CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION
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Introduction

Information is bedrock pillar of national development. It plays a fundamental and dynamic role in the development of policies and programmes. It is a key factor in decision making and improved efficiency and effectiveness in production and service sector. It has a great importance in socio-economic development of nation. Information is of no use unless it is stored in such a way that it retrieved easily.

According to Webster’s Third New International Dictionary (1978), the term 'information' is defined as ‘the communication or reception of knowledge or intelligence; something obtained or received through informing; the process by which the form of an object of knowledge is impressed upon the apprehending mind so as to bring about the status of knowledge’.

Information is that which reduces uncertainty. It is symbols or signs which have potential for meaning. It is all pervasive a basic resource, commodity, power etc. Researchers and specialists in different fields, authors in different areas go for generating information with a various purpose. Information exists only in human mind as such it is both input and output from human perception. When information or new knowledge has been generated, it is disseminated through different sources viz. documentary sources, non documentary sources and electronic or in digital form. Once information published it is to be disseminated for further research.

It is essential to disseminate information in time, since today's society is called the knowledge based society. In a knowledge based society, development depends on the degree of generation and dissemination of knowledge to the public. It can be said
that developing countries differ from developed ones not only because they have less
capital but also they have less knowledge (information). Generation, flow and
dissemination of information have been recognized as an essential elements or keys
input for all research and developmental activities in developing countries since long.

In the present information era, information has a monetary value. One can
realize its importance, if it gets in time. The value of the information has been
discussed in the document titled 'Handbook for Information Systems and Services'
published by UNESCO (1977) written by Pauline Atherton as follows.

a) Improved capability of a country to take advantage of existing
knowledge and 'know-how' achieved elsewhere.

b) Rationalization and systemization of a country's research and
development efforts in light of knowledge already available.

c) Wider knowledge base for the solution of problems.

d) New alternatives and approaches to the solution of technical
problems, and options for minimizing future ones.

e) Improved effectiveness and efficiency of technical activities in
the production and service sectors.

f) Better decision making in all sectors and at all levels of responsibility.

Moreover, only acquiring information is not sufficient. As mentioned earlier
the time factor is equally important. In research, defense and other most of the fields,
the value of the information is depends upon the speed at which it is being received.
Information can be closely linked to power and as a result this may enhance the value
of the information. It is not only the source of power but also an effective power
itself, of course, if it received at an appropriate time.
Information present in the nature. It is to be accumulated in the mind by observation. The new information is generated after analyzing this accumulated information. It is then communicated to others by means of spoken words or printed through various documents. Library is one of the important centers for getting these documents.

Selection, collection, organization and dissemination are the basic functions to be performed by the library. How much time library takes to disseminate the information to the users once it is published? As time factor is important in the dissemination of information, such types of time span or flow of information should be studied.

The flow of information from different directions has been studied by eminent library scientists. Garvey and Griffith (1964), Rajgopalan and Sen (1964), Elliot (1969), Roland and Kirkapatrik (1975), Shukla (1984) and many more studies are available on this important facet. Some of these studies are discussed in detail in terms of models in third chapter.

However, a further time lag which has not been studied so far by anyone is the time lag between publications of information to its first use by the users. Therefore, the researcher has attempted to work on this important factor in the present study titled "Evaluation of time lag between the publications of information to its use in the University Libraries in Maharashtra".

Recorded information, however, in itself is of no use unless it is stored in such a way that it can be retrieved easily and readily accessible for use. It is the basic function of any kind of library to organize the information for dissemination. The functions such as selection, accumulation, process and presentation are to be performed by the library for proper organization and dissemination of information.
These functions required certain time. How much time it requires to perform these functions is to be studied. It is the part of the present research.

In the present study researcher has examined the time lag between publication of information to its use to the first user.

According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (1973). ‘Time lag’ means an interval of time between two related phenomenon (as cause and its effect). In the present work researcher has studied the time span between two phenomenons as ‘date of publication of information’ and ‘date of its use very first time’. Here the researcher has considered the information which is published in the form of books only and date of its use means the date on which the book is being issued. This time interval is considered as time lag for the present study.

