Introduction:

In the era of information age, information is not restricted to only print but has expanded its horizons to e-publications and internet resources which are at the leading position in all fields. Information is called as commodity, since it has an economic value. Information is basic element of development of society. The present century is treated as an era of information revolution and libraries are slowly changing their face and migrating towards use of information sources. Acquiring these different forms of e-resources has vast choice of selection and ways. Users are overloaded with the information explosion and they are in the need of pinpointed as well as accurate information. Leckie, Pettigrew and Sylvain (1996), Wilson (2000) have elaborated user information needs at different levels and indicated that assessment of ISB is also essential to provide better services from libraries to user community.

Statement of the problem:

The study deals with information seeking behaviour of LIS students in Marathwada region due to the Marathwada region is lagging behind in LIS Education and due to the non awareness in the students about the facilities provided by the college and departmental library is not sufficient. Hence, the researcher was in need to do the analysis of the factual position. In order to effectively satisfy the information needs of graduate and post graduate students, libraries need to determine these needs in various courses. Also, they need to find out the extent of their information retrieval, knowledge organization, information use and information searching skills. These will help in designing effective user education programs and services. This study will explore the extent to which the above two issues are met by college and Departmental library.
Information is a basic need of human and vital source for success. Right information at right time leads to success. Not a single field can survive without proper information. Information thus plays a major role in decision making, planning and every developmental activity links to information only. Information is an indispensable tool for teachers, researchers and students. From the views of Crawford (1978) the information need is very difficult to isolate and measure.

The term is also used as needs, demands and wants etc. Tague (1978) has explained different types of information needed by users for which they seek information as:

1. Social or pragmatic information needs which are the daily required needs of users.
2. Recreation information needs
3. Professional information needs
4. Educational information needs

Thus, information is used in educational, scientific, research and many other sectors like business, banking etc. Need has further complicated the necessity of distinguishing among expressed, unexpressed or unfelt needs, the later being the most difficult to identify. According to Taylor (1962) information need has four levels:

1. The conscious and unconscious need for information which does not exist in the previous experience of the investigator. It is the actual but unexpressed need for information
2. The conscious mental description of an ill-defined area of a decision. In this level, the inquirer might talk to someone else in the field to get an answer.
3. A researcher forms a rational statement of his question. This statement is a rational and unambiguous description of the inquirer’s doubts.
4. The question as presented to the information system.
Along with the basic needs of humans, information is another important need in the information and knowledge base society. The simple meaning of information is a statement, opinion, fact, concept of ideas, or an association of statements, opinions, or ideas etc. McGarry (1975) summarized various attributes of “information” as: · Information can be regarded as a near synonym of fact. · It has a transforming or reinforcing effect on what is known or believed to be known by a human being.

- Information is used as an aid in decision-making.
- Information is the freedom of choice one has in selecting a message.
- Information is a necessary piece of something when we are faced with a choice.
- The amount required depends upon the complexity of the decision to be made.
- Information is the raw material from which knowledge is derived.
- Information is exchanged with the outer world not merely received.
- Information can be desired in terms of its effect on the recipient.

In addition to the above attributes information builds knowledge blocks and generates new information and knowledge for the use. Information is required by the academicians, faculty, students, professionals, researchers and scholars etc. and its need is enormous to everyone. Libraries and Information Centers are the best sources for providing information required by the users and they hold the power of information in their premises. However, every user has different needs and information required is also different along with a different purpose which is based on the application. In modern age information is delivered in different formats and forms and due to information explosion need of assessing information requirement of the user is felt necessary. The librarian’s role is vital in selecting the information resources properly based on the users need. Hence, there is a need to undertake user studies, use studies and now defined as information seeking behavior to satisfy the users and also provide user centric information as and when
In view of the identified aspects requiring research, the purpose of this study is to determine the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of consulting LIS students in Marathwada region with particular reference to their work roles and tasks, the kinds of information sources and services they consult and the various factors that influence their information needs and selection of information sources. This will enable the researcher to make recommendations for the design of information systems that could meet the information needs of consulting engineers. In view of this purpose the following main problem can be formulated: What are the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of consulting students, and what are the factors that influence or shape their information needs and information-seeking behaviour?

**Research Questions**

Based on the objectives of this study, attempt will be made to provide answers to the following, via the data gathered.

1) To what extent are the respondents aware of the LIS education?
2) To what extent is the library resources used by the LIS students?
3) For what purpose do they use the library facilities and services for information seeking?
4) Which of the E-resources do the respondents prefer?
5) What are the reasons for not using E-resources by the respondents?
6) What other library facilities and services do the respondents want?

‘Use’ is the key purpose and ‘user’ is the key and dynamic component of any institutions especially the colleges. The ultimate aim of any user study is to help, design, alter, evaluate and improve efficiency and effectiveness of
the library and information system and their products and services in meeting their pre-determined goals.

