CHAPTER II
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REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Information seeking behaviour studies is one of the important areas in user studies. The motives and purposes of users give rise to information needs and requirements. To satisfy such needs and requirements, users adopt many ways and means of accessing and searching sources of information. Then they try to acquire necessary information both regularly and in an adhoc way as necessary from these services. In the act of acquiring information, the user uses or calls upon the sources of predetermined, thus leading to satisfaction or dissatisfaction in relation to purposes and needs.

The study of the information seeking behaviour of scientists can be dated back to the late 1940's. Since that times a large number of studies have been carried out on various aspects of the information seeking behaviour of scientists and this literature has been extensively reviewed in various sources. There is also a considerable amount of literature on the information seeking behaviour of scientists.

The basic need of any research work is the review of literature. It is a critical look at the existing research that is significant to the work that any one researcher carrying out. It is also vital to evaluate the research work, show the relationships between different works, and show how it relates to the researcher's work.
Keeping it in mind that the review of literature should provide the context for research by looking at work has already been done the researcher's in the application of e-resources in the medical library for information seeking. It is not supported to be just a summary of other researcher's work.

Though several studies on the application of e-resources in the medical library for information seeking of medical professional were available, similar studies concerning with these area were scarce. The present study corresponds to the examination of research output reported in the discipline of library and information science with specific focus on factors relating to automation effects on library functioning. This field of research has received the attention of various scholars, information scientists and library users and they have contributed different dimensions of ideas in the form of research output. A proper appraisal of the research work, identifies the gaps to the previous studies. This type of analysis identifies a new era for the present research.

A survey was conducted by Ahanene¹ to examine the use of libraries and information centers by the administrators and decision makers of the Imo State, Nigeria.

Bawden and Robinson² conducted a study on the information needs and information seeking behaviour of library users. The study mainly conducted by semi-structured interviews with them shows mid-wifery to be
particularly information conscious, needing a wide variety of information and psychiatric nurses appear to be much less information conscious.

Bijimol Joseph\(^3\) analysed the utilization of library facilities of the Sree Chitra Tirumal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology. The study deals with frequency of library visit by users, use of the library, availability of books and other resources, awareness of new materials acquired in the library, area of reading materials and adequacy of physical facilities.

Curtis and others\(^4\) studied on the information seeking behaviour of health faculty at the Illinois University at Chicago using a questionnaire. The study found that the use of the print Index Medicus among faculty was in transition. While 30.5 percent continued to use the print resources, 68 percent of the faculty accessed MEDLINE through electronic media. Faculty preferred accessing electronic database from their offices, which is got from the library, Health Sciences faculty used a variety of databases, in addition to MEDLINE, and to fill their information needs. Most faculties did not take advantage of either in house or electronic sessions offered by the librarians.

A study conducted by Curtis and Hurd\(^5\) on information seeking behaviour, including use of major bibliographic tools by faculty members at the Illinois University at Chigaco revealed that over 70 per cent of the faculty used Index Medicus or MEDLINE. It was also found that there was a wide variation in the number and format of secondary services used by the faculty.
The study recommended that training were to be conducted for the users on how to handle new formats of bibliographical tools.

Detlefsen studied research literature relating to the information behaviour of life and health scientists and health care providers. He discussed the paucity of models for information seeking behaviour that have been tested in health care populations and the frequently used methods of investigation. A large number of information behaviour research studies were analyzed to determine who does the research and where the research is published.

Dudeja Conducted a study an “Infotech : challenges and opportunities in New Millennium”. The author concluded that with the advancement of IT, everything easy. Further the information seeking for any field was quite compatibility only with the help of IT improvement.

A study conducted by Ellis and Haugan on the information seeking patterns of engineers and research scientists at statoil's. Research centre, in Trondheum. The study analyses the requirements for different types of information in an environment where the need for internal and external resources are in intertwined. It was found that, although there were differences in the features of the information seeking patterns of the research scientist and engineers, the behavioural characteristics were similar; and they study identified identical or very similar categories of information seeking behaviour to those of academic researchers.
Ellis and others\(^9\) studied on the information seeking patterns of a group of research physicists and research chemists were analysed and the key features of those patterns identified. The study mainly conducted by a comparison between the information seeking patterns of the scientists and the social scientists. The results were that compared to certain minor variations concerned with awareness levels of facilities, the extent of usage of a source and the research stage at which a strategy may be employed were identified. Nonetheless, fundamental differences in information seeking behaviour could not be determined. Finally, the extent to which developments in electronic communication have had any impact on the information or communication patterns of the scientists and social scientists is considered.

Hari Krishna Reddy and Karisiddappa\(^{10}\) conducted a survey on information seeking behavior of 160 medical scientists on the use of formal and informal channels of communication, which showed that journals are preferred for formal source on information for preparing course/teaching materials. Books are used more for providing consultation and offering therapeutic/diagnostic services. The time spent in borrowing/reading literature for various purpose has also been studied.

Krishnan Kumar-(1993)\(^{11}\) conduct a survey of users attitude about e-resources in the medical library among the medical college teachers and research scholars of the department of medical science of the Medical colleges at Delhi:- The Survey found that quite a large percentage of research fellows
use e-resources in the library as much as. The majority of the researchers (71%) fed the need to improve their facilities further.

Lalitha conducted a study on the information seeking behaviour of medical and library users. The information in any field is required to update the knowledge of a seeker. The study is especially in case of practitioners of applied sciences and technologies. The present survey for the information seeking habits of medical and library users personal at different level students, teachers, practitioners and research workers are studied. Both the formal and informal approaches to collect information as practiced by the two communities are studied.

Mallaiah and Badami in their article reveals that the relevance and dependability of users study are described. An attempt is made to elicit opinions from the research scholars as the users of the Mangalore University Library. A questionnaire is used to make a survey of the use of information service facilities of the university library. The analysis of the data thus collected covers the use of the library collection, library catalogue, library service facilities, etc., and the information needs of the users of the library. Finally, it highlights the suggestions made by the research scholars for the future planning of the library.

Pelzer and others made a study on the library use and information seeking behaviour of veterinary medical students at Iwa State University using a questionnaire method. Results showed that the 1997 students used the
library most frequently for photo copying and studying course work; and they preferred textbooks and handouts for current information. However, a majority shift was seen from the use of print indexes and abstracts in 1987 towards the use of computerized indexes and other electronic resources in 1997. 60% of the students have reported as using the Internet for current information. Overall use of electronic materials was highest among students receiving the problem based learning method of instruction.

Premsmi15 investigated the information needs of academic medical scientists at Chulalong Koran University in Bankok, Thailand. Results indicated that scientists need up to date information relating to their field of interest and information on new research findings.

Swarnalata Devi and Lahiri16 studied on the information seeking behaviour of the Agricultural Scientists in Manipur using a questionnaire method. The study mentioned that the purposes for collection of agricultural information, basic area of research conducted by the scientists, various and sources and medium used by the scientists for dissemination of research results and their view about the availability of agricultural information in the state.

Dutt17 has found that detailed requirements of the specific information services can be identified only after a thorough analysis of user needs and the information seeking behaviour of the community; user surveys for assessment
of the user’s needs is said to be indispensable for the effective and efficient utilization of an information system and services.

Krishnakumar\textsuperscript{18} made a survey of teachers and research scholars of the Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi and he found that quite a large percentage of research fellows do not use the library as much as they ought to. The majority of the researchers feel the need to improve their skills in the use of science and Technology literature.
REFERENCES


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