Winter 12-1-2020

Information Requirement of Career Seekers in Library and Information Science in Kerala: An Investigative Study

Farsana A K
university of kerala, farsanaak416@gmail.com

Mini Devi B
University of Kerala, drminidevi1968@gmail.com

Information Requirement of Career Seekers in Library and Information Science in Kerala: An Investigative Study

Farsana A K

Department of Library & Information Science

University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

farsanaak416@gmail.com

Dr. B Mini Devi
Head
Dept. of Library & Information Science
Kerala University, Palayam
Thiruvanathapuram-695034
Kerala
drminidevi1968@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The information requirement of career seekers in LIS in Kerala has been investigated in this study. The role of the library among the career seekers and the need of the resources and services of the library is discussed. The population selected for the study was the Mlisc students, part time librarians and alumnus of the LIS department and full time research scholars in LIS department. The sample was collected from both University of Kerala and Mahatma Gandhi University. A structured questionnaire is prepared on objectives of the study with closed-ended and open-ended questions and were distributed among 160 career seekers and 154 responses were received. Almost cent percentage (99.35%) of respondents require internet service/electronic resources and respondents (86.36%) required information source is documents which publish formats of application forms. Majority of respondents (98.05%) required documents which are helpful for career seekers in LIS and materials which give information about training and education opportunities.

Keywords- **Career Seekers, Information requirement, Kerala, Library and Information Science**

Introduction

Every profession in this modern age has to keep on adapting itself to the rapidly evolving technological society. Though keeping up with today's incessant changes and innovation is a challenging task, it is essential to undertake it to operate successfully with

a global perspective Information is an indispensable resource for all human activities. In the present information society, the qualities of life, as well as prospects for social change and economic development, depend increasingly upon information and its utilisation (Martin, l995).

There is innumerable career guidance centres in the private sector. Most of them with their attractive advertisements try to make an impression that candidates are sure to get through the competitive examinations by attending classes conducted by them. However, they are not providing career information service to the fuller extent; they also suffer from poor information back up. Libraries are the rational service providers, and librarians are the rational resource persons to enhance the delivery of required career information. Librarians are in a better position of being aware of career resources than any other career professional. The community of users may comprise of different categories depending upon their nature of information need and the class they belong to. It is however difficult to identify mutually exclusive category of users (Kawatra, 1992).

In a library or information centre, the users are the last link or the recipients of information in the communication cycle. Hence, understanding the user requirements is a fundamental pre-requisite for libraries which aim at satisfying the information needs of the users which vary from user to user (Devarajan, 1995).

1.   Related studies

An investigation jointly carried out by Munshi, Ansari and Faizan (2019) explored career guidance services for unemployed youth in case of Nadia district library, West Bengal. The study aims to know the Nadia District Library has encouraged the youth for the preparation of various competitive examinations by providing useful information resources and services and to assess the perception of unemployed youth who are using the career guidance section. The study was applied by the survey method, along with the questionnaire as a tool for data collection. Two sets of semi questionnaire were prepared that is one for the staff of the career guidance section and another for the users. The study revealed that library had created a separate career guidance section in 2010-2011 for job seekers whereas quite a large number of competitive examination books, magazines, reports, multimedia information like CD, DVD, etc. is available. The finding also shows

that majority of the participants are stratified with the library resources, services and facilities.

Career information needs and use of library facilities among women career seekers was investigated by Gothe and Tadasad (2016). Career information is an important and key resource for any individual to decide one's career goal. The study deals with the identification of the career information needs of and library facilities usage by women of Savanur Taluk of Haveri District in Karnataka state. Data were collected through a survey method of research by using a questionnaire as a data collection tool from 60 educated women of Savanur. The study assesses the career information needs of women and different types of libraries used by them, and it also brings out the reasons why women are not accessing career information from libraries. Also mentions suggestions to improve library facilities to provide effective library services on career information.

Gender difference and levels of requirement for information resources and services of the career seekers in Kerala a study by Koovkkai and Jalaja (2016) examined the problem of educated unemployment is a crucial social problem in Kerala. As the educational status of women is comparatively high in the state, it is worthwhile to study how far the requirement level of the female career seekers is different from that of the male career seekers. The data were collected using a questionnaire from 1180 career seekers out of which 1039 respondent. The study revealed that no much difference exists between the male and the female career seekers in Kerala in the level of requirement for the majority of the resource and services. However, the requirement level of the female career seeker is higher in the cases where the difference is observed.

Koovakkai and Jalaja (2006), studied the information requirements of career seekers who need information at various stages of their career search. The study was conducted on a sample of 1039 career seekers in Kerala who make use of different types of libraries. The findings reveal that career seekers with different levels of qualifications differ in the levels of requirement. The career seekers having postgraduate degree have higher requirements level compared to other career seekers.

2. Objectives

Some of the objectives of the study are;

1) To explore the information requirements of career seekers in the library and information science

2) To expose the level of use of library resources and services by the LIS career seekers.

