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# **Pervasiveness and Purposes of Library Usage by LIS Students at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur**

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## **Abstract**

This study was conducted to assess the frequency and purposes of the library usage by LIS students at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. The researcher examined the usage of main library of IUB by students of 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> semester of Department of Library and Information Science. Data were collected from 64 respondents through questionnaires. For data analysis, SPSS is used to determine the mean values of the reasons of library use, kind of material, access to the material, satisfaction with the library services, problem faced by the students and behavior of the library staff. The study shows that respondents mostly visited the library once in a week for reading books, making class assignments and for exam preparation and they prefer library books rather than reference material, journal & theses. Most of the respondents do not use catalogue cards, OPAC or ask from Librarian to access their required material. In addition, most of the students were satisfied with circulation, reference services and staff assistance. Moreover, the major problem faced by respondents was electricity failure, less number of computer provision and internet speed and connectivity.

**Keywords:** LIS students, frequency, purposes of the library usage, university library

## **Introduction**

Library is a gateway of knowledge and education. The library offers vast information to the users. Library plays a vital role in education. Libraries may thus contribute to the students' development in their information literacy and support in the learning process and education.

With the universalization of higher education, universities are expanding their educational fields to facilitate the students with a greater variety of innovations and learning resources. Now university libraries offer digital resources to their patrons for their educational grooming. Students use library

The university library is a powerful source for learning, education and research purposes. It supports the academic needs of the users. In this study the researcher attempted to assess the pervasiveness and purposes of the Library usage by LIS students at IUB.

## **Objectives of the Study**

- To know the usage frequency of main library of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur by the students of Library & Information Science (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> semester).
- To assess the major purposes of library usage by LIS students.
- To explore the problems being faced by LIS students while using library.
- To explore the satisfaction level of LIS students with the library resources, services and attitude of library staff

## **Literature Review**

Jiao and Onwuegbuzie (1997) reported that Library is a beneficial place for the students who want to focus on their studies in isolation rather than grouping with friends or fellows. They can best utilize the library and get satisfaction. They found that students prefer to go to the library together to read newspapers, for combine study, for class projects, etc.

On the other hand Ajala (1997) examined that students use the library occasionally. They also prefer to use the libraries that are not the part of university library for learning and their research work. They usually spend one and two hours in library. Findings show that respondents mostly use library for self grooming and research purposes. He suggests that libraries should attain new and fresh reading material that attracts and inspire the students to come in library and use it (p. 426).

Abosede and Ibikunle (2011) assessed that students show their interest in library. Gender wise difference is also exists. Female students use the library more frequently than the male students. Use of library increases the students' level of study. On the other hand, they also pointed out that electronic resources and the use of internet is increasing frequently. It can be said that this is the reason of lowering the use of library by students.

Tella, Owolabi and Attama (2008) studied about the general use of the library by the AkanuIbiam Federal Polytechnic students. They found that students use library for various purposes. They assessed that majority of the students (98.8%) mentioned that unavailability of internet is the main problem in the library (p. 13).

Edem, Aniand and Ocheibi (2009) conducted a study on students' perceived effectiveness in the use of library resources in Nigerian Universities. They evaluated that many respondents search their required information through the catalogues but the students who were not satisfied, mentioned the problem of the lack of physical materials and mismanagement in the library. They also suggested that e- library, e-resources, most relevant resources, and user education through orientation will be helpful for the improvement of the library usage and development.

Schomberg and Bergman (2012) assessed that the International students feel pleasure to have various library resources. They prefer to use DVDs. Some are the main purposes of using DVDs like language learning, improving general knowledge, seeking information for study in abroad and for fun/entertainment (p. 125).

Ritterbush (2009) examined that in Regent University, on-campus students frequently visit the library rather they approach to the library's online resources only one time in a week. They also demand for more facilities and resources in the library. On the other hand the students that study online/distance have no such interest and demand in library resources (p. 365).

Haddow (2013) studied about the academic library use and student retention. He found that mostly young students retained with the library and use library resources frequently. They use the relevant and authenticated resources from the library. These resources provide assistance for the progress in education of university students (p. 135).

Jiao et al., (2009) stated that libraries in China have digital collection and provide online access to the students. Students feel more easy and reliable with online resources. They get information from the electronic resources for learning and educational purposes. Their response about electronic resources was satisfactory (p. 8).

