Research Paper Library Science

Utilization of Library Resources by the Students of G D Institutions: A Case Study

Dr. M. Thangapandy | Librarian, G D Naidu Charities, 734, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore – 641 018, Tamilnadu

ABSTRACT

Every document of the Academic library should find the right user at the right time and be used to enhance the knowledge of the user community. This paper analyses the utilization of library resources by the students of G D Institutions. Data collected through a well structured questionnaire covering the aspects of library resources, services and physical facilities... etc from 150 students of Diploma and Post diploma are analyzed. The study finds out that students visit the library for lending library books. Students find it difficult to locate the document without the help of library staff. The study concludes that effective user education method may be adopted.

KEYWORDS Library resources, Library services, User satisfaction, User behavior.

INTRODUCTION

Library resources determine the effectiveness of the library services and operations of an educational institution. The academic libraries should have considerable role to play in teaching, learning and research process. They have also been considered as valued part of the social system. They have been looked upon as a vital factor contributing to research and academic studies. Over the periods library professionals have invented various methods in knowledge management, quality measurement for both conventional and new form of knowledge. Even though academic library users turn in digital world with fast access to the core body of knowledge. Academic librarians' roles have been altered due to changes in the society, many new developments and transfiguring educational environment, introduced by information and communication technologies. They play imperative roles in the changing new environment. To carry on as an institution and to uphold its values of access to high quality information, service, and preservation, the library must consider how to remain trusted and essential in a fast evolving environment while controlling costs. Librarians should volunteer to cooperate not only as a library professional but also with experts in other fields such as information technology, computer architecture. Their leadership must provide an encouraging environment for appealing with knowledgeable information in all its forms.

Thus, a library should deliver and need an evaluation of its effectiveness for meeting changing needs of user community. In this framework, the study was conducted to assess the utilization of knowledge resources by the students of G D institutions for their academic work, the level of satisfaction and usage of library resources, the assistance in using the resources, etc

G D INSTITUTION

A well known industrial scientist and keen educationalist of south India, Sri G D Naidu, established premier colleges of the Coimbatore, "Sir Arthur Hope College of Technology" and "Sir Arthur Hope Polytechnic" in the year 1945. Later he handed over both the colleges to the Government. At present they are known as "The Government College of Technology" and "The Government Polytechnic, Coimbatore" respectively. In 1946, he started Industrial Labour Welfare Association (ILWA) for the purpose of training poor students in technical field so as they can start their own business or service centre. ILWA presently known as G D Naidu Charities conduct certificate courses on Automobile Servicing and Maintenance, AUTOCAD, CAM, WEDM, EDM, Metrology, CMM etc. More than 40000 students are trained over the past 68 years

In 2002, G D group started another world class institute Gedee Technical Training Institute (GTTI) in technical collaboration with IHK and FESTO, Germany. GTTI offers 3 years diploma and one year post diploma courses in Tool and Die Engineering, Mechatronics, Industrial Mechanics and Precision Machine Technology.

G D Naidu Charities Library, originally it was a research library established by G D Naidu for his research activities, at present serves the students and staff of the G D institutions. It has a huge collection of more than 50,000 books, 1,10,000 back volumes of journals and magazines in different fields of engineering, 10,000 technical manuals and product catalogues, Newspapers from 1930 to till date. It has more than 1000 audio and video VHS tapes and Cassettes of engineering subjects. G D library plays a vital role to discipline the young minds and bring out the hidden talents to create technocrats of tomorrow.

LIMITATIONS AND SCOPE

This study is confined to the students of G D institutions concerning the use of information resources. Its purpose is to fulfill the academic requirements of students and it limits to books, periodicals, technical manuals, audio/ video tapes, newspapers and e- resources.

