Information seeking in Internet era: A case study of Indian Economists

Questionnaire

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Name : 

2. Qualifications : 

3. Designation : Director/Professor/Associate Professor/Fellow/Assistant Professor/Economist/Research Officer/Adviser/Others (Please specify)

4. Organization : 

5. Age : 

6. Sex : Male/Female

7. Area of specialization : 

8. Number of years of service : 

II. INFORMATION NEED

1. Please check, on a five point scale, using the codes given below the nature and type of information required by you.

Codes: 0 Not required
       1 Rarely required
       2 Occasionally required
       3 Frequently required
       4 Highly sought after

☐ A. Review of literature
☐ B. Basic social and economic information
☐ C. Information about current developments in the field
D. Information about work done in other relevant fields

E. Statistical economic and social data

F. Government economic policies

G. Business and economic news

H. Computer programs and mathematical models

I. Information about international organizations and their activities

J. Other type of information, please specify_________________

2. Please check, on a five point scale, using the codes given below, the purposes for which you collect and use information.

Codes: 0 Not used
       1 Rarely used
       2 Occasionally used
       3 Frequently used
       4 More frequently used

A. For writing and presenting papers and delivering lectures
B. Data analysis
C. Checking authenticity of available data and information
D. Guiding students or team and sharing information with them
E. Broadening area of attention and reviewing work done in the related fields
F. For keeping abreast with the latest developments in the field
G. Checking and evaluating one’s own results
H. Suggesting new ideas/techniques
I. Orienting oneself with the existing body of knowledge
J. For carrying out projects
K. Consultancy work/research
L. Policy advice to governments/International organizations viz. World Bank, ADB, etc.

M. Other purposes, if any, please specify_____________________
III INFORMATION SOURCES USED IN SEEKING INFORMATION

1. Please indicate, on a five-point scale, using the codes given below the extent to which you use the sources of information.

Codes: 0 Never
1 Rarely
2 Occasionally
3 Frequently
4 Daily

1.1 Formal/Documentary Sources

☐ A. Books (other than handbooks/reference books)
☐ B. Handbooks/reference books
☐ C. Research reports
☐ D. Conference proceedings and papers
☐ E. Thesis and dissertations
☐ F. Journals
☐ G. Magazines/Newspapers
☐ H. Government/statistical publications
☐ I. Reprints/Preprints from fellow professionals
☐ J. Discussion/Occasional/Working papers
☐ K. Abstracting/Indexing periodicals
☐ L. Citation Index

☐ M. Others, please specify________________________

1.2 Electronic sources

1.21 CD-ROM databases

☐ A. Bibliographic (e.g. Econlit)
☐ B. Statistical (e.g. IFS)
☐ C. Citation Index (e.g. SSCI)
☐ D. Electronic journals (e.g. ABI/INFORM, EBSCO)
E. Computer programs

F. Discussion/Occasional/Working papers

G. Others, please specify ________________________________

1.22 Internet

A. Online databases

- Bibliographic (e.g. ISID index)
- Citation Index (e.g. SSCI)
- Statistical (e.g. GISTNIC)

B. Full text documents (e.g. World Development Report)

C. Electronic journals (e.g. IMF staff papers)

D. Discussion/Occasional/Working papers

E. Conference Proceedings

F. Computer programs

G. Information about other academic and research institutes

H. Thesis/dissertations

I. Government information

J. Online Library catalogue (Web OPAC)

K. Electronic Newsletters via e-mail (e.g. SSRN Newsletter)

L. Information about activities and publications of international organizations viz. World Bank, ADB, etc

M. Information about journals (e.g. Information about submitting an article, publishers, frequency etc)

N. Information about conferences, workshops, etc

O. Listserves (Discussion forums)

P. Others, please specify

1.23 Library Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)
(Computerized Catalogue)
2. How much do you depend on electronic sources compared to formal and documentary sources (Please see 1.1 above)? Please tick mark any one.

