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Explicating Information Environment of Veterinarians with special reference to the states of Assam and Mizoram

by

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Abstract:

Purpose: India is one of the countries which has maximum number of livestock with rules the rural economy, which are eventually dealt by veterinarians to overcome different crisis. Veterinarians are entrusted with combating various disastrous situations whichever come in the way of this natural resource. This article deals with information needs and seeking behaviour of veterinary users who are aspiring to be future experts in the field and faculty personnel of two Veterinary Council of India accredited colleges situated in North East India, namely College of Veterinary Science, Assam and College of Veterinary Science, Mizoram.

Methodology: The authors visited the above mentioned colleges to elicit data from respondents. A questionnaire was propounded for the purpose. Later the data were analysed, tabulated and hypothesis were drawn and checked.

Scope and Coverage: The article encompasses veterinary college students; faculty personnel of two Veterinary Councils of India (VCI) accredited veterinary colleges of Assam and Mizoram.

Findings: Sixty percent female respondents had graduation degree followed by 58.06% male respondents having the same. Overwhelming majority of both the male and female respondents claimed that they visited library for books while, 71.43% female respondents visited library for borrowing books. Chi square test proved that there is a significant relationship between the gender of the respondents and the purpose to visit the library.

Originality: This article is entirely original in nature. No other research works have been performed in this region so far.

Keyword: Library resources and services, Information seeking behaviour, veterinary college, Assam, Mizoram.

Introduction:

Standing in 21st century, it is extremely needless to explain significance of information in today's world. People can't survive without pieces of information which constitutes our livelihood. Even to earn food, dress and shelter we people are entirely dependent on information. Information have stood out to be an tremendously essential commodity in every single possible sector. Loads of amount of data are being generated in every smallest unit of time. Along with relevant data there is huge amount of irrelevant data too. Therefore it is excessively important to seek out information from the flood. Once upon a time people suffered a lot for accessing the data. Now it has been comparatively easy whereas getting relevant and required knowledge has grown a lot tougher for us.

People of every occupation need their required relevant information for their persistence. Hence, the veterinarians are no exception. Contending with different issues and challenges require them to keep themselves abreast to information. India is a country that possess huge amount of livestock resources. Veterinarians are assigned with treating diseases and all associated potential threats. The veterinarians are also confronting with these enormous amounts of relevant as well as irrelevant data of their field. It depends on the user how he/she is searching for the essential piece of information. It is therefore so much pertinent to understand the ways how a veterinarian seeks data. Hence, this paper consults with information need and seeking behaviour and where from they collect those information. Information environment involves all three related terms which are Information need, information seeking behaviour and sources from which the information is procured (Chikonzo and Aina, 2001).

College of Veterinary Science (CVSc), Assam was established in 1948 at Nagaon. The college was affiliated to Assam Agricultural University in the year 1969. The college is situated at Khanapara, Guwahati – 781022, District – Kamrup (M), Assam along with the library. Presently, the college has 18 departments, one library and a number of instructional as well as research farms. At present the college provides 3 degree programmes, i.e.;

- a) B.V.Sc. and A.H. of 5½ years which includes internship programme of 6 months.
- b) M.V.Sc of 2 years
- c) Ph.D.

As of now there are 100 seats allotted for B.V.Sc. and A.H. course every year for every department along with 10 seats for M.V.Sc. and 4 for Ph. D. programme.

College Name	Week days	Sunday & Holidays	Vacation days
CVSc, Assam	8.00 AM – 8.00 PM	8.00 AM – 1.30 PM	Closed

College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Aizawl is affiliated under Central Agricultural University of Mizoram. The college is situated at Selesih, in North Aizawl. It was established by an announcement of an ordinance dated 20th February 1995. The college started to operate with its first batch of students enrolled for B.V.Sc. & A.H. degree course in 1997. The college has seventeen teaching departments for its students and a Clinical Veterinary Teaching Complex as recommended in Minimum Standard For Veterinary Education Regulation-1993 by the governing body Veterinary Council of India. College currently provides following courses like:

- a) B.V.Sc. & A.H.
- b) M.V.Sc.
- c) Ph.D.

