Preface

Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra’s biopic ‘Bhag Milkha Bhag’ starring Farhan Akhtar is winning acclaims both from film critics, cinegoers and the press. It has created new record of popularity. This shows how sports and sports persons are loved and revered in India. Hence the justification of this research work.

The origin of sports is as old as the history of mankind. The intense struggle of man for livelihood was counter balanced in form of play and sports. At initial stage these were performed only for pastime, leisure, and entertainment, but now these have become a way to name, fame and monetary gain and lucrative profession. Modern sports are full of competitive spirit, and are played to win. The sports have become the order of the day worldwide. The nations with sports excellence are given special attention and respect by the fellow nations. Consequently, all the nations are seriously involved in achieving excellence in the field of sports, so that they can add more feathers in their crowns. Presently, sports are not mere a display of muscle power, rather a brain game. An information enriched mind is also needed with a healthy body.

India is the second highly populated country of the world. But it is lagging behind in the field of sports, and gold medals in the Olympic Games are still a ‘Rara Avis’ for Indian sportspersons. After Independence, a large number of Physical Education and Sports Institutions have been established in the country, some of them offer research programmes in the concerned field. Hence, for enhancing sports performance, new methods and techniques are to be identified by the sports persons and sports scientists.

Keeping all above mentioned views into consideration, sports persons and sports scientists should be provided latest information timely, effectively and efficiently. Libraries and information centres can play a key role in this context, while developing their need based collections, they should also provide IT based information services to the sports persons and sports scientists.

Therefore, inspired from the above mentioned situation, the researcher has studied Information seeking behaviour of the Sports Persons and Scientists of Delhi and Punjab with special reference to the use of Information Technology. The present study has been divided into seven chapters as below:
The first chapter “Introduction” explains 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 provided.

The second chapter “Growth and Development of Sports in India since Independence” covers 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. Doctoral trends in physical education and related disciplines have also been explained.

The fourth chapter “Review of the related literature” covers the published 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 and sports have also been examined as appeared in research papers and other research publications throughout the world.

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. has been given.

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. It is the core chapter of the research.

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 list 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.

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