Chapter-7

Major Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

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Major findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

Introduction

This empirical, explorative study identified the extent as well as some barriers and concerns with regard to the utilization of library resources, IT applications and use of Law Library; it explored the perceived role of the library and information professional as facilitator of the legal research activities of current law students and the law faculty members.

The totals of 1080 questionnaires have been distributed among 18 Law colleges coming under the study. Out of 1080 questionnaires, 820 have been received back with a response rate of 75.93%. The significant findings of the present study are presented below;

1. It is observed during the literature review that such type of studies are scanty in India compared to the other developed countries. Library user centered studies will certainly enhance the utility of the libraries.

2. Of the total 820 respondents surveyed, 527 (64.3) are from 3 year LL.B degree aspirants, followed by 209(25.5) LL.M & 16(1.9) from PhD students and teachers 68(8.3). More number of respondents i.e. 527(64.3) are from 3 year LL.B degree Course.

3. In the sex wise distribution of the respondents, 491(59.9%) are male respondents and 329 (40.1%) are female respondents. It is observed that male respondents constitute a majority of the group surveyed for this study.
4. The study found that, out of the 820 respondents, 467 (57%) are between 21 to 25 year of age, among them 329 (62.4% of 527) are studying 3 year LL.B course and 128 (61.2% of 209) are studying in 5 Year LL. B. course followed by 7 (43.8% of 16) are studying in LL.M course.

5. The analysis of the data has observed that majority of respondents are not having personal collection at home. Out of 820 respondents 296 (36.1%) are maintaining personal collection at home and remaining 524 (63.9%) are not having personal collection.

6. It is observed from the study that 634 (77.3%) are visiting library every day, 54 (6.6%) visiting once in a week, about 112 (13.7%) visiting more than once in a week, only 4 (0.5%) visiting once in fortnight, 1 (0.1%) visitor visits the library once in a month and 15 (1.8%) visiting occasionally. The chi-square test of independence of attributes used to verify whether the frequency of library visit by the respondents is independent of the user category, the test reveals that there is a high degree of association between these two as the chi-square value is 51.07 and significant (P) value is 0.000.

7. The average time spent in the library per day, 128 (15.6%) are spending less than half an hour a day, 295 (36%) half an hour to one hour, 291 (35.5%) one to two hour, 83 (10.4%) three to four hours and 21 (2.7%) Five and more hours in the College Library per day. The chi-square test of independence of attributes used to verify whether the average time spent in the library by the respondents is independent of the user category, the test reveals that there is a high degree of association between these two as the chi-square value is 42.21 and significant (P) value is 0.000.
8. The study identified about the purpose of visit to the library, Majority of the respondents i.e. 457 (56.1%) are visiting to refer books, 299 (36.7%) for the purpose of gathering Information, 378 (46.4%) to study, 306 (37.5%) to refer Journals/Magazines, 107 (13.13%) to refer Reports/Proceedings.

9. Where as in case of Purpose of Using Computer Based Services, Out of 820 respondents 374(45.6%) respondents to brows Internet, 153(18.7%) are visiting the library for the purpose of using OPAC, 189 (23%) to use E-mail facility, 40 (4.9%) to Scan/Print documents, 212 (25.9%) to Search Online Database and 12 (1.5%) to Search CD ROM Database.

10. It is found from the study is that, majority of the respondents 509 (62%) are visiting the other libraries along with their Law College Library, 156 (19%) the University Library, 149 (18.2%) visiting Court Library.

11. The study indicates that majority of the respondents 429(52.3%) opined that library collection was good, 299 (36.5%) opined that their college library collection was very good,

12. The present study examined that 476 (58%) are aware of Library Orientation, 576(70.2%) Reference service, 722 (88%) Internet Browsing, 675(82.3%) Daily News Paper Alert service, 373(45.5%) Current Content service, about 136(16.6%) Inter Library Loan service, 563(68.7%) Photocopying service and 365(44.5%) Printing service offered by the Library.

13. The study found that, 430 (52.4%) are coming to know about the latest editions of books added to the library from their teachers, 234(28.5%) are through classmates/friends, 413(50.4%) are from by contacting the library staff and 163 (19.9%) are from the display of new arrivals in the library.
14. The respondents were asked about frequency of use of library catalogue, 174 (21.3%) are said that they are always using the catalogue. 470 (57.6%) are never used, 172 (21.1%) are sometime using the library catalogue.