College Name	Week days	Sunday & Holidays	Vacation days
CVSc, Aizawl	9.00 AM – 6.00 PM	Closed	2 nd Saturday Closed

Review of related literature:

Bryant (2004) carried out a case study to explore the information need and the information seeking behaviour of general practitioners in Aylesbury Vale which included 58 practitioners. The researchers evidently found out that family doctors pursue information when it comes to their professional requirement and personal necessity. In addition to that information which is required to take care of patient is also being sought by the practitioners. While personal collection of resources were the most preferred solution to reach out in need, electronic resources remained in second position to be considered as most preferred resources.

Nel and Fouri (2010) studied information behaviour of Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria at Jotello F. Soga library. 47% respondents had B.V.Sc degree with 30% respondents having M.V.Sc degree. As much as 80% of all respondents reported they are aware of latest developments in the field. Respondents indicated that they preferred to

obtain information from journals, text books and from internet followed by the library and the library professionals.

Sharma, Singh and Sharma (2011) emphasized on usage of electronic resources by faculty members and research scholars of NDRI and National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR). A sum of 73.85% respondents of NDRI and 69.35% respondents of NBAGR reported that they preferred using e-resources. Huge majority of the respondents from both the institutes reported that they use e-resources quite frequently. E-journals, e-books, e-news are mostly accessed by the research scholars as well as the faculty.

Weiner, Stephens and Nour (2011) surveyed on information seeking behaviour of first semester veterinary students of Purdue University. The authors evidenced most of the students preferred Google for coursework assignments, while a small number of students also voted for university library's website. But the students hardly managed to check the website quality. Respondents checked website criteria like reliability of the source, up datedness of the websites mostly. 90% respondents voted for CAB abstracts to obtain peer reviewed scholarly articles.

Singh and Kumar(2012) carried out a survey on utilization of CeRA which provided access to scholarly journals by faculty members of GADVASU. Overwhelming majority of respondents said that they access e-resources of the library to satisfy the information need. More than 86% respondents indicated that the main cause using CeRA is for research work followed by writing articles. Almost half of the respondents came to learn about CeRA from library website while 32.31% of them preferred quick search to conduct a search.

Bansal and Singh (2013) studied the information seeking behaviour of researchers of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana. They conducted a survey of all 66 researchers of College of Veterinary Science and explored users' behaviour. The researchers found out that 93.9% users obtain information for their research work where as 89.4% users utilize book to gather information. 60.6% users indicated that they prefer to use e-resources provided by the library from their own places.

Nel and Fouri (2015) investigated information need, information seeking behaviour and information use behaviour of Veterinary researchers of University of Pretoria, South Africa and how their needs are satisfied. Majority of respondents revealed that they spent less than 50% of their time for information seeking. Almost all the respondents felt that working members of their institute library was adequately skilled. Author recommended that university library should have a sound collection of resources to satisfy users.

Srinivasan (2016) attempted to study information seeking behaviour of veterinary professionals of 14 veterinary institutions in South India. 46.9% respondents always sought information from their institutional library. 60.2% respondents frequently used open access resources available on the internet while discussion forum was not very preferred amongst the respondents. He explored that there were no significant difference among the veterinary professionals with regard to their clinical information needs.

Malhotra and Bansal (2017) tried to elicit how WhatsApp has changed the dynamics of information sharing among the students of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU). While 90% of all the respondents were using the application, more than 60% evidenced positive consequences. The researchers also revealed more UG students were using the application for academic purposes rather than PG students.

Garner, Hartle and Creevy (2019) assessed the preference for educational resources and information seeking behaviour of veterinary students, interns and practitioners. The authors had considered 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year, 4th year students, interns and recent graduates of College of Veterinary Medicine affiliated under University of Georgia. Out of all the respondents, 43% declared that they owned textbooks ranging from 5 or less in quantity while 28% respondents commented that they had 6 to 10 text books.

