in each zone. While number of journals in each zone is in the ratio of 14: 94: 413. Even though data does not fit Bradford’s Law of scattering mathematically but verbally it fits in to it. The 14 journals coming under first zone are core journals. It can be further stated that 80% citations were contributed in 507 journals. This indicates that “Small number of periodical titles account for the majority of use.” (hypothesis no. 2) is valid.

6.2.5 Language wise distribution of the citations

6. Out of 9481 citations, all (100%) are cited in English language. This indicates that, “English language is a predominant language” (hypothesis no. 3) is valid.

6.2.6 Indian and Foreign distribution of citations

7. Out of 9481 citations, Indian citations are 1900 (20.04%) and 5980 (63.07%) citations are foreign citations. And remaining 1601(16.89%) Citations have not mentioned the country. This indicates that, “Foreign periodicals are used more than India Periodicals” (hypothesis no. 5) is valid.

6.2.6.1 Geographical distribution of citations in Country wise

8. In overall citations USA scored the top position with 2325 (24.52%) citations; second rank goes to UK with 2136 (22.53%) citations, followed by India with 1900 (20.04%) citations respectively. “Foreign periodicals are used more than India Periodicals” (hypothesis no. 5) is valid.

6.2.7 Ranking of Authors
9. The author which the is most preferred by researchers, that document is most important to keep in the library for that purpose author ranking is essential to librarians as well as researchers. The top most cited author are “Gregg, A.L.” scores the top position with 32 (0.34%) citations, second rank goes to ‘Merchant Anwar’ with 27 (0.28%) citations, followed by ‘Eldredeg, J D’ with 25 (0.26%) citations respectively.

6.2.8 Survey

6.2.8.1 Categories of Readers

10. There is clear variation among the colleges. Post Graduate students constituted 58.92 %, Teachers constituted 15.14, Interns constituted 24.32 and visitor/ other constituted 1.62%.

6.2.8.2 Sources of obtaining Journals

11. Approximately 62.16 % readers visited the library more than once in a week to use the periodicals. It was observed the frequency of teachers to visit the library was low comparatively to the post graduate students and interns. However, of the total 52 teachers, found to visit library more than once a week.

6.2.8.3 Other sources of obtaining Journals

12. On the whole 22.16% of total respondents were found to be in habit of personally subscribing to journals while 11.08 respondents borrows from teachers or colleagues.

6.2.8.4 Regularly read periodicals

13. In all 165 journal titles were listed as regularly read by the respondents; of these 25 journals were found to be listed as regularly read more respondents. New England journal of medicine, Lancet and Indian Pediatrics all general medical periodicals stopped the list of most regularly read journals, confirming their popularity as found in the citation analysis study.

6.2.8.5 Periodicals used during the survey time
14. Of the total 82 titles which were being used, Lancet was being referred to by the largest number of respondents viz. Indian Pediatrics’, Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology India, Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology, Indian Journal of Urology and Journal of Association of Physicians of India as many as 57 titles were common to 150 core journals list.

15. The respondents were analyzed according to their categories a slightly lower for proportion of teachers (i.e. 9.52%) was found to make use of abstracting and indexing journals. The post graduate students and intern (22.54%) seemed to depend more heavily on the informer channel.

6.2.8.6 Bibliographic tools

16. Only 3.51% respondents were found to make use of such tools regularly; another 13.24% made frequent use of these tools. Surprisingly as many as 35.14% of respondents replied that they never used these bibliographic tools.

6.2.8.7 Related Services

17. The instances of use of Medlars/Medline had reported from GMC & SRT libraries, which throughout the study had generally been reported to use of periodical literature. More respondents from GMC had acquired reading lists. It may recall that the librarian of GMC had claimed to be providing current awareness and even selective dissemination of information. Teacher and other readers made more use of internet and photocopying services.

18. It was found that readers were usually discouraged by library staff when certain services were demanded. Essential services were also denied a number of times. Services demanded by the users are internet medlar/medline, photocopying is essential but cannot expect from library where basic services are lacking. It can also be observed from the above table that Internet is used by 247 (66.76%) respondents. It indicates that “Digital media has only limited impact on the medical science community” (hypothesis no. 4) is valid.
6.3 Suggestions

The research scholars while citing the work of other author should cite the whole bibliographical details, author’s name, title of work, source of publication, volume number, issue number, year of publication, place of publication and publisher. Out of total number of 9481 citations (the source data) 208 (2.19%) citations are not mentioned the year of publication, 246 (2.59%) citations are without authors, and 1601 (16.89%) citations are without place. So it is very hard to analyses citations properly, for solving this problem bibliographical details should be given. Citation analysis of medical dissertation will help the librarians to subscribe useful journals, find out core journal and handle whole library with maintaining standard. It also helps research scholars to select the document which gives the current information of related subject of their studies.

6.4 Areas for Further Study

The further study can be carried out on the topics; viz.

1) A University library bring collection and its users under umbrella, users studies, use information needs, reading habits of different categories of users can be undertaken to understand the demands of the users for collection development of medical libraries.

2) The studies on the use of e-collection development and e-services rendered in Medical libraries in Maharashtra can be undertaken

3) Use of e-journals and e-journal consortium in Medical libraries in India.