

A Study On Information Use Pattern Of Library Personnel In Chennai District

G.Sivaraman*¹, Dr. S. Srinivasaragavan², Dr. M.Dorairajan³

¹Research Scholar (PT), Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli
Sr. Assistant Librarian, Saranathan College of Engineering, Trichy-12

²Professor & Head, DLIS, Bharathidasan University.

³Librarian, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University),
Tiruchirapalli.

ABSTRACT:

Library professionals are not simply lending agents. Before recommending someone to their users they need to get updated. Information seeking behaviour of the library professionals is in the nascent stage in Tamilnadu, as the exposure and training need to be augmented for the betterment of the library professionals. The purpose of this study is to examine the information seeking behaviour of library professionals in Chennai District in Tamil Nadu. Structured questionnaires were used to collect data from a representative sample of 110 library professionals. The result of the study shows that the majority of the academic library professionals are seeking their information towards professional oriented and career advancement. It is found that online resource methods contribute much for their sustaining career and professional enrichment

Keywords: Library professionals, Information seeking behaviour, Lending agents, Academic library professionals, Professional Enrichment.

INTRODUCTION

Information seeking behaviour is a wide term, which includes a bunch of moves that an individual makes to communicate information needs, look for information, access and select information, lastly utilizes this information to fulfil his/her information requirements. Different elements may decide the information seeking conduct of an individual or a group of people. It is, consequently, alluring to comprehend the reason for which information is required, the climate in which the client works clients' abilities in distinguishing the required information, channels and sources used for gaining information, and hindrances in collecting

the same. Information seeking behaviour posses a dynamic interest among various professional people like librarians, administrators, information researchers, scientists, sociologists and psychologists. The result of the Information seeking purpose identified and based on the

expectation and outcome of satisfaction level, Information seeking behaviour alludes to any action of a person that is adopted to distinguish a message that fulfil the needs.

In the current scenario library professionals need the information for their purpose and furthermore their patron demands. For equip themselves they depend internet and training programs

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

G B, Devchoudhury (2010), discussed the changing horizon of modern librarianship. State the digital technology influences the entire librarianship. The Web and Internet revolutionizes the librarianship requiring the necessary development to develop human resources to fit in the new environment. The present trend demands more from the traditional library professional

Muqueem S (2007) clarified that advanced information environment is extraordinarily changing all through the world. Present fast advancement in correspondence framework and ongoing development in innovation saw as changing accentuation in the job of information and its administration. The new advances have facilitated the change of information into computerized design. in this paper characterises the computerized library, and examinations the changing job of the library professionals in advanced environment and need of new abilities for library experts.

Bhati (2020) investigated that different parts of library experts during the pandemic circumstance like COVID 19. It additionally recognizes the backing job that Library Professionals have taken up. It follows the quantity of advanced stages accessible all throughout the variety of information gadgets. It likewise advances the utilization of online media/networks. Library Professionals can uphold the whole local area in their academic undertakings. The part of the Library Professionals is to follow down information according to the client necessity, go about as an information disseminator, and coordinator of information through the fluctuated information pools. Library Professionals can show their aptitude with the help of involvement with expansion to the differed abilities they need. Library Professionals can give e-substance, information interfaces, and their obligation to client assistance. Thus the job of Library Professionals characterizes the entire local area, another method of tackling job and gets the information distantly in the time of a lockdown/pandemic circumstance. This investigation helps the Library Professionals to improve their range of abilities according to the extreme conditions and serve the information like a reliable person of the country.

Noh, Y. (2010). This examines to distinguish the career development of librarians, investigate factors affecting their career developments, and analyze contrasts in such factors among librarians and chief librarians. The result of the study showed that the positions with the most elevated standard for dependability were those in public libraries, that library automation framework designers showed the most noteworthy pace of career development, and that school library and the public library librarians had the most elevated pace of getting back to the career and choosing the primary career as the final remaining one, respectively

Tucker, C. (2008) discussed through his article that career development issues encountered by midcareer librarians and discusses challenges to these librarians encounter during their career path. The article also analyzes how midcareer librarians can deal with these challenges through career development and planning using self-evaluation and assessment.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher collected 110 primary data from library personnel in the colleges of Chennai, Tamilnadu state using non probabilistic purposive sampling technique. Using five point likert scales, the questionnaire is constructed. The questionnaire has 4 constructs. They are information required for factors that influence information seeking behaviour, how to be aware and locate information, facilities available in working libraries of electronic resources to be the most important for the efficiency of work, awareness and utilization of social network sites, having the practice of storage and retrieval. Using SPSS 20.0, Descriptive statistics, and multiple regression tools were used to satisfy the research objectives. All the constructs were checked with Cronbach alpha reliability and the obtained values shows satisfactory results.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study the socio-economic profile of the library professionals of Chennai District
2. To study the factors responsible for information-seeking behaviour and its excellence.