15. It is observed from the study that 526 (65.1%) majority are of the opinion that the Manual Catalogue is user friendly and 282 (34.9%) have said that OPAC is user friendly.

16. In the addition to use catalogue, 637 (77.7%) are going to ask the library staff to obtain information, 226 (27.6%) said that they were going to browse from the shelves, and 166 (20.2%) said that they were going to take the help of seniors.

17. In the alternative way to get needed information, majority of the respondents 506 (61.7%) said that they preferred to search from the Internet, 367 (44.8%) respondents preferred to purchase the needed material from the market, 213 (26%) respondents said that they would prefer to go to other Libraries, 181 (22.1) respondents said that they preferred to borrow from classmate(s)/friends.

18. The study revealed that the purpose of assistance from library staff, 424 (51.7%) were expecting assistance to locate Text Books, 356 (43.4%) were for using reference books, 313 (38.2%) were expecting assistance to seek specific information. 264 (32.2%) are to locate Acts & Rules, 256 (31.2%) were to locate Judgment Reports, 167 (20.4%) were expecting the assistance to locate current periodicals, 157 (19.1%) were expecting assistance to use Library Catalogue, and 108 (13.2%) were to search on the Internet/Database.
19. Majority of the respondents about 733 (90.4%) are opined that the working hours of their College Library is convenient to them and only 78 (9.6%) are said not convenient.

20. In case of duration spent per week in information gathering activity, majority of 602 (74.4) respondents spend 1 hour for searching of books, followed by about 477 (69.7) respondents spend 1 hour for searching journals and magazines, about 349 (48.9) respondents spend 1 hour for searching on internet, 330 (65.1) respondents spend 1 hour for E-mail correspondence, about 328 (51.7) respondents spend 1 hour for interaction with classmates and 347 (72.7) respondents spend 1 hour for photocopying and printing.

21. The study observed that, 637 (77.7) respondents update their knowledge by interaction with teachers and experts, about 466 (56.8) respondents update their knowledge by reading latest books, 316 (38.5) update their knowledge by current issues of journals and magazines in their field.

22. The respondents were asked about to give opinion the factors those which are motivates to seek information, majority of the 406 (49.5%) respondents says strongest that to quest for new knowledge. 344 (42%) respondents feel strongest to prepare for class assignments. About 261 (31.8%) respondents opine strongest to complete projects. About 329 (40.1%) respondents strongly opine to score more marks in examination, and 343 (41.8%) respondents strongly agree for participation in seminars, conferences.

23. The study found that in the environment affects for information seeking behavior, 387 (47.2%) respondents opineed changing pattern of new
sylabus. About 311 (37.9) respondents state that cross question raised by students/ teachers and 245 (29.9%) respondents agree for additional work given by the teachers and higher authority.

24. The study observed that, 599 (73.0%) majority of the respondents preferred highly text books for preparing examination, whereas 252 (30.7%) respondents frequently preferred journals. About 317 (38.7%) respondents highly preferred newspapers for preparing examinations, 174 (21.2%) respondents occasionally preferred field survey reports and 158 (19.3%) respondents occasionally prefer dissertations.

25. The study revealed to what extent the availability of information sources affected for information seeking behavior. About 409 (49.9%) respondents agreed with High. About 214 (26.1%) respondents agreed with Very high.

26. Majority of the respondents about 287 (35.0%) opined that sometime they faced unavailability of needed information, about 269 (32.8%) respondents often faced information scattered in too many sources, 248 (30.2%) respondents opined that too much information available on the internet and 254 (31.0%) respondents needed library orientation.

27. The respondents were asked about whether they needed skill or training in this changing environment for gathering information, majority that is 590 (72.0%) of the respondents opined they needed training for gathering information and 154 (18.8%) respondents did not need. About 71 (8.7%) respondents were not sure whether they needed skill.

28. The study revealed how the respondents intended to learn skills/training. About 360 (51.8%) respondents agreed with the guidance from library
staff. About 236 (40.0%) respondents agreed with by attending training and
204 (34.5%) respondents stated that by trial and error.

29. The study indicated that rate of awareness about E-Resources, 453 (55.2%)
respondents opined good, whereas 164 (20.0%) respondents stated that very
good. on an average respondents responded as ‘good’ (Mean 2.15) and little
over good. When we look at this class categories the opinion goes on par
with the overall opinion except for the students belonging to PhD class,
who rated awareness regarding electronic information resources as ‘very
good’ (Mean 1.4).

