Introduction

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy

This age old adage clearly tells us the importance attributed to the games and sports since ages. In fact, origin of the sports can be traced back to almost the beginning of any civilisation. World history is full of instances and anecdotes referring to sports of different epochs. Every civilisation Greek, Roman, Indian, and Chinese etc. evolved its own indigenous sports and made them an integral part of culture. During ancient times sports were most often used as media to percolate and disseminate cultural ethics and ethos.

Sports and games are as old as the history of mankind because the very basis of human existence is physical activity, and entertainment is a basic necessity of mankind. Whether formally organised or not, sports and games have played a significant role in human history since pre-historic times as it was essential to be physically fit for survival. Therefore, the physical activities have been used by all the societies to safeguard the self, promote health and well being, and of course for entertainment.

The concept of organised physical activities programme as Physical Education started with the modern concept of education. Presently it has become a commodity which is used in the form of play and display. It can also be assumed that sports and games afford an opportunity for a sense of exhilaration, goal attainment, team work, personality development, identification and ego-gratification, which are not often available in daily life.

Though, sports are a part and parcel of physical education, there is a difference between the approaches of the two. Physical education is concerned with masses rather than a class, but sports are concerned with maximisation of performance, breaking of records, and to win.

Presently, sports have become order of the day. Electronic and print media is boosting up the sports and for the fulfillment of this purpose a large number of TV
channels are available, and a large amount of sports literature is published in the form of dedicated sports magazines, web resources, scholarly journals and newspapers at national and international level. Now, sports are played for rewards, awards, fame and monetary gains as well as pastime and recreation. It is a billion dollar industry now. 

Newly emerged sub-disciplines of physical education under the ambit of sports sciences, are contributing a lot in supporting research activities in the concerned field. Information technology is also playing a vital role in every nook and corner related with sports especially in research activities. A number of physical education and sports institutions, and sports clubs have been established in the country, and their number is growing day by day.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The term Information Seeking behaviour (ISB) varies from discipline to discipline and researcher to researcher. Keeping in view the information needs of users in each case the sources of information and the libraries, where information is acquired, stored, organised, preserved and disseminated to the researcher, have undergone changes dramatically in their forms and contents. It is also established that under all circumstances, user’s satisfaction remains the top priority for any library and information system. The best way to satisfy the users is to understand their needs properly, which helps to serve them adequately, efficiently and effectively. The last two decades have made radical impact on library and information centres particularly due to the emergence of information and communication technology and its use by the libraries and also the declining capacity of acquisition of reading material due to the drastic cuts on financial allocations. On the one side, the use of information communication technology and information networks such as Internet, Intranet, WWW, Web directories, weblogs, portals, E-portals, etc. facilitate seamless access to number of research papers, reports, conference proceedings, monographs, technical bulletins, etc., while on the other side the budgetary constraints restrict the accessibility to the scientific information which in turn hampers very seriously the research output by the research scientists.

The sports community is also facing above mentioned difficulties in gathering their required information. So for assessing information seeking behaviour of sports
persons and sports scientists, the present study “Information Seeking Behaviour of the Sports Persons and Scientists of Delhi and Punjab with special reference to the use of Information Technology” has been undertaken.

NEED FOR THE PRESENT STUDY

It has been realised that for long not much attention was paid to research in physical education and sports in India. The basic purpose of research in this field has always been to identify new techniques and methods to enhance the physical and mental strength of the sports persons for better performance in sports. The time is a witness that Indian sportsmen could bag only a single gold medal in Olympic Games in individual games category so far. So the major responsibility to harvest satisfactory results in sports at national and international level is laying on the shoulders of sports persons and sports scientists of the country. Hence, to find new avenues for better performance, timely, relevant and current information is required by the sports persons and the sports scientists.

The present work is an attempt to study the information seeking behaviour of the sports persons and sports scientists, their information seeking strategies, information channels and use of information technology etc. Paucity of funds and to serve the users pointedly inspire librarians to develop need based collections. That could be possible if users information seeking behaviour is known properly and they can be provided their needed library sources and services.

HYPOTHESES

1. Electronic sources of information are used very less by the Sports Persons and Sports Scientists.
2. Sports persons and sports scientists make much less use of library services.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

- To identify the purpose of seeking information and types of information required by the Sports Persons and Sports Scientists.
To ascertain as to how much satisfactory are the existing information services to concerned users of the libraries attached to the universities and institutes of physical education and sports sciences in India.

To examine the information seeking strategies of the sports persons and the sports scientists.

To identify the problems faced by the sports persons and sports scientists while gathering information.