Therefore, while examining the time lag the researcher has decided to consider the year of publication of book and the date on which the particular book is issued to the user first time. As stated earlier this time span in the flow of information is not being examined by anybody so far. Therefore, the researcher has decided to go for the present work.

Objectives

The following objectives are formulated for the present study.

1) To examine the average time lag between publications of information to its use by the first user in selected faculties i.e. Science and Social Sciences.

2) To compare time required to receive the information to the first user in the two faculties.

3) To elicit factors responsible for this time lag in university libraries in Maharashtra.

4) To suggest the remedies to minimize this time span.
Scope

Generation of information is a continuous process. It is a never ending activity in this information society. A small part of this generated information is published elsewhere in the form of paper or in documentary sources such as books, journals, patents, reports and so on. As far as first objective of the study i.e. examination of time lag between publications of information to its first use is concerned, it is highly impossible to go through all the documentary sources to calculate the required time lag. Moreover, the availability of these sources are concerned, they are also scattered all over the world. Taking these difficulties in consideration, to achieve the first objective of the study, no doubt there must be certain scope and limitation. Therefore, the researcher has decided to focus the attention on the books only as a documentary source where the information is published. Everybody knows the importance of book. Book is an excellent and most popular form of document for preserving and communicating human thoughts and factual information. Second thing the availability of the selected documentary source is concerned, the researcher has concentrated the attention on, to examine the books that are available in the university libraries in the Maharashtra. Further, if ones observe the collection of the university libraries in Maharashtra, it will find that no library is having the collection below one lakh. It is again not possible to go through all the available books. Therefore, the books classified under Science and Social Science is selected as a population. This study is further confined to the subjects and period of its purchased by the selected libraries. Books on Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science from Science wing and Economics, Sociology and Library & Information Science from Social Science wing that are purchased during the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 by selected university libraries are taken into consideration.
Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science are most developing subjects and so many researches are being carried out in these subjects. Hence the researcher has selected these subjects from science wing. Similarly Economic and Sociology help for the social development of nations and as the researcher is from Library & Information Science and also it is one of the fast growing subjects in the universe, the researcher has given first priority to these subjects from Social Science.

In the system of higher education, University occupy an unique place, as it functions as institutions transmitting knowledge to the progeny and as research centers performing research activities and develop new ideas keeping in view the social problems and needs. Maharashtra State plays important role in higher education for building the citizens and development of nation. Following universities imparting higher education in Maharashtra. (www.maharashtraeducation.net/universities/list.asp accessed on 21.12.2009).

1. Mumbai University, Mumbai (1857).
2. Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur (1925).
3. Pune University, Pune (1949).
4. Shrimati Nathibai Damodar Thakarsi Women University, Mumbai (1951).
5. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad (1958).
7. Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati (1983).
10. Solapur University, Solapur (2004).
Besides these traditional Universities following Universities are also imparting
higher education.

1. Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai.
2. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik.
3. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technical University, Lonere.
4. Maharashtra Health Science University, Nashik.
8. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krushi Vidyapeeth, Akola.
11. Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Science University, Nagpur.

Apart from these, further twenty one Universities are deemed Universities in
Maharashtra. (www.ugc.ac.in/Inside/deemedunivhtml#Maharashtra, accessed on
13/12/2009)

The above universities are geographically distributed in Maharashtra, to cater
the higher education in various disciplines in respective areas.

As title itself clears the scope of the study, the researcher has collected data
from universities in Maharashtra. However, researcher has concentrated her attention
only on the traditional universities which are established during 20th century and
imparting co-education. In view of this the researcher has considered following seven
universities in Maharashtra for calculating time lag between the publication of
information to its use for the present study.
Table A : List of Universities Selected for the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of University</th>
<th>Year of Establishment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rastrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur</td>
<td>1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pune University, Pune</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University; Aurangabad</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shivaji University, Kolhapur</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moreover, in the title of the present work i.e. **Evaluation of Time Lag between the Publication of Information to Its Use in the University Libraries in Maharashtra**, some important words are given such as time lag, publication of information, information, university library and Maharashtra. Everybody are familiar about the general meaning of these terminologies. However, in what sense the researcher has used it in this study, it should be cleared. In view of this the meaning and scope of these terminologies are discussed below.