From the existing research work it was found out that no research work has been conducted regarding information need and seeking behaviour of veterinary students hailing from north east India.

Objectives of the research:

The objectives of the study are the following;

- a) To study the information need pattern of the veterinary students, scholars and teachers of veterinary colleges of Assam and Mizoram;
- b) To depict the information seeking pattern of the veterinary students, scholars and teachers of veterinary colleges of Assam and Mizoram;
- c) To validate the hypotheses and lastly;
- d) To provide necessary suggestion for the betterment of the veterinary library services.

Hypotheses of the study:

The following hypotheses were framed for the particular study;

- a) There is no relation between genders of the respondents with frequency to access the library.

- b) There is no relation between genders of the respondents with respect to purpose of visiting the library.
- c) There is no association between genders of the respondents with the information sources consulted.
- d) There is any association between genders of the respondents with the time duration spent in the library.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to gender

Name of the Colleges	Male	Female	Other	Total
CVSc, Aizawl	34(42.5%)	46(57.5%)	0	80
CVSc, Assam	28(53.85%)	24(46.15%)	0	52
Total	62(46.97%)	70(53.03%)	0	132

Table 1 reveals the male and female distribution of respondents who participated in the study. It shows that a total of 132 respondents answered the questionnaire. Out of the total 132 respondents, 46.97% respondents were male and 53.03% respondents were female.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to age group

Age Group	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Up to 30 years	46 (74.19%)	68 (97.14%)
31 – 40 years	8 (12.90%)	0
41 – 50 years	8 (12.90%)	2 (2.85%)
51 – 60 years	0	0
Above 60 years	0	0

Table 2 describes the distribution of respondents according to the age group. 97.14% female respondents belong from the age group of below 30 years while 74.19% of male respondents belong from the same age group. 12.90% male respondents each belonged from both the age group 31 to 40 years and 41 to 50 years respectively.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to educational qualification

Educational qualification	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Graduation (B.V.Sc)	36 (58.06%)	42 (60%)
Post Graduation (M.V.Sc)	10 (16.12%)	24 (34.28%)
Ph.D.	6 (9.67%)	0
Faculty	10 (16.12%)	4 (5.71%)

Table 3 describes the distribution of respondents according to their educational qualifications. Out of 70 female respondents, 60% were graduates, i.e. hold B.V.Sc degree, 34.28% respondents had M.V.Sc degree and 5.71% were faculty members whereas out of 62 male respondents, 58.06% hold B.V.Sc degree, 16.12% hold M.V.Sc degree, 9.67% were Ph.D scholars and 16.12% were the faculty members.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to designation in the college

Designation	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Faculty	8 (12.90%)	2 (2.85%)
Students	46 (74.19%)	66 (94.28%)
Research Scholar	8 (12.90%)	2 (2.85%)
Non-teaching staff	0	0
Others	0	0

Table 4 reveals the designation of the respondents in their respective colleges. Study found that 12.90% of male respondents each were faculty personnel and research scholars followed by 2.85% female respondents having from both these groups.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to frequency of library visit

Frequency	No. of respondents		Total
	Male	Female	
Seldom	6 (9.68%)	8 (11.43%)	14
Weekly	32 (51.61%)	31 (44.28%)	63
In a fortnight	6 (9.68%)	7 (10%)	13
Monthly	6 (9.68%)	16 (22.85%)	22
Daily	12 (19.35%)	8 (11.43%)	20
Total	62	70	132

Table 5 represents distribution of respondents with respect to frequency of their library visit. Out of 62 male respondents, 51.61% visited the library weekly and out of 70 female respondents, 44.28% visited the library weekly. 19.35% male respondents and 11.43% of female respondents visited the library daily.

CHI SQUARE Test:

H_0 = There is no relation between the gender of the respondents and the frequency to access the library.

H_A = There is significant relation between the gender of the respondents and the frequency to access the library.

