Chapter 1

Introduction
1. Background

Information seeking forms an important part of many human activities, ranging from decision making and problem solving to resource allocation and system management. While many different models of information seeking have been proposed (Brown, 19) implicit in most of them is the assumption that the information seeker is an individual.

Information seeking Behavior (ISB) is an area of active interest among librarians. It results from the recognition of some need perceived by the user, who as consequence makes demand upon formal systems such as libraries, information centers, on line services or some other person in order to satisfy the perceived need. Information seeking “refers to the process of collection and receiving information by different mean. It may be through reading, published materials and communication with colleagues, etc. Behavior is concerned with mode of action, process of selection of information resources, process of carrying out research for information factor that affect his approach, etc.”

The study of Information Seeking Behavior (ISB) can be dated back to the late 1940s. Since that time a large number of studies have came out on the various aspects of Information Seeking Behavior (ISB). There is considerable amount of literature on the Information Seeking of sciences and Technologist and Scientist which has been extensively reviewed. The terms Information, Seeking and Behaviour seems
to be very familiar yet also confusing because of the many existing definitions. We shall adopt working definitions for this dissertation. "Information is regarded as a collection of raw data, consisting of symbols, signs, signals and surrogates that can be compiled into messages (text, audio, images or digital) for communications."

1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Information seeking behavior plays an important role in the aspect of attitude of users with the availability of library resource and services. The main goal of study is to understand and identify the way adopted by students and research scholars in the Science University of Delhi for collecting information and find out the existing library facility are useful for their information need.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are:

i. To identify the purpose of seeking Information by students of sciences in university of Delhi.

ii. To examine users opinion regarding the various types of facilities provided by the Library.

iii. To find out students strategy for searching the information document required by them.

iv. To determine the factors that influence information needs and see king habits of the Students
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v. To find out the awareness of students with regard to information resources and the various services provided by the Library king habits of the Students.

3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Information seeking behavior includes various aspects and purpose of information of seeking, the natural type of information sought, and the mode and means to access, search, identify and require information and use of their own as well as other libraries. Science & technology originates from the science technology and society (STS) movement in science education. This is an outlook on science education that emphasizes the teaching of scientific and technological developments in their cultural, economic, social and political contexts. In this view of science education, students are encouraged to engage in issues pertaining to the impact of science on everyday life and make responsible decisions about how to address such issues (Solomon, 1993 and Aikenhead, 1994).

The STS movement has a long history in science education reform, and embraces a wide range of theories about the intersection between science, technology and society (Solomon and Aikenhead, 1994; Pedretti 1997). Over the last twenty years, the work of Peter Fensham, the noted Australian science educator, is considered to have heavily contributed to reforms in science education. Fensham's efforts included giving greater prominence to STS in the school science curriculum (Aikenhead, 20). The key aim behind these efforts was to ensure the development of a broad-based science curriculum, embedded in the socio-political and cultural contexts in which it was
formulated. From Fensham's point of view, this meant that students would engage with different viewpoints on issues concerning the impact of science and technology on everyday life. They would also understand the relevance of scientific discoveries, rather than just concentrate on learning scientific facts and theories that seemed distant from their realities (Fensham, 1985 & 1988).

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology has its importance in scientific investigation because objectivity in any research investigation can not be obtained unless it is carried out in a very systematic and planned manner. Scientific investigation involves careful and proper adoption of research design, use of standardized tools, and test, identifying adequate sample by using appropriate sampling techniques, sound procedures for collecting data and there after careful tabulation of the data and the use of appropriate statistical techniques for analyzing the data. There are several survey techniques available for user studies such as questionnaire, observation, interview and documentary technique.

4.1 Tools Used for the Study

Questionnaire is used as the tool for the study and for collecting necessary data.

**Questionnaire Method:** Questionnaire is a tool to collect data from large and widely scattered population groups. It is called the heart of survey operation. Good and Hatt states,
Questionnaire refers to a device for scoring answer questions by using a form, which the respondent fills himself.

The important step in this method is to take care in the design of questions. This method consists of a careful translation of the objectives of survey into a set of questions, which may ask for the opinion of teacher. The questions are formed in such a way that the relation of one question to another can be readily apparent to the respondent, question sequence must be clear and answer can be given checking yes or no or by selecting one of the possible answers provided in the questionnaire.

Sample Population: In behavioural researches, sample is a fraction of population. Mohsin (1984) contended that sample is a small part of the total existing events, objects or the information. Kerlinger (1983) believes that “Sampling is taking any portion of a population or universe as representative of that population or universe.” Thus sampling is a small portion of population selected for observation. By making observation on the appropriate sample, it is possible to draw reliable inference or make generalizations on the population as a whole from where the sample is drawn.

The collection of data from the entire population of medical students is not very small to be adequately covered in a single study. Therefore, the total numbers of questionnaire distributed are among 450 science. Students in Delhi University. A total number of 300 filled questionnaire from sciences Students were returned back.
Variable Taken: In this study, the students who are pursuing the sciences student in Delhi university, were selected.

Tools and Techniques Administered: The investigator used questionnaire method accompanied by interview and observation method as techniques of data collection.

Data Analysis: The data collected through questionnaire, organized and tabulated by using statistical method, tables and percentage.

Conclusion:

With the growth of information deluge, each one needs information of increasing variety of level, frequency, volume and use. Information needs and users have contributed a lot to the research discourse on information seeking behaviour. Attempts have been made to relate specific variables to particular pieces of information seeking behavioural patterns. A good number of articles have also been presented which are devoted to in-depth analysis of behavioural components of information uses.

Information environment is very complex. In order to retrieve desired information of the users, the information intermediary has to adopt inter alia certain behavioural strategies to make the system effective. ISB is one such approach that identifies the basic requirements of the users. While studying ISB, it is essential to know its various categories and methods so that the real picture of user’s perception is visualized. It is also
important to analyse the factors that motivate information seeking. However, if the library and information system is to work effectively, it is ISB, which is required to adopt on priority basis to make the system successful.
References


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