- [ ] A. Mostly on electronic sources than printed material
- [ ] B. Mostly on print sources
- [ ] C. Equally on both the print and electronic

IV TIME SPENT IN SEEKING INFORMATION

1. How much time do you normally spend in gathering information and data from all the above mentioned types of sources? Please tick mark any one

- [ ] A. More than 20 hours per week
- [ ] B. 16 to 20 hours per week
- [ ] C. 11 to 15 hours per week
- [ ] D. 6 to 10 hours per week
- [ ] E. Less than 6 hours per week

2. How much of this time is spent on electronic sources?

- [ ] A. 16 to 20 hours per week
- [ ] B. 11 to 15 hours per week
- [ ] C. 6 to 10 hours per week
- [ ] D. Less than 6 hours per week

V PRINTED V/S ELECTRONIC SOURCES

1. What kind of information you find more in Electronic sources compared to printed sources. Please mark all those applicable

- [ ] A. Journal articles
- [ ] B. Discussion/Occasional/Working papers
- [ ] C. Statistical data
- [ ] D. Bibliographic information
VI APPROACHES USED TO SEEK THE INFORMATION

1. Please specify the way you find relevant references (not necessarily information/documents) of your requirements? Please tick mark all those applicable.

☐ A. Library catalogues (including computerized catalogue)
☐ B. Abstracting and indexing journals
☐ C. References from bibliographies and review literature
☐ D. Consulting library staff
☐ E. Current awareness bulletins
☐ F. Citations in books, reports and journal articles
☐ G. Browsing library shelves
☐ H. Browsing in bookshops (including online bookshops)
☐ I. Consulting colleagues and fellow professionals
☐ J. E-mail content alerts from publishers
☐ K. E-mail newsletters
☐ L. Searching CD-ROM databases
☐ M. Browsing Internet
☐ N. Others, please specify ________________________________
2. Do you delegate the job of collecting information/data to others, say assistants, junior staff, students, etc? Please tick mark any one.

☐ A. No delegation
☐ B. Occasionally delegate
☐ C. Delegate frequently

2.1 If you delegate, please indicate reasons for such delegation? Please tick mark all those applicable

☐ A. Lack of time
☐ B. The task is tedious and monotonous
☐ C. Unfamiliarity with the sources and retrieval software’s.
☐ D. Making team or group members involved
☐ E. Other reasons, please specify__________________________

2.2 If you delegate, please check the nature of work delegated. Please tick mark all those applicable.

☐ A. Retrospective search for exhaustive literature
☐ B. Search for latest and current references
☐ C. Search and collection of statistical data
☐ D. Analysis of data using suitable software
☐ E. Others, please specify__________________________

2.3 If and when you do not delegate, please indicate reasons for non-delegation. Please tick mark all those applicable.

☐ A. Do not have assistants to delegate
☐ B. Find it difficult to communicate my information needs to others
☐ C. Do not believe in others collecting information for me
☐ D. Find it difficult to train others in my ways of collecting information
☐ E. I believe that searching process is as important as information itself
☐ F. Other reasons, if any, please specify______________________________
VII INFORMATION SEEKING THROUGH NON-DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

1. Please mark with below mentioned codes, extent to which others in your Institute/Center/Department share information with you.

Definitions:
0 No information is shared
1 Not much information is shared
2 Certain type of information is shared
3 Most of the information is freely shared

☐ A. Superiors
☐ B. Peers and colleagues
☐ C. Research scholars
☐ D. Students
☐ E. Others, please specify ________________________

2. How much information you get through institutional sources, please tick mark all those applicable.

☐ A. Developing Library Network (DELNET)
☐ B. Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)
☐ C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
☐ D. National Social Science Documentation Center (NASSDOC)
☐ E. Small Enterprises Documentation Center (SENDOC)
☐ F. Social Science Information Gateway (SSIGN)
☐ G. Social Science Research Network (SSRN)
☐ H. World Bank
☐ I. Any other, Please specify ________________________

VIII ACCESS TO INFORMATION

1. How do you gain access to the published sources of information? Please tick mark all those applicable.

☐ A. From personal collection
☐ B. From institute's library collection
IX MOTIVATION IN SEEKING INFORMATION

1. What are the factors, which motivates you to seek and collect information? Please check on a five point scale using below mentioned codes.

   Codes: 0 Non-motivator
          1 Weak motivator
          2 Average
          3 Fairly strong
          4 Strongest

☐ A. To pursue own research related to work or in the field
☐ B. To have visibility and recognition among peers and colleagues
☐ C. To have an edge over other competitors
☐ D. To prepare for project review
☐ E. To prepare for performance evaluation for promotion
☐ F. For self-improvement
☐ G. To acquire and update knowledge in the field
☐ H. To maintain professional competence
☐ I. To achieve desired result in work
☐ J. To pursue continuing education
☐ K. For doing good work, self-fulfillment and self-satisfaction
☐ L. Any other factors, please specify ________________________
X FREQUENTLY USED WEBSITES