## **Research Methodology**

The study is based on questionnaire survey. A questionnaire containing both open and close-ended questions was distributed among the students. The population of the study was the students of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semesters from Department of Library and Information Science of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. The total number of students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semesters is 94, whereas 64 students responded to the survey. Thus, the response rate was 68.09%. Gathered responses were analyzed with the help of SPSS. The results are interpreted by the researcher and some suggestions and recommendations are also given.

## **Data analysis and Interpretation**

The results show that out of the 64 respondents, 43(67.2%) were female and 21(32.8%) were male (Table 1).

Table 1. Frequency distribution of respondents' gender

<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Female	43	67.2
2.	Male	21	32.8
	Total	64	100.0

### **Frequency of using library**

The findings in Table 2 reveal that 6.3% of the respondents do visit the library once a month, 3.1% once after fortnight, 43.8% once a week, 32.8% twice a week, and 14.1% daily visit to the library

Table 2. Frequency distribution of respondents' visiting library

Sr.	Period	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Monthly	4	6.3
2.	Fortnightly	2	3.1
3.	Weekly	28	43.8
4.	Twice a week	21	32.8
5.	Daily	9	14.1
	Total	64	100.0

### Purposes of using the library

The results show that respondents frequently used library for class assignment, reading library books and exam preparation (Mean values are 4.14, 3.66 and 3.59 respectively). On the other hand, sometimes they used library to borrow library books, consult reference materials, for photocopy, to read newspapers, for recreation (Mean values are 3.33, 3.25, 2.97, 2.94, 2.80 respectively).

Table 3. Descriptive statistics about for what purposes respondents 'use the library

Sr.	Purposes	Mean
1.	To borrow library books	3.33
2.	Read library books	3.66
3.	Consult Reference Materials	3.25
4.	Read Newspapers/magazines	2.94
5.	Class assignments and presentation	4.14
6.	For exam preparation	3.59
7.	For recreation	2.80
8.	For photocopy	2.97

Note: Always=5, Frequently=4, Sometimes=3, Rarely=2, Not at all=1

### Reading material consulted by respondents

The findings reveal that respondents frequently used books (Mean value is 4.13). On the other hand, respondents sometimes used reference material, newspapers, fiction books, journals, project reports and theses (Mean values are 3.33, 2.91, 2.77, 2.75, 2.42 and 2.31 respectively).

Table 4. Descriptive statistics about the reading material used by respondents

Sr.	Statements	Mean
1.	Books	4.13
2.	Reference Materials	3.33

3.	Journals	2.75
4.	Project Reports	2.42
5.	Newspapers/Magazines	2.91
6.	Theses	2.31
7.	Fiction books	2.77

Note: Always=5, Frequently=4, Sometimes=3, Rarely=2, Not at all=1

### Means for locating the required material

The results show that respondents frequently used shelves for locating material (Mean value is 4.22). Sometimes they used card catalogue and library staff (Mean values are 3.22 and 3.03 respectively). On the other hand, they rarely used OPAC (Mean value is 2.33) for locating library material.

Table 5. Descriptive statistics about using means to require material by respondents.

Sr.	Statements	Mean
1.	Shelves	4.22
2.	Card catalogues	3.22
3.	Library staff	3.03
4.	OPAC	2.33

Note: Always=5, frequently=4, Sometimes=3, rarely=2, Not at all=1

### Satisfaction with library services

The findings reveal that most of the respondents agree with library services e.g. reference services, computer facilities, library timings, circulation services, internet, book bank services, staff assistance and online database (Mean values are 4.08, 4.08, 3.95, 3.94, 3.88, 3.75, 3.75 and 3.69 respectively). On the other hand, they have no opinion about OPAC using (Mean value is 3.39).

Table 6. Descriptive statistics about respondents' satisfaction with library services.