TABLE 1 SIMPLE PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS

	SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC FACTOR	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENT
DESIGNATION	LIBRARIAN	25	22.73%
	ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN	37	33.64%
	LIBRARY ASSISTANT	48	43.64%
AGE	BELOW 25	4	3.64%
	26-35	24	21.82%
	36-45	19	17.27%
	46-55	63	57.27%
GENDER	MALE	48	43.64%
	FEMALE	62	56.36%
PLACE OF WORK	ARTS & SCIENCE COLLEGE	37	33.64%
	PUBLIC LIBRARY	52	47.27%
	ENGINEERING INSTITUTION	21	19.09%

GENDER	MARRIED	104	94.55%
	UNMARRIED	6	5.45%
INSTITUTION TYPE	GOVERNMENT	20	18.18%
	GOVT AIDED COLLEGE	25	22.73%
	SELF FINANCING	65	59.09%
QUALIFICATION	UG WITH MLIS	48	43.64%
	PG WITH MLIS	62	56.36%
EXPERIENCE	BELOW 10 YEARS	28	25.45%
	11 TO 20 YEARS	29	26.36%
	20 YEARS & ABOVE	53	48.18%
SALARY	BELOW 15000	19	17.27%
	15001 TO 25000	27	24.55%
	25001 TO 35000	43	39.09%
	35001 TO 45000	4	3.64%
	45001 TO 50000	4	3.64%
	50001 AND ABOVE	13	11.82%

It is observed from the table among the respondents 44 percent of them are Library assistants and 23 percent of them are “Librarians”. With regard to the age of the respondents, the maximum of 57 percent of them are belongs to the age group of 46 to 55 years. It is also noted that the maximum of 56 percent of the respondents are female. Among the various types of Institutions 47 percent of the respondents belongs to public libraries. While considering the marital status, 94 percent of the respondents are married. Among the nature of colleges, the maximum 59 percent of the respondents are working in self-financing colleges. Among the respondents 56 percent of them are having the qualification of PG with MLIS. The maximum 48 percent of the respondents are having the working experience of 20 years and above. It is also noted that only 12 percent of the respondent are earning the salary of Rs 50,000 and above per month.

TABLE 2 CRONBACHE ALPHA RELIABILITY COMPUTATION

S NO	DIMENSION	CRONBACHE ALPHA VALUE	NO OF ITEMS
1	Factors influence Information seeking behaviour	0.924	13

2	Aware and Locate Information	0.684	10
3	Facility Available in Working Libraries	0.831	10
4	Information seeking fulfilment	0.934	10

The Cronbach alpha value computed for all the constructs is above 0.5, which estimates the internal consistency of the data. Highest reliability value of 0.934 is obtained for the construct “Information seeking fulfilment”

TABLE 3 Descriptive for the construct “Factors influence Information seeking behaviour”

	Range	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
For faculty members	2	4.2182	0.75882	-0.39	0.23	-1.163	0.457
General awareness	3	4.1818	0.86927	-0.705	0.23	-0.477	0.457
For research scholars	3	4.1727	0.9371	-0.626	0.23	-0.974	0.457
State of the art investigations	3	4.1	0.77755	-0.534	0.23	-0.173	0.457
I am seeking information towards research work	4	4.0818	0.97803	-1.125	0.23	1.425	0.457
For students	4	3.8636	1.12908	-1.44	0.23	1.666	0.457
Observations and experiments	4	3.7727	1.01058	-0.831	0.23	0.919	0.457
Preparing answer to the questions	4	3.7636	1.10816	-0.588	0.23	-0.373	0.457
Discussions	4	3.7364	1.14681	-0.803	0.23	0.02	0.457
For top management	4	3.7091	1.16796	-0.959	0.23	0.476	0.457
To attend Conference	4	3.5727	1.23748	-0.555	0.23	-0.504	0.457
For relatives and friends	4	3.4727	1.16295	-0.574	0.23	-0.118	0.457

