



Usage of Library Information Sources by Research Scholars: An Evaluative Study of Karpagam University

KEYWORDS

Library Sources, Electronic Sources, Academic Library, User study

N. Krishnaswamy

Librarian, Karpagam University, Pollachi Main Road, Eachanari (Po), Coimbatore - 641 021, Tamil Nadu, India

Jayaraman.S

Visiting Faculty (Research Guide), Karpagam University, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India

ABSTRACT *The present study determines the usage of library Information Sources by the scholars of KU Library. they may acquire information through the research process of finding ideas. the objective of the article is to study the different factors such as Information, Sources, adequate collection, searching information through electronic sources. 200 questionnaires were distributed among the KU scholars and 145 filled questionnaires were received and 72.5 percent response rate. The questionnaire survey of data by applying simple percentage. Finding of the study is the research scholars access information through library sources and e-sources to keep with the developments through scientific research.*

INTRODUCTION

The academic library is established to provide materials, which communicate experience and ideas from one person to another and make them easily and freely available to all people. The academic library is a local centre of information that makes all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users. Akobundu Dike Ugah (2007) This study evaluated the use of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library, Umudike, Nigeria. The population of the study comprised 1,000 library registered users. A random sample of 200 was selected and administered a questionnaire. There were 154 usable responses. Result showed that a total of 130 (84.5%) used the library on daily basis, 50 (32.5%) came to read library books, and 42 (27.3%) to consult reference materials. Textbooks were the most used reading material and were located by direct approach to the shelves. Assistance was needed in locating reference materials and staff cooperation was rated well by 84 (54.5%). Okafor and Ukwoma (2007) discovered that journals are more frequently used than other resources. However in an academic environment, attention is basically focused on academic and nonacademic staff, students and researchers. The usefulness of a discipline is measured by the amount and quality of research completed in the discipline (Onyancha 2007). Kuruoppu and Moore (2008) examined the information sources used by doctoral students in agriculture and biological sciences, and found that journals had 24,072 out of 29,894 citations (80.5%).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To discover how frequently research scholars usage of library
- To find consulting library information sources
- Users opinions about the library collection
- To identify the constraints faced by the research scholars in using/searching information on electronic sources in library

METHODOLOGY

The main purpose of the present study is library information sources provide to the users of KU library. A questionnaire was used for collecting opinions of research scholars about usage of library information sources adopted the survey method. Two hundred questionnaires were distributed among the scholars of KU library out of 145 scholars returned, a 72.5 percent response rate.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE-1 FREQUENCY USAGE OF LIBRARY

Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	85	58.6
Once in two days	29	20
Once in a week	17	11.7
Twice a week	9	6.2
When needed	5	3.5

The above table 1 shows that 58.6% Research Scholars are using Periodicals daily, 20% once in two days, once in a week and 11.7% use Periodicals in a week. Similarly, 6.2% scholars use Periodicals twice a week and 3.5% scholars use only when needed.

TABLE-2 FREQUENCY OF CONSULTING LIBRARY INFORMATION SOURCES

sources	Female	Male	Percentage
Books	18	17	24.1
Periodicals	25	32	39.4
Research reports	7	9	11
Dissertation	15	12	18.6
Encyclopedias	4	6	6.9

More than the scholars consult periodicals most frequently.

TABLE-3 ADEQUACY OF LIBRARY COLLECTION

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Fully adequate	40	27.6
Adequate	64	44.1
Partially adequate	23	15.9
Inadequate	18	12.4

The analysis indicates from the table 3 that nearly half feel the collection of the library is Adequate, while slightly more than one fifth found the collection fully adequate to meet their needs and another fifth it inadequate.

TABLE-4 PROBLEMS FACED SEARCHING INFORMATION THROUGH ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Particulars	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Extremely Difficult	12	8.3
Considerable Problem	28	19.3
Little Problem	66	45.5
No Problem	39	26.9

Table 4 reveals that among 145 respondents, 66(45.5%) users face little problem and 39(26.9%) users face no problem in searching information through electronic sources.

CONCLUSION

Library information is considered to be the backbone of any research organization as it provides the library facilities from the research scholar and its users, the information through electronic sources and services in their academic activity. The study reveals that the library is used regularly by these scholars. While there scholars also clearly expressed the desire for more journals to access e-journals. Hence the study proves that KU library provides all students, researchers, teachers and other users to access the latest scientific literature and enables them to keep pace with the developments, and helps to make a positive impact on the quality of research.

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