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Information Access Pattern among the Library and Information Science Professionals in Coimbatore Region

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ABSTRACT

This study is made to determine the Information Access Pattern among the Library and Information Science Professionals in Coimbatore Region. Survey method and the simple random sampling technique were used for this study. A survey was carried out amongst the full-time Library and Information Science (LIS) Professionals to ascertain their information access pattern for scholarly pursuits. The primary data was collected through questionnaires. A sample of 129 respondents selected randomly. The study was aimed to identify the gender wise and designation wise distribution, classification, and cataloguing code used and information sources and services available in the library. The findings of the study revealed that the majority of the respondents are male (76.7%) and 54.3% of the respondents are assistant librarian. The majority of the LIS professionals prefer to classify and catalogue the books by DDC classification and AACR2 cataloguing scheme. The most preferred information source is books and the service is circulation service.

Keywords: *Information Access Pattern, Library and Information Science Professionals, Information Sources and Information Services*

1. INTRODUCTION

The term information has been derived from two Latin words “Forma” and “Formatio”. Both these terms convey more or less the same meaning of giving shape to something and forming a pattern. The clearest definition in the literature is “Information is recorded experience that is used in decision making”. The terms such as knowledge, facts, data, news, message, etc. Information means the communication of knowledge about an event of a given condition or the spread of knowledge derived from observation, study experience or instruction. The term “user study” focuses on information use patterns, information needs, and information-seeking behavior. Information-seeking behavior and information access patterns are areas of active interest among librarians and information scientists. The phrase "Information Access Pattern" has been defined variously by different authors. The following

definitions of information access pattern, however, make the concept clear. According to Krikelas (1983), information access pattern refers to “any activity of an individual that is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived need”. Manda (1991) defined information access pattern as “a manner in which a user conducts himself in relation to a given information environment. It is therefore regarded as essentially a process of interaction between the user and the rest of the information system”.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A study was conducted by Amandeep Kaur (2020) to know the Information seeking behavior of faculty in post-graduate colleges of District Jalandhar (Punjab) and noticed that adequacy of library hours, time spent in the library, frequency of visit to the library, purpose of visit to the library, infrastructure facilities, methods of information seeking, purpose of seeking information, use of library resources, users awareness about library services and web based services, problems faced by faculty, satisfaction with library resources and services and perception of faculty about library staff.

Shahid, Rehman, Safdar and Khan (2021) conducted a study on information needs, seeking behaviour, usage of library material and problems encountered by medical doctors of Lahore based hospital. Data was collected through a cross sectional survey by distribution of questionnaires. Findings indicated that most of the respondents visited the library rarely and most of the doctors acquired information from books in the library.

Karthikeyan and Vijayakumar (2019) carried out a study under the title of "Information Access Pattern of Faculty Members of Veterinary College and Research Institute in Chennai and Orathanad of Tamil Nadu, India: A Study". The result shows that the majority of the respondents are belong to male category and assistant professors occupy the first position. It is found that around 50% of them user satisfaction of the library services are excellent and more than 55% of the respondents visit the library is once in a week. Google is the commonly used search engine among the users and also measures the effectiveness of information services and resources available to Veterinary College Faculty Members.

Rajpurkar and Powdwal (2018) surveyed on awareness of information need, library resources and services of select B.Ed. Colleges in Mumbai and noticed that the study adopted descriptive research design and survey method. Simple random sampling method was used for data collection. A sample of 50 students per college was selected, making a total of 550,

out of which 353 questionnaires were returned. The result revealed that 51% of the teachers were aware about library resources, 33% from librarian, 11% self and 5% from friends. 82% respondents were satisfied with library timings and 85% with library infrastructure. 71% respondents were used textbooks, 62% reference books, 61% question papers, 41% newspapers, 37% research projects and 25% journal articles.