For my personal work	4	3.3909	1.28574	-0.4	0.23	-0.689	0.457
----------------------	---	--------	---------	------	------	--------	-------

The information seeking behaviour of the library professional is influenced by the “Faculty members” who are having a higher mean value of 4.21. For themselves and general awareness, the library professionals seeking the information with the mean value of 4.18. For the sake of “Research scholars” the information seeking behaviour of the library professionals are influenced which is having a mean value of 4.17. The normality index like skewness and kurtosis scores obtained are equal to zero which shows the data is normally distributed

TABLE 4 Descriptive for the construct “Aware and Locate Information”

	Range	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
Good Office Committee	4	4.2	0.89648	-1.653	0.23	3.831	0.457
Webinar	3	4.0727	0.89555	-0.457	0.23	-0.923	0.457
Book Exhibition	3	4.0455	0.98042	-0.687	0.23	-0.605	0.457
Consortia N list	4	4.0455	0.96152	-1.101	0.23	1.529	0.457
Through vendors	4	3.9545	0.99896	-0.808	0.23	0.614	0.457
Scopus	4	3.9364	1.04291	-0.86	0.23	0.403	0.457
Amazon	3	3.8818	0.82096	-0.182	0.23	-0.7	0.457
Visiting Book Shop	3	3.8545	0.86562	-0.317	0.23	-0.585	0.457
Demonstration	4	3.7727	1.12241	-0.965	0.23	0.527	0.457
Flipkart	3	3.7091	0.77039	0.065	0.23	-0.551	0.457

“Good office committee” is having a mean score of 4.2 and the Skewness value of -1.653 shows the normality is good for locating the information. Book Exhibition having a mean score of 4.045 and a kurtosis value of -0.605. The skewness and kurtosis values obtained for all the variables are nearer to zero which demonstrates the normal distribution of the dataset collected.

TABLE 5 Descriptive for the construct “Facility Available in Working Libraries”

	Range	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
Bar coding	4	4.0818	0.97803	-1.125	0.23	1.425	0.457
Excellent Printer	7	4.0673	1.2222	2.576	0.23	9.349	0.457
Wi-Fi facility	2.4	4.0055	0.72363	-0.105	0.23	-1.133	0.457
Digital Camera	2.5	3.925	0.68699	0.061	0.23	-0.678	0.457
I am having internet access with sufficient speed at working station	2.1	3.9109	0.57603	0.408	0.23	-0.428	0.457
Library Management Software's	2.8	3.8891	0.68084	-0.189	0.23	-0.001	0.457
RFID	2	3.8091	0.64246	0.195	0.23	-0.624	0.457
Quality of scanner	3.2	3.7382	0.86851	-0.415	0.23	-0.07	0.457
UPS facilities	3.2	3.7218	0.82132	-0.215	0.23	-0.235	0.457
I am having good system / laptop	3	3.5318	0.69162	0.489	0.23	0.28	0.457

“Bar coding” is having a mean score of 4.08 and the Skewness value of -1.125 shows the normality is best. RFID is having a mean score of 3.8 and a low mean score is observed for owning a laptop which is 3.53. The skewness and kurtosis values obtained for all the variables are nearer to zero which demonstrates the normal distribution of the dataset collected.

MULTIPLE REGRESSION

DEPENDENT: OVERALL INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

TABLE 6 COEFFICIENTS SUMMARY

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-0.739	0.163		-4.541	0.000
ISB on the given grounds to enrich my knowledge	0.252	0.078	0.242	3.251	0.001
ISB provide me administrative skills	0.478	0.038	0.485	12.657	0.000

ISB ensure my career advancement	0.36	0.075	0.346	4.774	0.000
ISB stimulate me to more responsibility	-0.795	0.053	-0.789	-15.14	0.000
ISB enables me to give a suggestion for fellow staff members and professional people	-0.003	0.015	-0.006	-0.226	0.821
ISB enables me to give a seminar / class for LIS professionals	-0.087	0.034	-0.108	-2.563	0.011
ISB ensures to provide better services to my clients like faculties, research scholars, students	0.266	0.032	0.384	8.369	0.000
ISB provides me to write more research articles	0.066	0.04	0.076	1.653	0.099
ISB provides me to do research work / to guide research work	-0.296	0.025	-0.486	-11.864	0.000
ISB increases my confident level high	0.809	0.037	0.683	21.823	0.000