‘Time lag’ means year of publication of book to its first use. Publication of information means information which is published in the books on the subject selected for the present study only and not in other documentary forms. Similarly the University Library means the libraries run by the universities in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra is one of the states amongst 28 states in India. It has 3,07,713 sq km. area and it covers 9.36% area form total area of India. It has got rich tradition of contributing to the wealth of knowledge as an evident from ancient culture. The objective of higher education in Maharashtra is to realize the national goals to bring about around progress of state and also the self fulfillment of an individual as a human being.
Hypothesis

Initially, a pilot study was conducted to test the effectiveness of the problem for the study. Library of the Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati was selected for the pilot study. For this pilot study researcher had selected the two faculties - science & social science. The books on Computer Science, Physics and Chemistry from Science wing and Library & Information Science, Sociology and Economics form Social Science wing purchased during the financial years 2000-01 to 2004-05 were considered as population for this study. On the basis of the findings of this study the following hypothesis was laid down for the present study.

Ho : No significance difference in the mean time lag between the publication of information to its use in science and social science faculties.

Methodology

The main source of collecting required data for the present study was accession register and the record available on circulation desk of all the selected university libraries. The researcher has also studied the acquisition policy of each library in order to determine the factors responsible for the time lag.

Researcher has used the accession register for collecting data regarding year of publication of concerned books on subjects under study. Year of publication itself clears that 'year of publication' means the year in which book is being published. Since publisher provides only the year of publication and do not give the actual date of publication of books, the researcher has considered 1st January-a date, in each case for the sake of convenient to calculate time lag.

Similarly the date of accessioning of books considered as a date of processing and date of the invoice of concerned books on subjects under study considered as date
of receiving those books in the library. These dates used to achieve first two objectives of the study.

So far as the data regarding date of issuing of books on subjects under study is concerned, the researcher has collected this data from available sources viz. daily transaction register, book cards and the database developed in computers of respective university library.

The interview and questionnaire methods were adopted to achieve third objective of the present study. The Acquisition policy was studied through these techniques. The questionnaires were sent to the Head of the Department of concerned subjects of all universities under study. In certain cases telephonic interviews were also being conducted for collecting required data.

The data so received is analyzed and interpreted in order to find out the time lag and the factors responsible for it. Statistical measures such as mean and standard deviation are used to calculate final time long in each subject. Independent 't' test applied for comparing average time lag between the publication of information to its first use in two faculties i.e. science and social science. Also graphs, pie diagrams used for presentation of data.

**Limitations**

The limitations of the present study are

1. The book does not show the actual date of publication when it is being published. Hence 1st January is considered as date of publication of every book on the subject under study. It means that if the book is published in the month of December, its date of publication is considered as 1st January. In this process the time lag in such a case is increased by complete one year.
2. In certain cases the collection of libraries which is transferred to its sub centers is excluded from collecting data.

3. Some University libraries do not have past record regarding transaction of books. In such cases data is collected through book card which is obtained directly either from stack or circulation desk.

4. Wherever, the open access system is in practice the users select books directly from the stack for reference. Such referred books are not considered in the present study.

Conspectus

This study is structured into six chapters. First chapter deals with 'Introduction'. Objectives, scope, methodology are the components of this chapter. The second chapter 'Review of Literature' outlined the retrospective studies conducted by various scientists in different disciplines. The third chapter 'Information Generation and Its Use' outline and comments on the various models. Studying the acquisition policy of university library is essential; it provides direction to the investigation, where the exact delay occurs. Hence it is discussed in the following chapter titled 'Acquisition Policy of University Libraries in Maharashtra.' The collected data is analyzed in the next chapter titled 'Analysis of Time Lag between the Publications of Information to Its Use in University Libraries in Maharashtra.' The sixth chapter is 'Conclusions and Suggestions, in which the conclusion as well as the suggestions have been given on the basis of the analysis of collected data from various university libraries in Maharashtra under study. The Select Bibliography is appended at the end. Besides, the questionnaires distributed to the Librarians and the Heads of Departments working in selected universities is given under Appendix.

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