Kumar Ashish (2013) has conducted a study on “Assessing the Information Need and Information Seeking Behavior of Research Scholars of M.B.P.G. College: A Case Study”. The result reveals that social science researchers use historical literature, diaries, memorandum, letters, sacred books, textbooks, and research papers, review of literature, monographs, thesis, dissertation, abstracting journals, indexing periodicals, and reference sources for their research purpose. The analysis of data is evidence that the books are most frequently use by all groups. Internet also very common to sought information.

3. OBJECTIVES

- To analyse the Gender wise respondents
- To find out the Designation wise respondents
- To analyse the Cataloguing and Classification Scheme used by the library professionals.
- To know the Nature of the Library Management Software used in the library
- To examine the Information Resources and Services available in the library

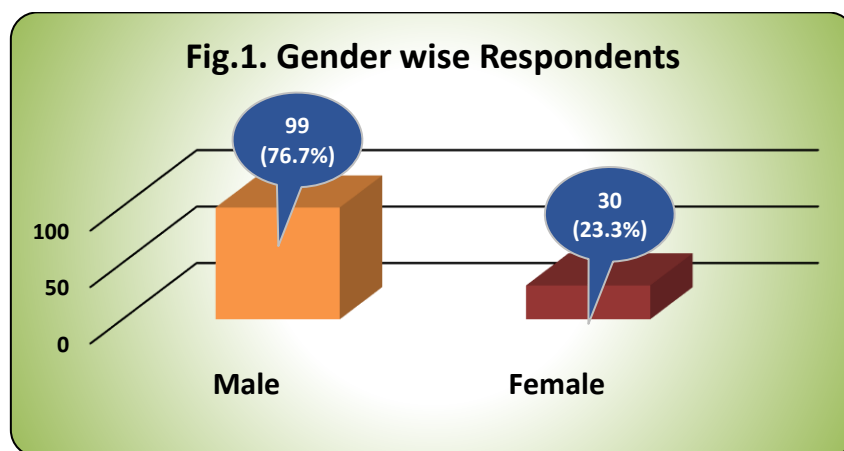
4. METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire method was used for the present study to collect the necessary primary data for evaluation and assessment from the Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals in selected colleges in Coimbatore. The well-structured online questionnaire was prepared and circulated through the mail and WhatsApp to LIS professionals. A questionnaire has been prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand the items. Out of the one hundred and fifty questionnaires distributed, 129 filled questionnaires were received from the LIS Professionals. The response rate is 86%. All the data collected have been analysed and presented in the form of tables, figures, and charts wherever applicable. Appropriate statistical measures like frequency, percentage, chi-square test have been applied in the analysis of the data.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1 Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Respondents	Percentage
Male	99	76.7
Female	30	23.3
Total	129	100



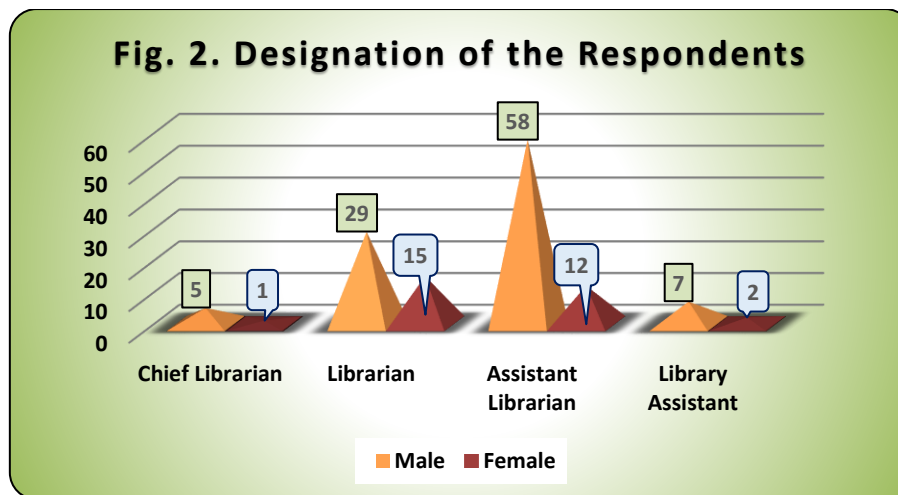
5.1 Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

Table 1 and Figure 1 reveal the gender-wise distribution of the respondents working in Library and Information Science Profession in Coimbatore. It can be seen that out of the 129 professionals, 99 (76.7%) are male and the remaining 30 (23.3%) is female.