REGRESSION EQUATION

It is found that the $Y = (-.739) + ISB$ on the given grounds to enrich my knowledge and $(0.252) + ISB$ provide me administrative skills. It is also inferred that $(0.478) + ISB$ ensure my career advancement and $(0.360) + ISB$ stimulate me to more responsibility $(-.795) + ISB$ enables me to give a suggestion for fellow staff members and professional people $(-.003) + ISB$ enables me to give a seminar / class for LIS professionals $(-.087) + ISB$ ensures to provide better services to my clients like faculties, research scholars, students $(0.266) + ISB$ provides me to write more research articles $(0.066) + ISB$ provides me to do research work / to guide research work $(-.296) + ISB$ increases my confident level high (0.809)

SIGNIFICANT PREDICTORS OF INFORMATION SEEKING FULFILMENT

1. ISB on the given grounds to enrich my knowledge
2. ISB provide me administrative skills
3. ISB ensure my career advancement
4. ISB stimulate me to more responsibility
5. ISB enables me to give a seminar / class for LIS professionals
6. ISB ensures to provide better services to my clients like faculties, research scholars, students
7. ISB provides me to do research work / to guide research work
8. ISB increases my confident level high

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

The Researcher collected the primary data from Chennai District which is a capital city of Tamilnadu. From the analysis and the results interpreted it is understood that library professionals need a long way and miles to go to excel in ICT and information seeking behaviour. However many library professionals were equipped themselves by publishing research papers and attending conferences and refresher courses. Still this is in a nascent stage only. While the colleges are very keen in faculty development programs and refresher courses, a good technical course or a development programs may be conducted for library professionals as they are the information managers for the whole institution.

Moreover many library professionals need to publish research papers in referred journals which will boost their searching behaviour in citation searches like Mendeley, Google scholar, J Gate, Academia and so on. Investing in the knowledge of librarians is an asset to the whole institution.

Through the research work, the researcher would like to appeal all the institutions and policy makers to develop special technical programs like statistical packages learning, information seeking behaviour, and Microsoft office suite. From the analysis it is understood that many library professionals should proficient in ICT in the days to come. In future, the research work of the whole institutions should be supported by the library professionals as they should suggest and make the faculty members to incline more towards the research.

REFERENCES

- Bhati, P., & Kumar, I. (2020). Role of library professionals in a pandemic situation like COVID-19. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 10(2), 33-48.
- Fatima, N., & Ahmad, N. (2008). Information seeking behaviour of the students at Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University: a survey.
- GB, D., & Barman, R. K. (2010). Library professionals in digital environment: A challenging task.
- Jamali, H. R., & Nicholas, D. (2008, September). Information-seeking behaviour of physicists and astronomers. In *Aslib proceedings*. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Karunarathna, A. (2008). Information-seeking behaviour of university teachers in Sri Lanka in the field *Management Studies*.
- Makri, S., Blandford, A., & Cox, A. L. (2008). Investigating the information-seeking behaviour of academic lawyers: From Ellis's model to design. *Information Processing & Management*, 44(2), 613-634.
- MSV, R., Khan, S. A., Thiyagu, R., & Rao, P. G. M. (2008). Information Seeking Behaviour Of Clinicians In a Semi Urban Town In Southern India. *Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research*, (2), 1069-1073.
- Muqueem, S., & Ambedkar, B. (2007). Changing role of library professionals in the digital environment. online] http://drtc.isibang.ac.in/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1849/400/p92_shaista_khan.pdf.

- Nettet, V. (2008). The information-seeking behaviour of grade-three elementary school students in the context of a class project.
- Nicholas, D., Huntington, P., Jamali, H. R., & Dobrowolski, T. (2008). The information-seeking behaviour of the digital consumer: Case study the virtual scholar. *Digital Consumers: Reshaping the Information Professions*. London: Facet Publishing, 113-158.
- Noh, Y. (2010). A study analyzing the career path of librarians. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 36(4), 329-346.
- Stokes, P. (2008). Developing an information seeking behaviour profile for nursing and midwifery students. *Information Research*, 13(4), 13-4.
- Tucker, C. (2008). Development of midcareer librarians. *Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship*, 13(3), 241-248.