3) To investigate the preference of career seekers over print and electronic resources

4) To find out the best websites for career seekers.

3. Method

The basic methodology adopted for the study was to conduct a literature survey. This involves the use of sources like primary and secondary periodicals, books, conference proceedings, research reports, databases, and others which are relevant to the subject of the study. Literature that is relevant to the study is taken with utmost care. The population selected for the study includes temporary LIS professionals, part-time librarians, MLISc students, alumnus of the LIS department and full-time research scholars in LIS by using a stratified random sampling method. They were grouped as staff, researchers and students. The questionnaire was distributed to 160 career seekers in LIS and 154 responses were received. The data collected through the questionnaire was scrutinized, classified and tabulated for better understanding and clarity. The data collected were entered into Microsoft excel spread sheet for further analysis

4. Result and Analysis

The data collected do not serve any worthwhile purpose unless it is carefully edited, systematically classified and tabulated, scientifically analysed, intelligently interpreted and rationally concluded.

4.1 Information Requirements of Career Seekers

Career seekers require various resources and services at different stages of career seeking. The level of requirement for various resources and services are shown in the table It is evident from the study that most required information resource (99.35%) of respondents is internet service/electronic resources, followed by respondents (98.05%) required documents which are helpful for career seekers in LIS and materials which give information about training and education opportunities. The respondents of (95.45%) required resources giving information about employment opportunities. The 88.96% of the

respondents require alerting service (about the Opportunities). Only least amount of respondents (86.36%) required information source is documents which publish formats of application forms.

Table 1

Information Requirements of Career Seekers

Statement	Required		Not required	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Documents which are helpful for career seekers in LIS.	151	98.05	3	1.95
Materials which give information about training and education opportunities.	151	98.05	3	1.95
Resources giving information about employment opportunities.	147	95.45	7	4.55
Documents which publish formats of application forms.	133	86.36	21	13.64
Materials which help to prepare Application/resume.	138	89.61	16	10.39
Materials for preparing for competitive exams.	144	93.51	10	6.49
Resources for preparing for interviews/group discussions.	138	89.61	16	10.39
Alerting service (about the Opportunities).	137	88.96	17	11.04
Career guidance.	140	90.91	14	9.09

Organisation of career related information resources at one place in the library.	138	89.61	16	10.39
Photocopying services.	141	91.56	13	8.44
Internet service/Electronic resources	153	99.35	1	0.65

4.2 Resources/Services Habitually Used

There are certain resources and services that career seekers habitually using for their information need. Table 2 depicts the resources/services career seekers habitually used. It is clearly understood from the study that about 88.96% of respondents prefer textbook, 87.01% prefer internet facility and 83.77% previous question paper of competitive exams. Followed by 75.32% of respondents uses the photocopying service from the library. Only 45.45% of respondents uses the career guidance followed by alerting service 41.56%, audio visual materials 39.61%.

Table   2

Resources/Services Habitually Used

Resources/services	Frequency	Percentage
Textbooks.	137	88.96
Question papers of the previous competitive examinations	129	83.77
Internet facility	134	87.01
Audio visual materials.	61	39.61
Personal assistance from the library staff.	88	57.14
Alerting service.	64	41.56
Career guidance.	70	45.45
Photocopying service.	116	75.32

4.3 Resources Used

There are certain resources which are used by career seekers for their information requirement. Table 3 depicts the resources used by them.

Table 3

Resources Used

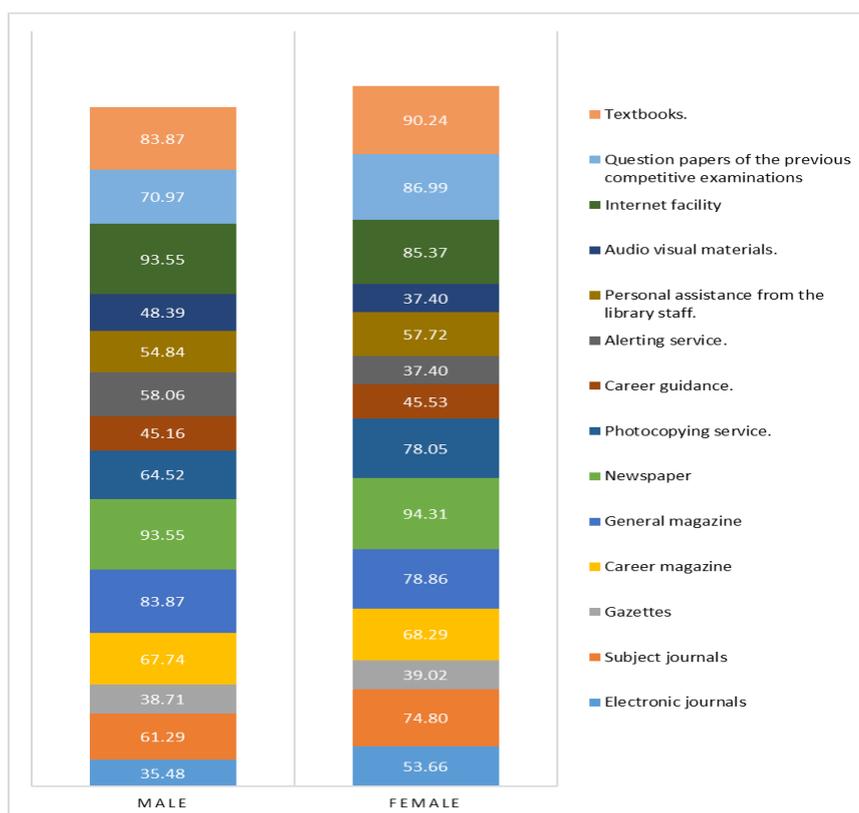| Resources	Frequency	Percentage
Newspaper	145	94.16
General magazine	123	79.87
Career magazine	105	68.18
Gazettes	60	38.96
Subject journals	111	72.08
Electronic journals	77	50