Table 2 Designation of the Respondents

Gender	Designation				Total
	Chief Librarian	Librarian	Assistant Librarian	Library Assistant	
Male	05(3.9)	29(22.5)	58(45.0)	07(5.4)	99(76.74)
Female	01(0.8)	15(11.6)	12(9.3)	02(1.6)	30(23.26)
Total	06(4.7)	44(34.1)	70(54.3)	09(7.0)	129(100)

$X^2= 4.511, df=3, P= 0.211$ not significant at $P < .05$



5.2 Designation of the Respondents

Table 2 and figure 2 shows the designation wise distribution of respondents. Among 129 respondents 70 (54.3%) of the respondents were Assistant Librarian followed by 44 (34.1%) respondents were Librarian. Nearly 9 (7.0%) respondents was Library Assistant and remaining 6 (4.7%) respondents were Chief Librarian. The χ^2 -test conducted for 3 df at the 5% level of significance shows that there is no significant relationship between the respondents of the gender and designation ($X^2= 4.511$, $df=3$, $P= 0.211$).

Table3 Experience of the Library Professionals

Gender	Experience					Total
	0-5Years	6-10Years	11-15Years	16-20Years	21 Years and above	
Male	10(7.8)	27(20.9)	32(24.8)	21(16.3)	9(7.0)	99(76.74)
Female	14(10.9)	09(7.0)	04(3.1)	03(2.3)	0(0.0)	30(23.26)
Total	24(18.6)	36(27.9)	36(27.9)	24(18.6)	9(7.0)	129(100)

$X^2= 23.865$, $df=4$, $P= 0.000$ significant at $P < .05$

5.3 Experience of the Library Professionals

The frequency distribution of the respondents' experience showed that the majority of the largest two categories of library professionals had 6-10 years and 11-15 years of experience that was 36(27.9%). While Second largest two categories of library professionals had 0-5 years and 16-20 years of experience that was 24(18.6%). Only 9(6.98%) library

professionals were having experience 21 years and above. The χ^2 -test conducted for 4df at the 5% level of significance shows that there is a significant relationship between gender and experience of respondents ($X^2= 23.865$, $df=4$, $P= 0.000$).

Table 4 Classification Scheme used in the library

Classification Scheme	Respondents	Percentage
Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)	120	93.0
Universal Decimal Classification (UDC)	6	4.7
Colon Classification (CC)	3	2.3
Total	129	100.0

5.4 Classification Scheme used in the library

Table 4 shows the classification scheme followed by the library professionals in the library. It is observed from the above table, that 120 (93%) of the respondents are using Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), 6 (4.7%) of the respondents are using the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) and 3 (2.3%) of the respondents are using Colon Classification (CC).

Table 5 Cataloguing Scheme used in the library

Cataloguing Scheme	Respondents	Percentage
Anglo American Cataloguing Rules, 2 nd edition (AACR2)	126	97.7
Colon Classification Code (CCC)	3	2.3
Total	129	100.0

5.5 Cataloguing Scheme used in the library

Table 5 denotes the different cataloguing schemes used in the library. Among 129 respondents 126(97.7%) are used Anglo American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition (AACR2) cataloguing scheme while 2.3% of the respondents are using Colon Classification Code (CCC) cataloguing scheme.

Table 6 Nature of the Library Management Software used in the library

Software	Respondents	Percentage
Paid Software	114	88.4
Online Open Source Software	12	9.3
Own Software	3	2.3
Total	129	100.0

5.6 Nature of the Library Management Software used in the library

Library Professionals are using different types of Library Management Software. The data from the Table6 represent the nature of library management software used in the library. 114 (88.4%) respondents using Paid Software while12 (9.3%) of respondents using online open source software and only 3 (2.3%) respondents are using their own prepared software.