30. The respondents were asked about making use of facilities available in the
library, majority that is, 380 (46.3%) of the respondents frequently use
computer and its facility. About 270 (32.9%) respondents sometime use
photocopy service and 314 (38.3%) respondents frequently use
internet/Intranet. Followed by about 313 (38.2%) respondents who have not
used multimedia facility, about 354 (43.2%) respondents have not used
digitization/ e-archives facility, 442 (53.9%) respondents have not used
telephone facility, about 454 (55.4%) respondents have not used scanner
facility.

31. It is found from the study that majority that is 441 (53.8%) of the
respondents prefer both print and electronic sources to obtain information.
About 273 (33.3%) respondents prefer print copy to obtain information.

32. Out of the total 820 respondents 342 (41.7%) respondents use internet daily
and 331 (40.4%) respondents use internet once in a week.

33. The study examined that majority i.e. 681 (83.0%) used the internet for
education purpose, followed by 552 (67.3%) respondents used internet for
legal information, 457 (55.7%) respondents used internet for the purpose of news, 308 (37.6%) respondents used internet for personal communication, and 300 (36.6%) respondents used for entertainment.

34. The study found from the analysis of data that the impact of internet on the study/research, majority that is 457 (55.7%) respondents agreed with that the internet has positive impact on study/research, followed by 303 (37.0%) respondents strongly agreed with positive impact of internet. On an average respondent opined that they nearly strongly agreed that (Mean 1.72) Internet has positive impact over study/research. The category wise opinion goes in par with the overall opinion except for the students belonging to PhD class, who opined as ‘Strongly Agree’ (Mean 1.4).

35. The respondents were asked about opinion about their feeling while using electronic resources. So, the study examines that majority of 514 (62.7%) respondents feels using electronic sources is easier, followed by 250 (30.5%) respondents feels it is difficult to use electronic resources, 29 (3.5%) respondents feels it is same as print version, 27 (3.3%) respondents feels it is more difficult.

36. The study revealed that, majority i.e. 258 (31.5%) respondents prefered the ‘Laws Database’ to find judgments or articles, followed by 182 (22.2%) respondents who prefered ‘Lexis database’, 166 (20.2%) respondents prefered ‘Manupatra database’, 136 (16.6%) respondents prefered ‘Judis database’, and 85 (10.4%) respondents prefered ‘West law’ database.

37. The study indicated about whether ICT enabled library provides better services or not. Majority of the respondents that is 674 (82.2%) agreed with
that. About 143 (17.4%) respondents have not agreed with ICT enabled library provides better services.

38. It is observed from the study that majority of 442 (53.9%) respondents indicated that, it was easy and convenient to search for information than print journals. About 474 (57.8%) respondents indicated that search time taken was far lesser that print journals. About 306 (37.3%) respondents opined that it could be accessed at any place and 329 (40.1%) respondents state that it provided links to other resources. The average opinion is that the respondents agree about the stated attributes of e-journals as the median is 2.00.
Suggestions

The following implied suggestions are outcome of the opinion and comments offered by the respondents in the form of data collected for the study. These suggestions may help to improve the quality of law college library resources and services.

➤ The majority of the respondents prefer text books and reference books pertaining to the field of law. Hence it is suggested to the authorities that the libraries must make all efforts to acquire the latest editions of text books and reference books as rules, regulations and laws are frequently changing.

➤ At present, IT environment network is considered as a back bone of libraries. It is also evident from the data collected for the study that majority of the law students and faculty members are interested in using internet as a source of information. Hence it is recommended to the authorities of the law libraries to establish a computer lab and other all required facilities including the best computer server unit.

➤ The library catalogue is considered as a key to its collection and it is the only tool which will help the user community to know what is available in the collection of a library. It will also help the user in locating his/her required documents/information in the library and helps in saving a lot of time. It is observed from the study that the majority of the users are not familiar with the use of manual as well as OPAC. Hence it is suggested to all the working librarians of the law college that they must come forward and conduct user education programme regularly.
The present society is designated as a knowledge society in which knowledge is going to play a dominant role in each and every individuals and institution activities. The knowledge/information in the field of law is scattered in different types of sources. The latest knowledge is also very much essential for the budding lawyers as well as the law faculty. Hence it is suggested to the authorities of the law libraries that they must provide required the financial assistance to the libraries for the acquisition of e-resources and for the subscription of e-journals and databases in the field of law.