Calculation of expected value = (Row Total * Column Total) / Grand Total

Frequency	Expected No. of Male	Expected No. of Female
Seldom	$(62*14)/132 = 6.57$	$(70*14)/132 = 7.42$
Weekly	$(62*63)/132 = 29.59$	$(70*63)/132 = 33.40$
In a fortnight	$(62*13)/132 = 6.10$	$(70*13)/132 = 6.89$
Monthly	$(62*22)/132 = 10.33$	$(70*22)/132 = 11.66$
Daily	$(62*20)/132 = 9.39$	$(70*20)/132 = 10.60$

Frequency of Visit	Table of expected values	
	Male	Female
Seldom	06.57	07.42
Weekly	29.59	33.40
In a fortnight	06.10	06.89
Monthly	10.33	11.66
Daily	09.39	10.60

Observed value (O)	Expected value (E)	(O - E)	(O - E) ²	(O - E) ² /E
6	6.57	-0.57	0.32	0.04
32	29.59	2.41	5.80	0.19
6	6.10	-0.10	0.01	0.001
6	10.33	-4.33	18.74	1.81
12	9.39	2.61	6.81	0.72
8	7.42	0.58	0.33	0.04
31	33.40	-2.40	5.76	0.17
7	6.89	0.11	0.012	0.001
16	11.66	4.34	18.83	1.61
8	10.60	-2.6	6.76	0.63

$$\Sigma(O - E)^2/E = 5.212$$

$$\text{Calculated } \chi^2 = 5.212$$

$$\text{Degrees of freedom} = (\text{columns} - 1)(\text{rows} - 1) = (2 - 1)(5 - 1) = (1 * 4) = 4$$

$$\text{Significance level } (\alpha) = 0.05$$

$$\text{Tabulated value } \chi^2 = 9.488$$

Tabulated value χ^2 is greater than calculated χ^2

Null hypothesis is accepted and alternate hypothesis is rejected.

Therefore, there is no relation between the gender of the respondents and the frequency to access the library is granted.

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to reasons to visit the library irregularly

Reasons	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Library location is inconvenient to access	0	14(20%)
Library hours is inconvenient to access	14 (22.58%)	12 (17.14%)

Library environment is not good	0	0
Library collection is insufficient	2 (3.22%)	10 (14.28%)
Library collection is not current	2 (3.22%)	8 (11.43%)
Staff are not helpful	0	0
Get information from other sources	22 (35.48%)	8 (11.43%)
Didn't mention/ Felt no problem	28(45.16%)	18 (25.71%)

Table 6 epitomizes the distribution of respondents according to reasons to visit the library irregularly. Among 70 female respondents, 20% said that library location is somewhat inconvenient to access and 17.14% said that library hour is inconvenient to access. Among 62 male respondents, 35.48% said that they get the information from other sources and 22.58% said that the library hour is not inconvenient to access. 45.16% male respondents and 25.71% female respondents didn't respond to this question or they considered themselves as a regular visitor to the library.

Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to weekly spending time in the library

Duration	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Less than 1 hour	26 (41.93%)	23 (32.85%)
1 – 5 hours	28 (45.16%)	37 (52.85%)
5 – 10 hours	8 (12.90%)	10 (14.28%)

Table 7 embodies weekly time duration spent by the respondents in the library. 52.85% female respondents and 45.16% male respondents spent one to five hours in the library per week. Only 12.90% male respondents and 14.28% female respondents noted to have spent five to ten hours per week.

CHI SQUARE Test:

H_0 = There is no relation between the gender of the respondents and the time spent in the library in a week.

H_A = There is significant relation between the gender of the respondents and the time spent in the library in a week.