The investigator wish to conduct a study about the information seeking behaviour of LIS Students in Marathwada because the present study focuses on the seamless usability of the information resources and its growth, development and maximum use of these most modern electronic information are taken for a clear cut study and assessment. Today’s students may be more sophisticated than their predecessors in using some of the basic functions of many systems, however many are clearly unaware of the limitations and use of many electronic sources of information. Student entering higher education appear to have raised expectations about the capabilities of information resources. So this type of study is significant and important in the new Era.

Objective of the present work :

1. To study Information seeking Behaviour of LIS students in Marathwada region.

2. To find out the LIS Students use of formal, informal, digital and other online sources.

3. To study the use of different types of Information sources by the LIS student in this region;

4. To study the use of electronic resources by LIS Students;

5. To discover hindrances faced by LIS students while accessing and using electronic resources;

6. Find out what problems are faced by LIS students in seeking information.

7. To determine the factors that influence researchers' information needs and information seeking.

Hypothesis :

1. Various types of study material selected by the LIS learners.

2. Availability of information sources is not sufficient.
3. Library and information centre play an important role in information seeking behaviour of LIS students.

**Scope and Limitation:**

1. The study deals with Marathwada region. Especially colleges of LIS education affiliated to SRTM University Nanded and BAM University, Aurangabad.

2. The study is limited to students, learners, of Library and Information science education.

3. The study is related with the students who registered their name in the academic year 2013-14 for Lib. Sci. degree courses.

**Collection of Data:**

For the present research work both primary and secondary data was used. Secondary data collected from the various magazines, journals and newspapers related to LIS education. Primary data collected through specially prepared questionnaires. Questionnaires to be field by the Graduate and Post Graduate students of Library and Information science colleges for degree courses listed within the Marathwada region were selected for the sample.

Thus, data collected from primary and secondary sources have been tabulated in concise form and have been analyzed with the help of different statistical and cartographic techniques. The processed data finally represented by maps, graphs and diagrams.

**List of College to data collection:**

List of the selected sample colleges is as follows:

1) Department of Library Science, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.

2) Vidhyadhan College of Library and Information Science College, CIDCO, Aurangabad.
3) Siddharth College of Library and Information Science, Aurangabad.
4) Sambhajiraje College of Library and Information Science, Beed.
5) Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj College of Library and Information Science, Beed.
7) VSS College of Library and Information Science, Jalna.
8) KSPMS College of Library and Information Science, Osmanabad.
9) Ramkrishna Paramhans Mahavidyalaya, Osmanabad.
10) S.S.S. Pawar Mahavidyalaya, Purna
11) MGMs College of Library and Information Science, Nanded.
12) Jai Jawan S.P.M.'s College of Library and Information Science, Nanded
13) Sant Sambhaji Shinde College of Library and Information Science, Parbhani.
14) Lokrajaya Jansanwad Aani Vrattapratravidhya Mahavidyalaya, Parbhani.
15) Late Kishanrao Ramji Shinde College, Parbhani.
16) Mahatma Phule College of Computer Science & IT, Manwath Dist. Parbhani

**Research Methodology:**

The study is based on the primary and secondary sources were presented in the form of descriptive method. Data for obtaining the primary data prepared questionnaire after reviewing the related literature. The questionnaire was containing close ended questions. All the students enrolled
to Library and Information science colleges for degree courses listed within the Marathwada region were selected for the sample.

Survey research method:

Definition:

Survey approach is “the systematic gathering of information from (a sample of) respondents for the purpose of understanding and / or predicting some aspect of of the behaviour of the population of interest.”

Time dimension:

It deals with the present.

Product:

Survey approach is a product of social sciences.

Purposes:

To establish the status of the phenomenon being investigated rather than isolation of causative factors. To provide a basis for understanding and solving present-day problems.

Major steps:

Define the research objectives. If possible formulate the hypotheses. Design the schedule (interview, questionnaire, etc.) collect the data analyze the data interpret the findings arrive at generalizations. Write a report.

Hypotheses:

Often, purely descriptive survey research may not have hypotheses because the investigator may be seeking information which does not exist or he may not have a basis for predicting what he might find. But sometimes descriptive survey research can have hypotheses. Comparative survey research generally does have hypotheses. Evaluative survey research can have hypotheses.

Source of data:
It uses variety of sources of data such as official reports, statistics, records etc of a library; responses of users; data obtained by the researcher by means of observation.

**Instruments / tools used :**

Questioning: questionnaire, interview, checklist measurement : rating scale psychological tests o achievement, intell-igence, aptitude and per-sonality, social measures.

Observation : it can be used, particularly in a simple descriptive survey. It is best suited for describing and understanding behaviour as it occurs. But it is less effective for collecting information regarding, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, etc.