Sr.	Statement	Mean
1.	Reference services	4.08
2.	Circulation services	3.94
3.	OPAC	3.39
4.	Internet	3.88
5.	Staff assistance	3.75
6.	Library timings	3.95
7.	Online databases	3.69
8.	Book bank services	3.75
9.	Computer Lab facilities	4.08

Note: SA=5, A=4, No opinion=3, DA=2, SDA=1

### Problems Being Faced by the Respondents

Regarding the problems, respondents agree with electricity problem (Mean value is 3.91) most of the respondents remained undecided about listed problems, e.g., lack of computers in LAB, less awareness about using library, lack of guidance by staff, lack of time, careless attitude of staff, accessing information is difficult, hesitate to consult the staff, lack of interest and library timings does not suit you (Mean values are 3.48, 3.41, 3.38, 3.28, 3.19, 3.13, 3.08, 3.05 and 2.94 respectively).

Table 7. Descriptive Statistics of Problems Faced by the Respondents in using library

Sr.	Problems	Mean
1.	Less awareness about using library	3.41
2.	Accessing information is difficult	3.13
3.	Careless attitude of staff	3.19
4.	Lack of time	3.28
5.	Lack of interest	3.05
6.	Hesitate to consult the staff	3.08
7.	Library timings does not suit you	2.94
8.	Lack of computers in LAB	3.48
9.	Lack of guidance by staff	3.38
10.	Electricity Problem	3.91

Note: SA=5, A=4, No opinion=3, DA=2, SDA=1

#### Attitude of Library Staff

The results reveal that 3.1% respondents admitted that library staff is not helpful, 31.1% responded that library staff is helpful to some extent, 28.1% admitted that library staff is helpful and 37.5% responded that library staff is very helpful.

Table 8. Frequency distribution about users' satisfaction with library staff

Sr.	Statements	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Not Helpful	2	3.1
2.	Helpful to some extent	20	31.3
3.	Helpful	18	28.1
4.	Very Helpful	24	37.5
5.	Total	64	100.0

#### Opinions of Respondents about Library

Regarding the opinions, the results show that most of the respondents agree with listed opinions Library environment is suitable for study, Library collection is well organized, Library provide up-to-date information, Books borrowing procedure is easy, HEC digital library is fulfilling users' needs and Library timings are appropriate (Mean values are 4.20, 4.14, 3.86, 3.78, 3.67 and

3.66 respectively). On the other hand, some respondents have no opinion about Internet speed is good and Computer lab is enough for students (Mean values are 3.03 and 2.67 respectively).

Table 9. Descriptive statistics of respondents' opinion about library

<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Statements</b>	<b>Mean</b>
1.	Library collection is well organized	4.14
2.	Library environment is suitable for study	4.20
3.	Computer lab is enough for students	2.67
4.	Internet speed is good	3.03
5.	HEC digital library is fulfilling users' needs	3.67
6.	Library timings are appropriate	3.66
7.	Library provide up-to-date information	3.86
8.	Books borrowing procedure is easy	3.78

Note: SA=5, A=4, No opinion=3, DA=2, SDA=1

## Conclusion

The study revealed that most of the respondents depend on library for their learning and education. They frequently use the library for class assignments, exam preparation and sometimes they use library to borrow library books, consult reference materials, for photocopy, to read newspapers and for recreation. Students mostly use books rather than theses, journals and project reports. They frequently use shelves to locate the required reading material. Some respondents also use OPAC.

The results of the study also shows that most of the respondents are satisfied with the circulation & reference services, well organization of material and reading environment of the IUB Main Library and most of the respondents agree with electricity problem. They were undecided about the lack of computers in LAB, less awareness about using library, lack of guidance by staff, lack of time, careless attitude of staff, accessing information is difficult and lack of interest.

## Recommendations

This study highlights some major issues of the main library of IUB that would needed to be solve to improve the services of the library.

- IUB Library management should offer some orientation programs and library user education programmes on beginning of each academic session for first semester students in the university.

- Information literacy and digital literacy programmes should be offered on regular basis.
- Proper guidance should be providing for using HEC databases and library OPAC.
- Library staff should be cooperative and friendly for enhancing their users' frequency of visiting the library by providing better and timely services.
- Library environment should be more clean, comfortable and quiet.
- To overcome the electricity failure problem, generators must be fitted in the library.
- More computers should be provided in the library; so that users can utilize the current information available on internet and HEC digital library for their education and research purposes.
- Internet connectivity and speed should be improved.
- Library OPAC should be updated on regular basis.
- Discussion Hall should be extended to provide more space for group study and discussion. And research carrels should be provided to students who are doing their research projects and theses.
- The facility and quality of reprographic services should be improved in order to avoid book theft and damage by some student users.

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