Objectives

Main objectives of the present study are:

- To study the purpose of the library visit by the students
- To assess the level of satisfaction about the library resources
- To identify the problems faced in retrieving the information
- To study the frequency of the use of library resources by students
- To identify the influencing factors that encourages library use

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A well set educational system relies on the access and use of library resources and services. Libraries in academic institutions are offering information and knowledge sources for learning and teaching process. It also supports and encourages implementing innovative method of learning and teaching process. There were various researches conducted to study the library use by the staff and students of academic institutions,

A study was conducted at Ladoks Akintola University, Ogbomosa Nigeria by Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) to find out the accessibility and use of library resources by undergradu-

ates. It concludes 76.8% of the respondents use the library for reading and studying. 7.9% respondents utilized library for research. 7.4% used library for sleeping and socializing and 4.3% for borrowing books. Another research conducted at Lautech Medical Library by Adeoye and Popoola (2011) on use of library resources by the teaching staff of nursing schools in Osun and Oyo State, Nigeria. It emphasizes that library users must have easy access to both physical and digital information resources. It also suggests that library personnel is responsible for matching the right information document with the right person at the right time and it also implies that least effort should get the more required information.

Maharana, Dhal and Pati (2013) carried out a research on information seeking behaviour of medical professionals and they conclude the study that faculty members prefer their library visit to gather information for their publications and students visit library for their study. Surya, Sangeetha and Nambi conducted a study to assess the information seeking behavior of faculty members of government Arts colleges in Cuddlore and they found out that 56.87% of the respondents used the library for academic purpose and majority of the respondents visited several times a week for their reference.

METHODOLOGY

An appropriate methodology is essential for conducting a meaningful research, since this study's main focus is to assess the utilization of library resources by the students of G D Institutions, a well structured questionnaire covering relevant aspects of the study were distributed among the students of diploma, post diploma and short tem courses, though it is impossible to cover all the students, thus random sampling technique is used to distribute the questionnaire as it was difficult to collect data from all the target respondents. Over all 250 questionnaires were distributed among the students and 150 filled in questionnaire returned.

ANALYSIS

Table No. 1 Category of users

Sl. No	User category	Diploma	Post diploma	No. of students	%
1	Tool and die	37	10	47	31.3%
2	Mechatronics	35	8	43	28.7%
3	Industrial Mechanics	35	-	35	23.3%
4	Precision Machine Technology (PMT)	25	-	25	16.7%
	Total	132	18	150	100

Table no. 1 shows different category of library users. 47 (31.3%) students of total respondents (150) belong to the Tool and Die Engineering followed by the Mechatronics 43 (28.7%). Out of 150 respondents, Industrial Mechanic forms 35 (23.3%) and 25 (16.7%) respondents from Precision Machine Technology (PMT).

Table No. 2 Frequency of visit to library

Sl. No	Frequency	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	Daily	10	15	12	8	45	30%
2	Once in a week	11	6	7	5	29	19.3%
3	2-3 times a week	15	9	10	7	41	27.3%
4	Once in a month	5	7	3	0	15	10%
5	Irregular	4	6	2	4	16	10.7%
6	Never	2	0	1	1	4	2.7%
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table No.2 reveals the frequency of visit to the library by the students, majority of (30%) students visit the library regularly and 27.3% of the respondents visit 2-3 times a week. 19.3% of the respondents have the habit of visiting library once in a week and approximately 10% say that they don't visit regularly or visit once in a month. Only 2.7% say they never visit the library.

Table No. 3 Purpose of visit to library

Sl. No	Purpose	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	To read library books	12	10	9	7	38	25.3%
2	To borrow library books	15	12	12	9	48	32%
3	To consult reference materials	5	7	8	5	25	16.7%
4	To read newspapers	10	8	6	4	28	18.7%
5	All the above	5	6			11	7.3%
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table No. 3 analyses the purpose of respondents visit to the library, 32% of the students visit the library for the purpose of borrowing the books and 25.3% say they are coming to the library for reading purpose. 18.7% of the total respondents say that they coming to the library to read newspapers and followed by 16.7% for consulting the reference materials. Only 7.3% of the total respondents say that they are coming to the library to use all the facilities.

Table No. 4 Library Resources for use

Sl. No	Resources	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	Textbooks	8	8	6	8	30	20%
2	Periodicals	11	10	5	5	31	20.7%
3	Newspapers	10	7	8	4	29	19.3%
4	Technical manuals	6	6	8	2	22	14.7%
5	Reference sources	7	5	4	4	20	13.3%
6	Pamphlets		2	1		3	2%
7	A/V materials	5	5	3	2	15	10%
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table no. 4 indicates that approximately 20% of the respondents feel that library has a good collection of textbooks, periodicals and newspapers. 14.7% say that enough technical manuals are available and 13.3% say that reference sources are good. 10% feel that Library has enough technical audio and video materials.