1. Which of the following websites do you frequently use in meeting your information needs. (Please tick mark all those applicable)

- A. Asian Development Bank (http://www.adb.org)
- B. Economic and Political Weekly (http://www.epw.org)
- C. Economic and Political Weekly Research Foundation (http://www.epwrfr.res.in)
- D. Ideas (http://ideas.repec.org)
- E. International Labor Organization (http://www.ilo.org)
- F. International Monetary Fund (http://www.imf.org)
- G. Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India (http://finmin.nic.in)
- H. Reserve Bank of India (http://www.rbi.org.in)
- I. Resources for Economists (http://www.rfe.org)
- J. Research papers in Economics (http://www.repec.org)
- K. World Bank (http://www.worldbank.org)
- L. Any other, Please specify name and URL address

XL COMMUNICATION PATTERN

1. Please indicate the extent of your professional activities and achievements.

A. Total number of professional/learned associations or societies etc that you are a Member of

B. Number of seminars, conferences and symposia attended in the last one year

C. Number of lectures delivered in last one year

   Invited lectures

   Teaching
D. Number of papers published so far (Please do not include accepted and papers under consideration)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learned Journals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edited Books (Chapters)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences/Seminar, etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Number of Board of studies or similar bodies of which you are a member

F. Number of committees of which you are a member or Chairman

G. Number of editorial committees or boards of professional journals in which you are a member

H. Number of projects carried out in the last one year

I. Number of working/discussion papers

J. Any other, Please specify

2. Please check using five-point scale given below, pattern of communication you use in communicating your research

Codes: 0 Not used
       1 Rarely used
       2 Occasionally used
       3 Frequently used
       4 More frequently used

☐ A. Publishing articles in journals/books/newspapers/magazines

☐ B. Presenting papers in conferences/seminars

☐ C. Publishing papers on Internet (via homepage, e-jls, etc)
3. Please check, the different communication barriers you have faced.

☐ A. Lack of professional journals
☐ B. Lack of support from parent organization
☐ C. Lack of facilities such as computers, Internet, etc
☐ D. Lack of personal contacts
☐ E. Time
☐ F. Geographical barrier
☐ G. Language barrier
☐ H. Others, please specify__________________________

XII IMPACT OF IT IN INFORMATION SEEKING

1. Please mention in three lines in the space given below, what is the impact of new technologies viz. Internet, e-mail in overcoming the above mentioned (pl. see 3 above) communication barriers

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
2. Please mention on a five point scale by using the codes given below, the extent to which you use new technology i.e. Internet and e-mail in communicating information in the following situations.

Codes: 0 Not used
1 Rarely used
2 Occasionally used
3 Frequently used
4 More frequently used

☐ A. Communication with professional colleagues
☐ B. For sending papers to professional journals
☐ C. For sending papers to conferences/seminars, etc
☐ D. For undertaking communication with the publishers/editors of journals
☐ E. For sending official communication within organization
☐ F. For searching and downloading papers, articles, data, etc
☐ G. Any other, please specify _____________________________

XIII CO-OPERATION OF LIBRARY STAFF IN INFORMATION SEEKING

1. Please indicate on a five point scale using the codes given below, the extent of co-operation extended by library staff in meeting your information needs in following areas.

Codes: 0 Poor
1 Average
2 Good
3 Very Good
4 Excellent

☐ A. Acquisition of reading materials i.e. books, journals, data, reports, etc
☐ B. Procurement of books and photocopies of journal articles on Inter-Library loan
☐ C. Finding reading materials in the library
☐ D. Communication regarding new acquisitions, information sources, etc
☐ E. In using electronic sources of information i.e. CD-ROM databases, OPAC, etc
☐ F. In finding information on the Internet
☐ G. Any other, please specify _____________________________
1. Do you feel that the library staff should organize and conduct following programmes for the promotion of library usage?

If 'YES', through (Please tick mark)

☐ A. Lectures/talks
☐ B. Book Exhibition
☐ C. Orientation or training in using literature and databases
☐ D. Circulation of printed/electronic guides
☐ E. Study Circle
☐ F. Any other, please specify_____________________________

XV SUGGESTIONS

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

You may please return the filled in questionnaire to:

Shamprasad M. Pujar
Assistant Librarian
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research,
Gen Vaidya Marg, Film City Road, Santosh Nagar,
MUMBAI-400 065

Phone: (022) 28400919 Ext: 514
E-mail: pujar@igidr.ac.in