Duration	Expected Value	
	Male	Female
Less than 1 hour	23.01	25.98
1 – 5 hours	30.53	34.46
5 – 10 hours	8.45	9.54

Observed value (O)	Expected value (E)	(O - E)	(O - E) ²	(O - E) ² /E
26	23.01	2.99	8.94	0.38
28	30.53	-2.53	6.40	0.20
8	8.45	-0.45	0.20	0.02

23	25.98	-2.98	8.88	0.34
37	34.46	2.54	6.45	0.18
10	9.54	0.46	0.21	0.02

$$\Sigma(O - E)^2/E = 1.14$$

$$\text{Calculated } \chi^2 = 1.14$$

$$\text{Degrees of freedom} = (2-1)(3-1) = 2$$

$$\text{Significance level } (\alpha) = 0.05$$

$$\text{Tabulated } \chi^2 = 5.991$$

Therefore, value of calculated χ^2 is much less than tabulated value of χ^2

Null hypothesis is accepted and alternate hypothesis is rejected.

Therefore, there is no relation between the gender of the respondents and the time spent in the library in a week is granted.

Table 8: Distribution of respondents according to different purpose for visiting the library

Purpose	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Gather Information	33 (53.22%)	27 (38.57%)
Project work	16 (25.80%)	14 (20.00%)
Preparing notes	28 (45.16%)	36 (51.43%)
Access to online databases	14 (22.58%)	13 (18.57%)
Research work	26 (41.93%)	18 (25.71%)
Using Internet	11 (17.74%)	11 (15.71%)
Borrowing books	35 (56.45%)	50 (71.43%)
Reference source	25 (40.32%)	32 (45.71%)

Table 8 exemplifies distribution of respondents according to various purposes to visit the library. 53.22% male respondents noted that they visited the library to gather information while 51.43% of female respondents told that they visited library to prepare notes followed by 45.16% male respondents who visited library for the same purpose. 71.43% female respondents visited library for borrowing books whereas 56.45% male respondents had the same purpose to visit the library.

CHI SQUARE Test:

H₀= There is no relation between the gender of the respondents and the purpose to visit the library.

H_A = There is significant relation between the gender of the respondents and the purpose to visit the library.

Purpose	Expected values	
	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Gather Information	28.99	31.002
Project work	14.49	15.50
Preparing notes	30.93	33.06
Access to online databases	13.04	13.95
Research work	21.26	22.73
Using Internet	10.63	11.36
Borrowing books	41.07	43.92
Reference source	27.54	29.45

Observed value (O)	Expected value (E)	(O - E)	(O - E) ²	(O - E) ² /E
33	28.99	4.01	16.08	0.55
16	14.49	1.51	2.28	0.15
28	30.93	-2.93	8.58	0.28
14	13.04	0.96	0.92	0.07
26	21.26	4.74	22.46	1.05
11	10.63	0.37	0.13	0.01
35	41.07	-6.07	36.84	0.89
25	27.54	-2.54	6.45	0.23
27	31.002	-4.002	16.01	0.51
14	15.50	-1.50	2.25	0.14
36	33.06	2.94	8.64	0.26
13	13.95	-0.95	0.90	0.06
18	22.73	-4.73	22.37	0.98
11	11.36	-0.36	0.12	0.01
50	43.92	6.08	36.96	0.84
32	29.45	2.55	6.50	0.22

$$\Sigma(O - E)^2/E = 6.25$$

$$\text{Calculated } \chi^2 = 6.25$$

$$\text{Degrees of freedom} = (2-1)(8-1) = (1*7) = 7$$

$$\text{Significance level } (\alpha) = 0.05$$

$$\text{Tabulated } \chi^2 = 14.067$$

Therefore, calculated value of χ^2 is much less than tabulated value of χ^2 .

Null hypothesis is accepted and alternate hypothesis is rejected.

Hence, there is no relation between the gender of the respondents and the purpose to visit the library.