Table No. 5 Distribution of library services

Sl. No	Library Services	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	Indexing and abstracting services	5	3	6	4	18	12%
2	Circulation	20	15	12	8	55	36.7%
3	Newspaper clipping service	7	5	3	2	17	11.3%
4	Reference service	5	10	7	6	28	18.7%
5	Reprographic services	8	6	5	4	23	15.3%
6	Reading room	2	4	2	1	9	6%
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table no. 5 illustrates that 36.7% of the total respondents feel that library is good in circulation services and followed by (18.7%) reference services. Reprographic service is good in library is the response of 15.3% students. 12% and 11.3% of the respondents feel indexing & abstracting and newspaper clipping services offered by the library are best respectively. Only 6% use library reading room.

Table No. 6 Document locating technique

Sl. No	Document locating Technique	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	Searching the shelves	12	10	8	5	35	23.3%
2	Search by catalogue	9	8	7	7	31	20.7%
3	Assistance of library staff	20	15	17	11	63	42%
4	Help of friends	6	7	3	2	18	12%
5	Other means		3			3	2%
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table no. 6 points out that 42% of respondents seek the help of library staff to locate the needed document or information and 23.3% search the shelves independently to get the books required by them. 20.7% of the students brows the catalogue to locate the books and 12% get the help from friends.

Table No. 7 Problem while seeking information

Sl. No	Problem while seeking information	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	Material is not available	6	7	4	8	25	16.7%
2	Library staff are unwilling	5	6	4	4	19	12.6%
3	Incomplete information	5	5	7	1	18	12%
4	Unsuitability of library working hours	7	4	6	4	21	14%
5	Lack of seating facilities	4	5	3	2	14	9.3%
6	Do not know to use catalogue	10	3	2	1	16	10.7%
7	Information scattered	8	7	4	2	21	14%
8	Information source is not up to date	2	6	5	3	16	10.7%
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table no.7 describes the problems faced by the students while seeking the information. 16.7 of the respondents feel that required information materials are not available in the library and 14% say that information are scattered but not relevant and condensed to the syllabus. Approximately 12% of the total respondents say that information in the library is incomplete and library staff are not willing to help the students for their reference. 10.7% feel that they do not know how to brows the catalogue and information source is not up to date, 9.3% say that seating facilities are not enough to accommodate the students.

Table No. 8 User Rating on behavior of library staff

Sl. No	Rating	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	Excellent	5	5	3	4	17	11.3%
2	Very good	13	10	9	2	34	22.7%
3	Good	15	8	10	12	45	30%
4	Fair	3	12	8	3	26	17.3%
5	Poor	11	8	5	4	28	18.7%
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table no. 8 depicts the respondents rating on library staff behavior while seeking the information. 30% of the students feel that behaviors of the library employees are good in the library. 22.7% say that they are very good in behaving while discharging their duties and 11.3% feel that library staff behave excellently in providing library services to the students. Only 18.7% of the respondents say poor in their behavior

Table No. 9 Satisfaction on the Institution's Library Sources

Sl. No	Library sources	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	Books	10	11	8	6	35	23.3%
2	Periodicals	12	9	6	8	35	23.3%
3	News papers	10	10	9	5	34	22.7%
4	Audio / Video Recordings	8	6	5	3	22	14.7%
5	Technical Manuals and Product catalogues	4	4	5	1	14	9.3%
6	CD ROM products	3	3	2	2	10	6.7%
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table no.9 reveals the satisfaction level of students on library collections. 23.3% of the total respondents satisfied with the collection of books and periodicals. 22.7% of the students are satisfied with newspapers and 14.7% feel library has a good collection of Audio and Video materials. Only 9.3% and 6.7% feel that they are satisfied with technical manuals, product catalogues and CD ROM collections respectively.