**Scientific method :**

Scientific method is used in ales strict sense.

**Intuition :**

Intuition does not play a significant role.

**Replication of the study :**

There is a less possibility of replicating the study.

**Proof :**

Provides data collected through survey as a proof of inquiry.

**Evidence :**

Evidence is objectively verifiable. Survey has a limited scope in this context.

**Verification :**

Verification is difficult in many cases.
Bias of the researcher:

Bias introduced due to the interviewer present a real threat to the validity of an interview. However, some bias can be avoided if the interviewer does not overreact to the responses of the interviewee. Besides, interviewer should dress appropriately, interview be held in a private setting, in an informal manner as far as possible. In a questionnaire, bias can arise due to an unconscious effort on the part of the researcher to formulate the questions in a form which would result in obtaining desired result and also to produce research finding pleasing to the funding agency.

Bias in research design:

It can occur and adversely affect the conduct of research.

Controversial issues:

Very often, a researcher has to seek permission from the authorities to carry out a survey. In carrying out observations, if the subjects do not know that they are being observed, then such a practice becomes unethical. It may sometimes lead to complications. Other ethical issues include invasion of one’s privacy, harmful acts, confidentiality of data, etc.

Control in general:

Control is far more difficult.

Lack of control over selection of sample materials to be studied:

In survey research, it is possible to control selection of the sample materials. Statistical formulae have been developed for calculating, appropriate size and various sampling methods are available, which can be used to select sample materials to be studied. Out of probability sampling and non-ability sampling methods, the earlier ones are more scientific and useful.
Excessive use of secondary sources:

The data is generated through a survey. A researcher analyses and interprets the data using both primary and secondary sources for support of his findings. His preference is always for primary sources.

Unobtrusiveness:

There is always a chance of contamination of the research by researcher’s proximity to the topic (ideology or institution or school of thought) being studied.

Lack of complete knowledge advantages:

In survey approach, observation method is highly suitable for describing and understanding behaviour as it occurs. Questionnaires and interviews are frequently employed effectively for obtaining information about perceptions, beliefs, attitudes, etc. In case, high response rate is the goal, then interview is preferred over questionnaire. On the other hand, if cost is a major consideration, then, questionnaire is to be preferred.

Limitations:

The bias introduced due to the interviewer presents a real threat to the validity of an interview. In a questionnaire bias arises due to the way the questions are formulated to obtain desired results or the desire to produce research findings pleasing to the funding agency. Weaknesses in the design of a questionnaire can lead to biased or inaccurate answers. Due to changes in perceptions, attitudes etc. answer to the same question can vary over a period of time. The mood of respondent and his attitude can result in ambiguous or confused or inaccurate responses.

Areas of study (some examples):

Use and user studies; state-of-the-art type surveys; library performance evaluation.
Descriptive Method:

Descriptive method is a research that describer accurately and objectively an organization, its resources, facilities, services, programmes, events, problems, etc. for example, a research which systematically subscribes the status of a specific library’s collection, facilities, services, computerization, reading promoting activities, etc. is descriptive research. Descriptive researcher’s job is to just describe what has happened or is happening. The descriptive researcher neither has any control over variables; nor does he manipulate any variable, as is done in the experimental research. For example, a survey of collection of arts, science and commerce college libraries in Pune city, will actually describe the nature of their collection. This research will be a descriptive research as it will describe the collection of the surveyed libraries. The research describing the current status of the services and facilities of these libraries will also be called descriptive research. A descriptive research may describe users, their reading habits, preferences, etc. According to Neuman (1997) surveys, field studies, content analysis, comparative studies, etc. are the technique used in descriptive research. The following examples, suitable for descriptive research, will help you in further understanding the nature of descriptive research.

1) Survey of financial management of university libraries in Maharashtra
2) Content analysis of Herald of Library Science (a library science journal)
3) Analysis of current status of institutional repositories in India
5) Assessment of security systems in college libraries in Delhi

Purposes of descriptive research:

➢ To describe the current status:

For example, a survey of public libraries in Maharashtra will describe the current status of public libraries in detail and accurately. This
description will include composition of their collection (e.g. books, journals, reference volumes, electronic information sources, etc.); number of volumes in their collection; current services of these public libraries; their economic condition; education, experience, and skills of their staff; current status of computerization, etc.

➢ **To describe processes, procedures, and correlations:**

For example, a descriptive research may describe the document issuing systems of various university libraries. There could be a descriptive research describing information literacy programmes of research libraries. A descriptive research may also describe the correlation between teaching methods adopted in a college library and use of the concerned college library.

➢ To get answers to questions such as which activity is performed by whom, when and why.

➢ To present background information about an institute or an event.

Most social science research is descriptive research. Librarianship is a social activity therefore; most research in librarianship is descriptive research.