Figure 1 Difference in Use of Resources/Services from the Library among Male and Female Career Seekers

As significance level of Chi-square value is greater than 0.05, the result indicates that the use of resources/services from the library of male and female career seekers is statistically the same. Hence, the result accepts the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in use of resources/services from the library among male and female career seekers.

4.4 Most Prefered Format of Resource

The internet is becoming indispensable in daily life for many people, and it has changed the way people search for informational, entertainment and communication needs. The use of internet to acquire information is increasingly common. In this context, it was decided to know which the most preferred media that career seekers prefer is. The table 4 indicates the distribution of sample by the format for information requirement.

From the study it is clear that majority of career seekers 51.95% prefer electronic format. and about 48.05% prefer print format.

Table 4

Most Prefered Format of Resource

Format	Frequency	Percentage
Electronic	80	51.95
Print	74	48.05
Total	154	100.00

4.5 Best Website for Career Seekers

In effect, looking and getting a job today has become easier, more accessible, and faster. LIS career seekers uses these websites, to find out the best out of them they were asked to rank them from most used to least used. Table 5 depicts best website for career seekers.

It is evident from the study that the Mean Rank for the best website chosen by the LIS career seekers for career search Naukri ranked first (mean score 2.66), followed by LinkedIn.com ranked second (mean score 3.43). Indeed.com was ranked third (mean score 3.82) Careerjet.com (mean score4.33) followed by Naukrihub.com and etc…

Table 5

Best Website for Career Seekers

Name of Websites	Mean	Rank
Naukri	2.66	1
Careerjet.com	4.33	4
Naukrihub.com	4.48	5
Indeed.com	3.82	3
LinkedIn.com	3.43	2
Monster.com	5.78	7
Timesjobs com	5.26	6
The Indiajobs.com	6.24	8

5. Discussion

The aim of the study was to find out the information requirement of career seekers in library and information science Almost cent percentage (99.35%) of respondents require internet service/electronic resources and respondents (86.36%) required information source is documents which publish formats of application forms. Majority of respondents (98.05%) required documents which are helpful for career seekers in LIS and materials which give information about training and education opportunities. About 88.96% of respondents prefer textbook, 87.01% prefer internet facility and 83.77% previous question paper of competitive exams. About 94.16% of respondents uses newspaper from the library, 79.87% of respondents uses general magazine and more than half respondents uses subject journals 72.08%. of respondents uses subject journals but only 50% of the sample uses electronic journals. More than half of career seekers (51.95%) prefer electronic format. Mean Rank for the best website chosen by the LIS career seekers for career search Naukri ranked first (mean score 2.66) followed by LinkedIn.com ranked second (mean score 3.43) and Indeed.com was ranked third (mean score 3.82).

6. Conclusion

The analysis reveals that the level of requirement for information resources and services is high among career seekers. This shows that career seekers are eager to get various resources and services for their career seeking. The levels of requirement for the majority of the resources and services are not much different among the career seekers

using different types of libraries. Between the male and the female career seekers also no much difference exists in the levels of requirement for most of the resources/services.

References

1. Devarjan, G. (1995). *Library Information users and use studies.* New Delhi: Beacon Books

2. Gothe, G. (2016). Career Information Needs and Use of Library facilities among Women Career Seekers. *SREAL Journal of Information Science, 53*(2).pp 141-146.

3. Kawarta, P. (1992). *Library user studies: A manual for librarians and information scientists.* Mumbai: Jaico.

4. Koovakkai, D.& Jalaja. (2006). Information Requirements of Career Seekers: An analysis of the level of requirement based on qualification. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*,pp 158-164.

5. Koovakkai, D.& Jalaja. (2016). Gender Difference and Levels of Requirements for Information Resources and Services of Career Seekers in Kerala. *Library Herald*, 44.

6. Martin, W., & Martin, W. (1995). *The global information society* (2nd ed.). Aslib Gower.

7. Munshi, S. (2019). Career Guidance Service for Unemployment Youth: A case of Nadia District Library, West Bengal. *PEARL-A Journal of Library and Information Science, 13*(2),pp17-19.