To examine the impact of information technology on information seeking behaviour and information needs of the sports persons and sports scientists.

To compile lists of the core journals, electronic databases and websites of Physical Education and Sports Sciences.

To study major libraries in sports sciences in India.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Population Covered

The study is restricted to Sports Planners and Administrators, Coaches, Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Research Scholars and in ‘Others’ category Sports Instructors in the institutions of Physical Education and Sports located in Delhi and Punjab, etc.

Institutions Covered

The scope of the study is restricted to following institutes taken as a representative sample of their class:

- Department of Physical Education (Teaching and allied teaching), Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab.
- Department of Physical Education (Teaching and allied teaching), Panjab University, Chandigarh.
- Department of Physical Education (Teaching and allied teaching), Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab.
Government Arts and Sports College, Jalandhar, Punjab.
Government College of Physical Education, Patti, Tarn Taran, Punjab.
Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, New Delhi.
Moti Lal Nehru School of Sports, Rai, Sonipat, Haryana.
Neta Ji Subhash National Institute of Sports, Patiala, Punjab.
PGS Government College of Physical Education, Patiala, Punjab
SKR College of Physical Education, Bhagoo Majra, SAS Nagar, Punjab.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The Sports Authority of India is the nodal agency in the country for broad basing sports and for training of sports persons to achieve excellence at national and international levels. The Society for National Institute of Physical Education and Sports (SNIPES) was merged with Sports Authority of India with effect from 1st May 1987. Subsequently, Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Patiala and its allied centres at Bangalore, Kolkata, Gandhinagar and Laxmibai National College of Physical Education at Thiruvananthapuram came under Sports Authority of India (SAI). It has now six regional centres at Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, Sonepat, Bhopal and Imphal, and two sub-centres at Guwahati (Assam) and Lucknow (UP). The SAI also operates a High Altitude Training Centre (HATC) at Shillong (H.P). Apart from it, a large number of physical education and sports institutions are available in the country. Therefore due to practical reasons like time constraint and large size of population, only the physical education and sports institutions located in Punjab and Delhi, in addition to Moti Lal School of Sports, Rai (Haryana) have been included in the study.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In the design of any research methodology, the first step is to know the nature of the study. From this aspect, the present study falls under the category of survey research. Relevant literature has been reviewed though such studies are a few only. The principal methods for collecting primary data are: literature survey, questionnaires and
interviews. In the present study data has been collected through two structured questionnaires, one for sports persons and sports scientists, and second for librarians. Interview and observation methods were also applied for clarification, elaboration and supplementing the inadequate information.

**Pre-testing of the Questionnaires**

For getting satisfactory results, the questionnaires were pre – tested on ten sports respondents randomly. All these respondents provided some useful suggestions. As per their feed back some changes were made into the questionnaire.

**Data Collection**

Data collection was started in December 2008 and came to an end in November 2009. For this purpose all the institutions were personally visited by the researcher. Primary data collection has always been a challenge for a researcher. So this researcher also experienced mixed response from the respondents during data collection. Classrooms, Playgrounds, Gymnasiums, libraries and hostels of selected institutions were visited for data collection. A large number of the respondents were provided self addressed envelopes after affixing postal stamps, so that they could send these questionnaires to this researcher by post. Most of the respondents were very co-operative. For collecting data, 325 questionnaires were distributed among sports persons and sports scientists in 10 institutes of Physical Education and Sports in Delhi and Punjab, in addition to Moti Lal Nehru School of Sports, Rai, District Sonipat, Haryana. Out of these, 200 (61.53%) questionnaires were received back, and these questionnaires were found fit to be analysed.

**Data Analysis**

Data collected through Questionnaires were analysed by using IBM SPSS Statistics (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). MS-Excel was used for tabulation, charts and other statistical analysis. The techniques used to analyse the data are weighted mean and percentage.

The references have been given using APA Style Manual.
DEFINITIONS OF SIGNIFICANT TERMS USED

The following terms have been taken from different online and printed sources in physical education and sports:

Adapted Physical Activity: It is concerned with the preparation of teachers and sports leaders to provide programmes and services for individuals with disabilities.

Coach: In sports, a coach is a person involved in the direction, instruction and training of the operations of a sports team or of individual sports people in the field.

Exercise Physiology: The study of the effects of various physical demands, particularly exercise, on the structure and function of the body.

Games: A competitive activity or sport in which players contend with each other according to a set of rules.

Health Education: It is a process by which the individual acquires adequate knowledge about diseases, ailments and disorders and their preventive and curative aspects.

