CHAPTER – 3

OBJECTIVES, HYPOTHESES AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this chapter, objectives, hypotheses of the study, methodology used distribution of the sample and tools employed are presented.

3.1 Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To study the demographic characteristics of OPAC/ web OPAC users.
2. To ascertain the current status and use of OPAC / Web OPAC facilities.
3. To examine what type documents the users look for, what methods of searching and locating the documents in the OPAC/ Web OPAC.
4. To study the attitudes, perceptions, experiences and opinions of the OPAC/ Web OPAC users with regard to locating and searching the documents.
5. To find out what guidance is sought from the library staff by the respondents in the use of OPAC/Web OPAC and their level of satisfaction.
6. To identify the problems faced by the users in using the OPAC/Web OPAC.
7. To ascertain if the attitudes, opinions, perceptions and experiences are affirmative or not.
8. To know what is the rate of success in using OPAC/ Web OPAC.
9. To find if there is any relation between the age, gender, status, and educational qualifications and some of the features and functions of OPAC/Web OPAC.
3.2 Research Hypotheses

1. There is a significant relationship between the type of documents searched for in the OPAC/Web OPAC by the respondents and gender.

2. There is a significant relationship between the type of elements used to search for the required document in the OPAC/Web OPAC and gender.

3. There is a significant relationship between the methods used to learn to use OPAC/Web OPAC and gender.

4. There is a significant relationship between the affirmative perceptions about the library OPAC and Web OPAC among the respondents and gender.

5. There is a significant relationship between the respondents’ attitudes towards the use of library OPAC/Web OPAC and gender.

6. There is a significant relationship between the elements used to search OPAC/Web OPAC by the respondents and gender.

7. There is a significant relationship between the methods used to learn to use OPAC/Web OPAC and status.

8. There is a significant relationship between the affirmative perceptions about the library OPAC/Web OPAC among the respondents and their status.

9. There is a significant relationship between the respondents’ attitudes towards the use of library OPAC/Web OPAC and status.

10. There is a significant relationship between the elements used to search OPAC/Web OPAC by the respondents and status.

11. There is a significant relationship between the type of materials respondents were trying to find and gender.

12. There is a significant relationship between the Attitudes towards finding the object of the OPAC/Web OPAC and gender.

13. There is a significant relationship between the post search affirmative perceptions of the respondents about their library OPAC/Web OPAC use and gender.

14. There is a significant relationship between the type of materials respondents were trying to find and status.

15. There is a significant relationship between the Attitudes towards finding the object of the OPAC/Web OPAC and status.
16. There is a significant relationship between the post search affirmative perceptions of the respondents about their library OPAC/Web OPAC use and status.

3.3 Methodology

The following methods have been employed to carry out the study.

3.3.1. Literature Survey

A literature survey of relevant published/unpublished literature was conducted and primary as well as secondary sources were consulted to collect the required information on the topic of the study.

3.3.2. Identification of the Area of Study

The researcher collected the list of south Indian law institutions from different websites and identified 153 law colleges and six law Universities in south India, out of which 75 percent are from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and the remaining 25 percent are located in Tamil Nadu and Kerala (www.lawentrance.com/college_list.htm, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_law_schools_in_India and www.karnatakacolleges.com/Law-College/Law-Colleges-Index.asp). The researcher visited a few law college libraries and came to know that most of the law college libraries do not have automated library system. Finally the researcher selected all six Law University libraries in South India for the study. Out of these six Law University libraries two Law University libraries are in Karnataka State, two Law University libraries are in Andhra Pradesh, one Law University library is in Tamil Nadu State and one Law University is in Kerala State.

3.3.3. Content of Questionnaire

The researcher has prepared a user questionnaire on the basis of research problems, objectives and hypotheses. The user questionnaire contained 29 questions, organized into the following seven parts, Part A of the questionnaire sought demographic information from the respondent such as designation, age, gender, educational qualifications, area of specialization. Part B contains use of OPAC/Web OPAC, Part C has user perception about user library OPAC/Web OPAC, Part D
contains user attitudes towards the use of OPAC/Web OPAC, Part E contain user’s problems in the use of OPAC/ Web OPAC and Part F has user experience with OPAC/Web OPAC features. All the questions have a multiple choice format. The research questionnaire applied a five point Likert’s scale.

3.3.4. Sampling

The total study population was 2750 which includes 138 members of the teaching staff, 32 research scholars, 524 LLM students and 2056 LLB students. A sampling of 839 members of the teaching staff, research scholars, LLM students and LLB students of six Law Universities in South India was randomly selected for the survey. The responses received are 671 which include 387 LLB students, 221 LLM students, and 27 members of the teaching staff and 36 research scholars of Law Universities in South India. The sample population was chosen by using the convenience sample method. The members of non teaching staff were excluded from the study as they do not use the library OPAC/Web OPAC.

3.3.5. Collection of Data

The data were collected over a seven month period from February, 2012 to August, 2012 in all six Law University libraries under the study. The survey instrument was passed on to members of teaching staff, research scholars, LLM students and LLB students who visited the library during this period. However, care was taken to ensure that no user was administrated the questionnaire more than once. If any of the respondents was willing to participate and look the questionnaire to fill up the investigator waited until it was filled up. Every effort was made by the investigator to get reliable and accurate data from the respondents. Although 839 questionnaires were administered, only 671 filled in usable questionnaires were returned making a moderate response rate of 79.97% which was found adequate for the purpose of analysis. The position –wise response of the respondents is presented in table 3.1. The researcher personally consulted the users and had also an informal talk regarding the various aspects of the library service. Besides this, an observation method was also used to observe the effective functioning of OPAC / Web OPAC system.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>LLB students</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>57.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LLM students</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Teaching Staff</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research Scholar</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3.6. Data Analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized to generate responses to the research questions guiding the study. Descriptive statistics included computations of mean, standard deviations, frequencies and percentages. Inferential statistical procedures included t test for independent means and analyses of variance (ANOVAs). The data from the returned questionnaire was tabulated and are displayed in tables in chapter 6, accompanied by brief narratives of pertinent findings. All inferential statistics used the .05 level of significance and all analyses were performed using the SPSS software.