Table 9: Distribution of respondents according to information sources consulted

Sources	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Books	58 (93.55%)	68 (97.14%)
E-books	14 (22.58%)	15 (21.42%)
Journals	20 (32.26%)	20 (28.57%)
E-Journals	17 (27.41%)	12 (17.14%)
Theses& Dissertations	21 (33.87%)	10 (14.28%)
Indexing & Abstracting Periodicals	20 (32.26%)	17 (24.28%)
Reference Materials	10 (16.13%)	26 (37.14%)
Audio& Video Materials	16(25.80%)	10 (14.28%)

Table 9 demonstrates distribution of respondents according to information sources consulted by them. Overwhelming majority of both the male and female respondents voted for books. 32.26% male respondents and 28.57% female respondents consulted journals in their library. 37.14% female respondents followed by 16.13% male respondents consulted reference materials.

CHI SQUARE Test:

H₀= There is no relation between the gender of the respondents and the information sources consulted by them.

H_A = There is significant relation between the gender of the respondents and the information sources consulted by them.

Sources	Expected values	
	No. of respondents	
	Male	Female
Books	62.64	63.35
E-books	14.41	14.58
Journals	19.88	20.11
E-Journals	14.41	14.58
Theses & Dissertations	15.41	15.58
Indexing & Abstracting Periodicals	18.39	18.60
Reference Materials	17.89	18.10
Audio & Video Materials	12.92	13.07

Observed value (O)	Expected value (E)	(O - E)	(O - E) ²	(O - E) ² /E
58	62.64	-4.64	21.52	0.34
14	14.41	-0.41	0.16	0.01
20	19.88	0.12	0.0144	0.0007
17	14.41	2.59	6.70	0.46
21	15.41	5.59	31.24	2.027
20	18.39	1.61	2.59	0.14

10	17.89	-7.89	62.25	3.47
16	12.92	3.08	9.48	0.733
68	63.35	4.65	21.62	0.341
15	14.58	0.42	0.17	0.011
20	20.11	-0.11	0.01	0.0005
12	14.58	-2.58	6.65	0.45
10	15.58	-5.58	31.13	1.99
17	18.60	-1.60	2.56	0.14
26	18.10	7.90	62.41	3.44
10	13.07	-3.07	9.42	0.72

$$\Sigma(O - E)^2/E = 14.2732$$

$$\text{Calculated } \chi^2 = 14.2732$$

$$\text{Degrees of freedom} = (2-1)(8-1) = (1*7) = 7$$

$$\text{Significance level } (\alpha) = 0.05$$

$$\text{Tabulated } \chi^2 = 14.067$$

Therefore, value of calculated χ^2 is higher than tabulated value of χ^2 .

Alternate hypothesis is accepted and null hypothesis is rejected.

There is significant relation between the gender of the respondents and the information sources consulted by them.

Discussion:

This paper tries to exemplify information seeking pattern of the veterinary students and teachers of College of Veterinary Science, Assam and Mizoram. The study has found out:

- i. A total of 132 respondents from both the colleges answered the questionnaire. Out of 70 female respondents, 57.50% participated from the College of Veterinary Science, Mizoram and out of 62 male respondents, 53.85% from College of Veterinary Science, Assam.
- ii. Almost 97.14% of the female respondents belonged from the age of below 30. Almost three fourth portion of male respondents belonged from under 30 age group. No respondents were found from 51 to above 60 years.
- iii. Study revealed that 58.06% female respondents had graduation degree followed by 58.06% male respondents having the same. 34.28% female respondents having M.V.Sc. degree answered the questionnaire. 16.12% male respondents and 5.71% female respondents were faculty personnel.