Information Seeking Behaviour: The totality of human behaviour in relation to sources and channels of information, including both active and passive information seeking, and information use.

Information Technology: The technology involving the development, maintenance, and use of computer systems, software, and telenetworks for the processing and distribution of data.

Motor Learning: It is the study of changes in motor behaviour that are primarily the result of practice and experience.

Physical Education: An integral part of total education process, is a field of endeavour that aims the improvement of human performance through the medium of physical activities that have been selected with a view to realising this outcome.

Planner: who makes plans regarding future to achieve the desired results.

Sports and Exercise Psychology: It uses principles and scientific methods from psychology to study human behaviour in sports.
**Sports Biomechanics:** It applies the methods of physics and mechanics to the study of human motion and the motion of sport objects.

**Sports History:** It is the critical examination of the past, with a focus on events, people, and trends that influenced the development and direction of the field.

**Sports Management:** It encompasses the managerial aspects of sport.

**Sports Medicine:** It is concerned with the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of sports-related injuries.

**Sports Pedagogy:** It can be defined broadly to include the study of teaching and learning in school and non-school settings.

**Sports Person:** A person trained to compete in a sport involving physical strength, speed, or endurance.

**Sports Philosophy:** It encompasses the study of the nature of reality, the structure of knowledge in sport, ethical and moral questions, and the aesthetics of movement.

**Sports Science:** A discipline which studies the application of scientific principles and techniques with the aim to improve sports performance.

**Sports Scientist:** A person who specialises in helping an individual athlete or team to improve their sporting performance through the use of scientific knowledge, methods, and applications in the area of physiology, biomechanics, psychology, motor control, and motor development.

**Sports Sociology:** It is the study of sports in society, its impact on participants in sports, and the relationship between sports and other societal institutions.

**Sports:** A subset of leisure and work activities that involve both physical activity and competition.

**Weighted Mean:** It is an average computed by giving different weights to some of the individual values. If all the weights are equal, then the weighted mean is the same as the arithmetic mean. Whereas weighted means generally behave in a similar approach to arithmetic means, they do have a few counter instinctive properties. Data elements with a high weight contribute more to the weighted mean than do elements with a low weight.
ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

The study consists of seven chapters given as below:

Chapter-1: Introduction

Chapter-2: Growth and Development of Sports in India since Independence

Chapter-3: Education and Research in Physical Education in India

Chapter-4: Review of the related literature

Chapter-5: Profiles of some sports libraries

Chapter-6: Sports persons: Their characteristics and information seeking behaviour

Chapter-7: Summary, Conclusions and suggestions

The first chapter “Introduction” covers all the aspects related to the present study right from its beginning to end. Statement of the problem, need and scope of the study, limitations, objectives, hypotheses, research design and methodology have been discussed and definitions of the key terms used in the study have also been defined.

The second chapter “Growth and Development of Sports in India since Independence” explains the basics of physical education and sports, difference between sports and games, classification of sports, and disciplines important to the study of sports. Position of physical education in India after independence, sports institutions, sports schemes and sports awards for sports persons available in India have also been discussed in detail.

The third chapter “Education and Research in Physical Education in India” elaborates developmental phase of physical education, courses available in physical education and sports in India. Professional ethics in sports, different sports models, role of sports sciences and emerging technologies in support of research in physical education and sports; and doctoral trends in physical education and related disciplines have also been explained.

The fourth chapter “Review of the related literature” covers the theoretical studies related with information seeking behaviour of the users. Use of information in the light of information technology by the sports community and research in physical education etc. have been described in detail.
education and sports have also been examined as appeared in research papers and other research publications.

The fifth chapter “Profiles of the libraries” deals with the profiles of the institutes and their libraries covered under the study. Under these profiles general information about the sports institutes and concerned libraries and their collections, services, staff, budget etc. have been mentioned.

The sixth chapter “Sports Persons: Their characteristics and information seeking behaviour” analyses the personal characteristics like, age, gender, academic and professional qualifications of the research respondents. All the data containing information regarding purpose and frequency of seeking information, information channels and information search strategies; and satisfaction level of the sports respondents toward library sources and services have been analysed and interpreted.

The seventh chapter “Summary, Conclusion and Suggestions” carries summary of the results, findings of the research work and suggestions received from the respondents. Areas for further research and recommendations have also been provided.

Lastly, appendices and bibliography have been given. The appendices consist of response lists of journals, Questionnaire for the Sports Persons and Sports Scientists, Questionnaire for librarian, list of core journals in Physical Education and Sports, List of online databases of abstracting/ indexing periodicals, list of websites relating to Physical Education and Sports.
REFERENCES