The LIS professionals working in the law college libraries need to render varieties of the services to the user community and this is the order of the day. But the law library users are not aware of the services rendered by the libraries. There is no proper channel to disclose the existence of various services of the libraries such as bibliographic service, Inter Library Loan facility, Current Content Service etc. Hence the users remain unnoticed about the existence of such services and also the efforts made by the professionals are unnoticed. Hence it is recommended to all the law college librarians that they must display the list of services that are offered by the library in a prominent place in the premises of the library.

There are many new opportunities for libraries to expand their functions in today's electronic information environment. The results of this study could be used to help for the development of effective legal information system.

There is a real need for law libraries to be accountable for the effectiveness of their facilities and services. And, at least, one possibly valid approach to evaluating the effectiveness of library services involves user-oriented performance measures such as user studies and user behavioural studies.
Therefore the law college libraries should conduct regular user survey studies in their libraries in order to improve their performance.

- The library working hours must be extended beyond working hours of the law college as the increased opening hours increase the extent of use of the library sources and services. A few of the respondents opined that library opening hours were not convenient to them. Hence authorities should make efforts to keep the library open for at least 10 hours a day.

- The fifth law of library science says that library is a growing organism. The Library users should get sufficient space and congenial atmosphere in the library. Hence it is suggested to the authorities to take necessary actions to increase the library premises and provide sufficient space for users as a few respondents suggested that their library premises/building is small.
Conclusion

Law librarians and law libraries play a unique and integral role in shaping the quality of the legal system at all levels. They are protecting the availability and quality of legal information at a reasonable cost, and ensuring open and equal access to legal information for everyone. How people in general find and use information in the course of their daily work has been a topic of great interest to the library and information science (LIS) scholars and is an area of research that has been extensively developed for several decades. Yet the small number of studies that do exist that address the information-related needs of legal education system demonstrate that access to a wide variety of information is crucial to their work. This study looked at legal information seeking as a process concentrating only on information need or source or channel use. The results of this dissertation extrapolated the importance of studying the totality of information seeking and use in all extent and the relationships among them.

The overall results clearly revealed the current situation of legal research training and the development of skills required while pursuing legal education and majority of law students are fairly comfortable with the using and exploring the use of IT in their day to day activities to practice the profession more effectively and efficiently they need to acquire the latest knowledge in the field of law in general and law education in particular. As this study is explorative in nature, evidence from this study can only be illustrative, but the results highlighting some key issues are identified regarding overall performance of the library resources, services and effective use of resources by the users of law libraries.
This research study does not see user behavior as an outcome, but rather as an active process that is associated with the individuals of law college library users' understanding of the activity and the specific motives of the individual. The results of the fieldwork indicated that the law college library users followed diverse information-gathering approaches. They sought information from a combination of on-line databases, printed materials, personal experience and interpersonal resources. The manner of information-gathering chosen by the individual lawyers depended on a number of factors, primarily his or her area of academic requirement and experience and the comfort-level in using on-line versus print resources. It is for this reason that this study chooses to study the information needs and gathering habits instead of the behavior by investigating how the basic information needs are fulfilled by the budding legal practitioners. Finally, the study helped in understanding the users' needs in terms of legal research skills and training required for the users of the law libraries in this part of Karnataka.

**Further Areas of Research**

❖ The present study is confined to the Law College Libraries that are formerly and presently affiliated to the Karnataka University, Dharwad. The study encompasses the geographical area of some parts of north Karnataka which are economically backward compared to the southern Karnataka, a further comparative study may help to uplift the differences in the legal education facilities.
Further research will be required in order to draw definitive conclusions about
the use of electronic resources which are the most valuable resources of the 21\textsuperscript{st}
century.

Further research will be required in order to draw definitive conclusions about
how researchers are using the electronic resources in the field of law which are
the most valuable ones.

Further research will have to be undertaken in order to establish strong
correlations between the amount of electronic resources available to legal
education aspirants and their frequency of use.

The study of Information seeking behavior is very essential in order to
eliminate the barriers in imparting proper legal education and helps in better
understanding of law library users and their needs. A standard model for the
information seeking process may be developed by understanding the
requirements of the law library users in the Indian context.