Table 7: Types of Information Sources available in the library

Information Sources	Respondents	Percentage
Books	129	100.00
Journals / Magazines	120	93.02
Dictionaries	114	88.37
Yearbook/ Handbook	114	88.37
Exam Question papers	114	88.37
University rules and regulation / Syllabus	102	79.07
Publisher Catalogues	102	79.07
e- resources	102	79.07
Theses / Dissertations	90	69.77
CD/ DVD	78	60.47
Encyclopaedias	54	41.86
Seminar Proceedings/ workshops/ Conferences	54	41.86
Directories / Atlas	48	37.21

5.7 Types of Information Sources available in the library

Table 7 describes the various types of information sources available in the library. It is clear from the above table that Books are the primary sources of information channel followed by Journals/Magazines (93.02%). Dictionaries, Yearbook/Handbook and Exam Question papers (88.37%) are the secondary sources of information. University rules and regulation/Syllabus, Publisher Catalogues, e- resources (79.07%) occupy the next sources of information and more than half of the percentages of the sources engage the next place. 69.77% of theses/dissertations, 60.47% of CD/DVD, 41.86% of encyclopaedias and seminar proceedings/workshops/conferences, and only 37.21% of sources that is directories/atlas available in the library.

Table 8: Information Services available in the library

Information Services	Respondents	Percentage
Circulation Service (Issues / Returns)	129	100.00
Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)	114	88.37
Newspaper Clipping	114	88.37
Reference Services	114	88.37
New Arrivals Display	108	83.72
Notice Board Display Services	90	69.77
Current Awareness Service (CAS)	72	55.81
Reprography Services	54	41.86
Stock Room Guidelines Service	54	41.86
Electronic Document Delivery Services	54	41.86
Educating Users	54	41.86
Selective Dissemination Service (SDI)	48	37.21
Internet /Wi- Fi Services	48	37.21
Abstract / Indexing Service	36	27.91
Translation Services	24	18.60
Inter Library Loan (ILL) system	18	13.95

5.8 Information Services available in the library

Table 8 shows the different types of Information services available in the library. The above table states that among the information services circulation service (129, 100%) occupy the first place, followed by Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), Newspapers clipping and Reference Services(114, 88.37%). New Arrivals Display (108, 83.72%) occupies the third place and Inter Library Loan (ILL) system (18, 13.95%) occupies the last place.

Table 9 Information Access through the Internet

Information Access through the Internet	Respondents	Percentage
Online books purchase / Verification	120	93.02
Career Planning	120	93.02
Placements / Job Opportunities	114	88.37
Downloading programs	114	88.37
Online shopping	114	88.37
Research Work	108	83.72
Product Profile viewing	108	83.72
Accessing Online Databases	108	83.72
Professional Career Development	102	79.07
Communicating with Professionals	96	74.42
Entertainment	90	69.77
Journal / Magazine Subscription	72	55.81

5.9 Information Access through the Internet

Table 9 reveals the different patterns of information access through the internet by the Library Professionals. In which highest 93.02% of the respondents are using online books purchase/verification and career planning purpose and lowest 55.81% are using journal/magazine subscription of information access through the internet.

6. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study derived through analysis of data are summarized here under:

- ❖ It could be noted that, out of 129 respondents, 76.7 percent are male and 23.3 percent are female respondents.

- ❖ It is identified that more than half (54.3%) of the LIS professionals are Assistant Librarian.
- ❖ A majority of the male LIS professionals having experience between 6 and 10 years.
- ❖ 93% of the LIS professionals prefer to classify the books by the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) Classification and 97.7% of the professionals prefer to catalogue by Anglo –American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition (AACR2).
- ❖ Out of 129 respondents, 88.4 % of the LIS professionals using paid library management software.
- ❖ It is found that Books are the primary source of all libraries.
- ❖ It is identified that Circulation Service is the major service in all libraries.
- ❖ A majority of the LIS professionals prefer to access the internet for online books purchase/verification.

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