- iv. More than 94% of the female respondents were students whereas more than 74% male respondents were also the students. Almost 13% of the male respondents were belonged to research scholars and faculty personnel each. It was only 3% of female respondents belonged to research scholar and faculty personnel each amongst the respondents.
- v. It was found that most of the respondents i.e. both male and female visited the library weekly. More than 19% male respondents and more than 11% female respondents visited the library daily to meet their informational needs.
- vi. Significant revelation was made when 20% female respondents noted that library location is somewhat inconvenient to access seamlessly while none of the male respondents noted this cause for being unable to access the library. Almost 23% male and 17.14% female respondents pointed out that library timings are somewhat inconvenient for them to access to library. 45.16% male respondents and 25.71% female respondents didn't respond to this question or they considered themselves as a regular visitor to the library.
- vii. 52.85% female respondents claimed to spend 1 to 5 hours weekly in the library while only 45.16% male respondents have claimed to have spent so. 14.28% female respondents have alleged to have spent 5 to 10 hours weekly followed by 12.90% male respondents.
- viii. When asked about the purposes to visit the library respondents denoted their preferences. 71.43% female respondents visited library for borrowing books whereas 56.45% male respondents had the same purpose to visit the library. 51.43% of female respondents visited the library to prepare notes while 45.16% male respondents had same reason to pay a visit to the library. 45.71% female respondents visited the library for reference sources of information followed by 40.32% male counterpart.
- ix. Overwhelming majority of both the male and female respondents claimed that they visit library for books. 33.87% male respondents have looked for theses and dissertations compared to 14.28% female counterparts. 37.14% female respondents consulted reference sources while 32.26% male respondents consulted journals in the library.

Checking of Hypotheses:

- ❖ There is no significant relationship between the gender of the respondents and the frequency to access the library.

It is inferred from the chi-square table that calculated χ^2 is less than tabulated value. Calculated $\chi^2 < 9.488$. So, the null hypothesis is accepted and alternate hypotheses is rejected. So, it is concluded that there is no significant relationship between the gender of the respondents and the frequency to access the library.

- ❖ There is no significant relation between the gender of the respondents and the time spent in the library in a week.

It is inferred from the chi square table that, calculated χ^2 is less than the tabulated value. Calculated $\chi^2 < 5.991$. So, the null hypothesis is accepted and alternate hypothesis is rejected. So, it is concluded that there is no significant relationship between the gender of the respondents and the time spent in the library in a week.

- ❖ There is no relation between the gender of the respondents and the purpose to visit the library.

It is inferred from the chi square table that, calculated χ^2 is less than the tabulated value. Calculated $\chi^2 < 14.067$. So, the null hypothesis is accepted and alternate hypothesis is rejected. So, it is concluded that there is no significant relationship between the gender of the respondents and the purpose to visit the library.

- ❖ There is significant relation between the gender of the respondents and the information sources consulted by them.

It is inferred from the chi square table that, calculated χ^2 is greater than the tabulated value. Calculated $\chi^2 > 14.067$. So, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternate hypothesis is accepted. So, it is concluded that there is a significant relationship between the gender of the respondents and the purpose to visit the library.

Conclusion:

This article attempts to study the information behaviour of veterinary school library users of north east India. No study was found regarding the identifying information behaviour of veterinarians of north eastern Indians. In a nutshell, it can be concluded that students and faculty members of the College of Veterinary Science, Assam and Mizoram, preferred to visit

their respective institutional libraries weekly. A significant number of respondents had opined that their problems with library hours. Maximum respondents' time preferred to spend in the library was one to five hours. Book was undoubtedly favoured by huge majority of the respondents. It was also proven when respondents denoted that borrowing books was a major cause driving them visiting the library. It was very nice to observe that not a single user pointed out discomfort with library staff or library environment, directing towards a cosiness and ease of use.

Recommendation:

To combat the problems and for the betterment of the both the libraries and their clientele, the following recommendations should be made:

- ✧ E-resources, audio & video materials, theses, dissertations are comparatively rarely used in both the libraries. These sources must be publicised more to make them patronized. Also it is the responsibility of the library to make users more acquainted to the use of resources be it e-journal or e-books or audio & video materials or theses, dissertations.
- ✧ Library hours should be made convenient for the students. Library patrons are the major users of the library, if it is inconvenient for them, then it will be meaningless. So, the library timings should be suitable for the users for ensuring maximum usability.
- ✧ Users have identified low amount of collection in the libraries. This problem should be addressed with utmost care and attention. Adequate collection should be available for the users of the libraries.
- ✧ Library collection must be up to date to address the present day's requirements, issues and challenges. Library clienteles would also be interested to explore the range of collection as well as to use it.

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