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6.1 Summary

Information seeking behaviour is an area of active interest among librarians and information scientists. A library being a service institution is designed to provide necessary information services to its users. In order to make the services useful and the process effective, it is essential to know the information seeking behaviour of users.

The present study is an attempt to examine the information seeking activities of engineering college teachers in Visvesvaraya Technological University and its affiliated Colleges Karnataka.

6.2 Universe of the Study

The affiliated colleges of Visvesvaraya Technological University constitute the universe of the study.

6.3 Methodology and Sampling

There are nearly 195 affiliated colleges under the jurisdiction of the Visvesvaraya Technological University, but most of the colleges were established recently and they do not have established libraries. Only established colleges with adequate library facilities have been taken for the purpose of this study. Using purposive random sampling, 50 colleges were selected for the present study. Samples of 200 engineering college teachers constitute the sample for the present study. Both primary and secondary data has been collected from these colleges. The primary data has been collected through questionnaire method. The secondary data has been collected from library records, brochures and other related materials available in the colleges under study.

While analyzing the data, statistical techniques like weighted averages, percentages and chi-square test have been adopted.

6.4 Major Findings

6.4.1. General information about the respondents:

There are 37 Professors, 33 Associate Professors, and 130 Assistant Professors, included in the sample. The data have been collected from 200 employees chosen proportionately so that sample represents the universe of the study.
6.4.2. Library Use

The present study reveals that 40 per cent of the faculty constituting Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors use the library every day.

1. Forty four percent of the users spend 4 to 10 hours per week. 24.2% of the users spend less than 4 hours per week.

2. Fifty five percent of the sample have visiting other libraries for procuring information 45% of the sample does not visit other libraries

3. Thirty seven percent of the sample spend around one hour; 26% spend time between 2 to 4 hours per week in other libraries.

6.4.3. Nature and Type of Information Required By the Users

The users mostly seek information to understand the developments in their area of study. The next order of importance for gathering information by users is; Theoretical background / Basic Scientific and Technical information, Scientific and technical news, information about previous work done in their field, experimental design, results and applications, review of literature, computer programs and model building information.

6.4.4. Motivating Factors for Information Seeking Behaviour

The chief motivating factors for seeking information is to prepare for class teaching followed by other factors in the order of preference. General awareness for new knowledge/ To guide students projects / research scholars to participation in seminars / conference etc., to increasing promotional opportunities, to evolve innovative ideas / techniques, To write and publish papers.

6.4.5. Use of Library Services

70% of the sample respondents depend completely on library in procuring books on interlibrary loan, 50% of the users opined that they depend on the current awareness services substantially or completely in information seeking.

6.4.6. Methods and Means of Information Collection

24% of the teachers depend on personal experiences, 43% of teachers frequently or highly depend on Experts on the field. 38% of the teachers depend on library staff, catalogues and indexes.
6.4.7. Professional Activities and Achievements

85.50% of the teachers expressed positive response with regard to attending conferences and seminars. Majority of the engineering college teachers are prone to attend the conference and seminars.

6.4.8 Extent of Dependence over Library Collection

The engineering college teachers are highly depending on books (4.5) for teaching and research. General articles also important sources of information. For research and teaching INTERNET plays an important role. Indexing and abstracting sources, government documents, patents and standards are less frequently used sources of information.

6.4.9 Factors Affecting Information Seeking Behaviour

30% of the respondents answered that changing pattern of new syllabus is a major environment factor that influences information-seeking behaviour. Other factors which influence information seeking behaviour are AICTE norms extra work given by higher authorities and information overload.

6.5 Hypotheses of the Study

Based on the objectives the following hypotheses were framed:

1. There exists no uniformity in the information seeking behaviour of the engineering faculty.

2. The designation of the faculty and institution where they work do influence the information seeking behaviour.

3. The faculty of engineering mostly depends on host/parent institution's library for information.

4. The faculties of engineering are much satisfied with the resources of respective institutions libraries.

5. The faculty of engineering avails and depends on more than one channel of information sources.
6. There exists heterogeneity in the motives for information collection.

7. Formal and documentary sources dominate the informal and interpersonal sources in the information seeking behavior.

8. Sharing of information among the faculty is prevalent in the engineering institutions.

9. The use of databases on the subject of engineering is common among the faculty attached to universities.

6.6 Hypotheses Testing

Hypotheses: 1 & 2

This Hypothesis is proved because the Information needs vary from one category to another category of engineering college teachers. The findings of the study also positively prove the second Hypotheses.

Hypotheses: 3

The faculty of Engineering college mostly depend on parent Institutions Library for Information. This Hypothesis is accepted.

Hypotheses: 4

The faculty engineering are much satisfied with the resource of respective institutions libraries. Hence, this Hypothesis is partially proved.

Hypotheses: 5

The faculty of engineering avails and depends on more than one channel of information sources. This Hypothesis is accepted.

Hypotheses: 6

There exists heterogeneity in the motives for information collection. This hypothesis is accepted.
Hypotheses: 7

Formal and documentary sources dominate the informal and interpersonal sources in the information seeking behaviour. This Hypothesis is accepted.

Hypotheses: 8

Sharing of information among the faculty is prevalent in the engineering institutions. This Hypothesis is accepted.

Hypotheses: 9

The use of databases on the subject of engineering is common among the faculty attached to universities. This hypothesis is accepted.

6.7 Suggestions

1. The information needs engineering college teachers is varied and manifold. In the light of the distinct characteristics of Engineering college teachers, the information system and services should be tailored to correlate with the characteristics of users.

2. The Engineering college teachers are always in need of updating their knowledge and professional skills. So, it is recommended that libraries in engineering colleges should review their services to achieve excellence.

3. The users i.e. Engineering College teachers tend to operate under system centered paradigm. Their information needs of are at times ambiguous and not clearly understandable. In this situation the role of the librarian has increased to acquaint the user with the system. Local Library system should be made user-friendly to their needs.

4. The overall picture reflects that there is an urgent need to improve the library collection and services. The Visvesvaraya Technological University and its affiliated colleges should improve library collection and services.
5. Visvesvaraya Technological University should launch effective training programme for its users and bring about greater familiarity with resources and services offered by the libraries.

6. It is observed that inter-personal communication, conferences / seminars and field works are of great importance to the respondents. Hence, the informal sources of information need to be more developed for easy accessibility to information sources.

7. Providing OPAC facilities in the college libraries will enhance the use of catalogues and indexes also open access journals enhance the use of library services.

8. Networking the Engineering college libraries would positively help the users in satisfying their information need through other libraries.

9. Providing Internet facilities in the library by offering priced service would help in generating revenue of the library.

10. Providing e-resources also facilitate in generating revenue to the library.

6.8 Areas of the Further Research

Engineering field is rapidly developing area of knowledge. The engineering college teachers should grasp with the emerging trends in their area of knowledge. For this exploitation of information technology becomes important. The present study is limited to Engineering college libraries affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University. The results cannot be generalized. Research over larger geographical area yields more precise and standard results. Hence the study focusing on higher learning institutions like IIIT’s, IIIM’s and IIM’s be undertaken for an in depth investigation.

6.9 Conclusion

The results of present study through light on information needs and information seeking behavior of engineering college teachers. The services of engineering colleges and libraries shall be improved using the guidelines offered by the present study.