Table No. 10 Satisfaction on the Library Services

Sl. No	Library services	Tool & Die	Mechatronics	Industrial Mechanics	PMT	Total	%
1	Lending services	20	12	12	9	53	35.3
2	Reference services	12	10	13	5	40	26.7
3	Bibliography services	-	5	2	2	9	6
4	Reprography services	10	11	4	6	31	20.7
5	Reservation services	5	-	3	-	8	5.3
6	Newspaper clipping services	-	3	-	-	3	2
7	A/V services	-	2	1	3	6	4
	Total	47	43	35	25	150	100

Table no.10 shows that 35.3% of the total respondents are happy with the lending services of the library followed by the 26.7% are satisfied with reference services. 20.7% feel that library is providing a very good reprographic service to the students and 6% of the respondents say that they are satisfied with bibliographic service. Only 2% say library offers best newspaper clipping service.

FINDINGS

The main findings of the study are as follows

- The study conducted among the diploma and post diploma students and only male students were participated. Tool and Die Engineering students forms the maximum (31.3%) number of students participated and Precision Machine Technology students (16.7) are minimum students participated in the study.
- Study reveals that 30% of the total respondents visit the library regularly and 27.3% visit 2-3 times a week. Only 2.7% say that they never visit the library.
- It is found out that 32% of the respondents visit the library to borrow books and 25.3% students visit to read the library books. Only 7.3% say that they utilize all the services offered by the library.
- The study indicates that 20% of the students participated in the study feel that library has enough collection of textbooks and periodicals related to their curriculum. Only 2% say that library has very good collection of pamphlets.
- This study indicates that 36.7% of the students feel that library is strong in circulation service and 18.7% feel that they use the library for reference service. Only 6% use the library for their own book reading.
- Majorities (42%) of the students seek the help of library staff and 23.3% search the shelves independently for locating the document for their use. Only 20% locate the books by browsing the catalogue and 12% seek their friends help.
- It is revealed that 16.7% of the students participated in the study feel that enough information materials related to their study are not available in the library. 14% feel that information materials are scattered and unsuitable library timings. Only 9.3% say that enough seating facilities are not available in the library.

CONCLUSION

In this modern information age, new knowledge in every field is emerging through out the world. Managing the knowledge manually is very difficult. Providing efficient information services to the user communities is difficult due to the manner in which the information is managed to enable users to fulfill their requirements. So an attempt was made to study the acquaintance of the students with information seeking process. The findings of the study shows that the reason for students to visit the library is to borrow books related to their syllabus. However, students also use the library for consulting reference materials and periodicals. They depend on the Library staff to locate needed information in the library. The problem identified by the students that they cannot locate the targeted sources as the information is scattered in many sources. In conclusion, the library authority should provide independent information finding skills instructions to the students. The management and all the departments should take note of the findings and make necessary steps to improve the academic functions.

REFERENCES

1. Adeoye, M. O., Popoola, S. O. (2011). Teaching Effectiveness, Availability, Accessibility and Use of Library and Information Resources among Teaching Staff of Schools of Nursing in Osun and Oyo State, Nigeria. Library Philosophy and Practices. | 2. Maharana, R.K., Dhal, A.P. & Pati, S. (2013). Exploring the information seeking behavior of medical science professionals: A case study of Veer Surendra Sai Medical College, Burla, Odisha. International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology, 3(1), pp. 62-66. | 3. Mathisekaran and Lawrence Mary (2008), Usability of library resources in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tamilnadu: A case study, Indian Journal of Information Science and Services, Vol.2 No.1 Jul - Dec 2008 | 4. Nazim, M (2008), Information searching behavior in the internet age: A users study of Aligarh Muslim University, The International Information and Library Review, Vol.40, 2008, pp 73-81. | 5. Oyewusi, F. O. and Oyeboade, S.A. (2009), An empirical study of accessibility and use of library resources by undergraduates in a Nigerian State University of Technology. Library Philosophy and Practice. | 6. Suriya, M., Sangeetha, G., and Nambi, M. A. (2004). Information seeking behavior of faculty members from Government Arts Colleges in Cuddalore District. In: Kaul, H.K. and Patil, S.K. (Eds.), Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2004). pp. 285-292. | 7. http://www.gttiinfo.com/profile.html |