

Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Csi Dental College Students in Madurai – A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes information needs and information seeking behaviour of CSI Dental College Students in Madurai. There are 150 Questionnaires were distributed to students of CSI Dental College, Madurai. 180 filled questionnaires were received back by the students. There are 30 questionnaires were rejected due to incompleteness of answers. Hence 150 questionnaires were used for data analysis and interpretation the findings it is found that majority of the respondents belong to the age between 17 to 20 years, 28.67% of the respondents belong to the first years, 48% respondents visit the library once a week, 50.67% of the respondents seeking information from English newspapers, 55.33% respondents are using the library for preparing for competitive examination, 34.67% respondents learn and get aid from library staff, 54.67% respondents' opinion about the overall satisfaction of library is good.

Key words: Information needs, Information seeking behaviour, Information searching behaviour and Information using behaviour.

INTRODUCTION

Information is more meaningful when it is transferred and communicated. A wide range of research works cantered on use and user of information called use and user studies which have cropped up in the last four decades.

Today, information is an important ingredient in every walk of life which is an indispensable raw material for right decision making from the personal level to the government level. It is a well-accepted generalization that a country, which is rich in information, is rich in the field of socio- economic spheres. With the growth of information deluge, cash on needs information in increasing variety of level, frequency, volume and use.

User studies are recognized as an important part of the information packages, information providers like the library and information canters need to aware of their users information requirements as well as their information seeking and information retrieving .

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the main objectives of the study:

To analyse the information seeking behaviour pattern of the students in CSI Dental College.

To bring out various types of information needs of the CSI Dental College.

To study the frequency of use the internet.

To know the time spent in library per day per hour.

To find out the purpose of seeking information.

To know the use of preference of using search methods of material in library.

To find out the methods of used in access to the various documents.

METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire method has been adopted to collect the primary data from the college students. In this study, random sampling method has been adopted to collect the primary data from the students. There are 150 Questionnaires were distributed to students of CSI Dental College, Madurai. 180 filled questionnaires were received back by the students. There are 30 questionnaires were rejected due to incompleteness of answers. Hence 150 questionnaires were used for data analysis and interpretation.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1 Distribution of Respondents by Gender-Wise

S. No	Gender wise	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	23	15.33
2	Female	127	84.67
	Total	150	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents by gender-wise. In this study, 23 (15.33%) respondents belong to the category of male whereas 127 (84.67%) respondents belong to the category of female were taken into consideration for this study. Hence, the most of the respondents belong to female.

Table 2 Distributions of Respondents by Age-wise

S. No	Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	17 to 20years	101	67.33
2	21 to 25	48	32.00
3	26 and above	01	0.67
	Total	150	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 describes the distribution of respondents by age-wise. It is inferred that, 101 (67.33%) respondents belong to the age group between 17-20 years. 48 (32%) respondents belong to the age group between 21 to 25 years. 01 (0.67%) respondents belong to the age group of 26 and above years. Hence, the majority of the respondents belong to the age group between 17 to 20 years.

Table 3 Distribution of Respondents by Year of studying

S. No	Year of studying	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1	I st Year BDS	43	28.67	28.67
2	II nd Year BDS	32	21.33	50
3	III rd Year BDS	41	27.33	77.33
4	IV th Year BDS	34	22.67	100
	Total	150	100	

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents by year wise. In this study, 43 (28.67%) respondents belong to first years. 32 (21.33%) respondents belong to second years. 41 (27.33%) respondents belong to third years and 34 (22.67%) respondents belong to final years.

Table 4 Frequency of Visiting Library

S. No	Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Cum-Percentage
1	Daily	47	31.33	31.33

2	Twice a week	14	9.33	40.66
3	Weekly	72	48	88.66
4	Monthly	17	11.34	100
	Total	150	100	

Source: Primary data

Table 4 discusses the frequency of visit to the library. 72 (48%) of the respondents are weekly visitors, 47 (31.33%) visit daily, 17 (11.34%) respondents visit monthly and 14 (9.33%) respondents visit twice a week. Hence most of the respondents frequency of visit from the college students

Table 5 Time Spend on use of library Per day

S. No	Hours	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Cum - Percentage
1	Less than 1 hour	97	64.66	64.66
2	One hour	46	30.67	95.33
3	2 hours	4	2.67	98
4	More than 3 hours	3	2	2
	Total	150	100	

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 reveals that time spend in library per day. 97 (64.66%) of the respondents spend less than an hour per day for use of library, and it is followed by 46 (30.67%) respondents spend an hour, 4 (2.67%) respondents spend 2 hours and 3 (2%) respondents spend more than 3 hours. therefore, it is inferred that majority of the respondents spend less than an hour per day use of library.

Table 6 Seeking Information from News paper

S. No	News Paper	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Cum Percentage
1	Tamil news paper	20	13.33	13.33
2	English news paper	76	50.67	64
3	Both	46	30.67	94.67
4	Others if any specify	8	5.33	100
	Total	150	100	

Source: Primary data

Table.6 describes seeking Information from newspaper. In this study, 20 (13.33%) respondents seek information from Tamil newspaper, 76 (50.67%) respondents seek information from English newspaper, 46 (30.67%) respondents seek information from both newspaper and 8 (5.33%) respondents seek information from others.

Table 7 Purpose of Seeking Information

S. No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Preparing for the examination	83	55.33
2	Enrich knowledge	50	33.34
3	Preparing for competitive exam	9	6
4	For entertainment	8	5.33
	Total	150	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 7 shows the purpose of seeking Information. In this study, 83(55.33%) respondents use the library for preparing for the examination, 50 (33.34%) use the library to enrich their knowledge, 9 (6%) respondents use the library for preparing for competitive exams and 8 (5.3%) respondents use the library for Entertainment.

Table 8 Methods of Learning Information

S. No	Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Through friends	38	25.33
2	Through library staff	52	34.67
3	Through teachers	49	32.67
4	Others	11	7.33
	Total	150	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 8 reveals the methods of learning information. 38 (25.33%) respondents learn from friends, 52 (34.67%) respondents learn from library staff, 49 (32.67%) respondents learn from teachers and 11(7.33%) respondents learn from others.

Table 9 Search methods of materials in Library

S. No	Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Key word	18	12
2	Title of article	41	27.33
3	Author	63	42
4	Subject	28	18.67
	Total	150	100

Source: Primary data

Table 9 describes the search methods of materials in library. In this study, 18 (12%) respondents use the keyword search methods. 41 (27.33%) respondents use the title search methods. 63 (42%) respondents use the author search methods and 28 (18.67%) respondents use the other methods. Hence, the majority of the respondents search materials in library using author.

Table 10 Methods of used in access to the documents

S. No	Methods	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Library catalogue	63	42
2	Indexing journal	28	18.66
3	Abstracting journal	4	2.67
4	Reference from a book	55	36.67
	Total	150	100

Source: Primary data

Table 10 reveals that the methods of used in access to the documents. In this study, 63 (42%) respondents use the library catalogue. 28 (18.67%) respondents use the indexing journal, 4 (2.67%) respondents use the abstracting journal and 55 (36.66%) respondents use the references from the books.

Table 11 Opinion about the overall satisfaction of library services for seeking information

S. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1	Good	82	54.67	54.67
2	Very good	19	12.67	67.34
3	Satisfied	36	24	91.34

4	Poor	13	8.66	100
	Total	150	100	

Source: Primary data

Table 11 elicits the preferred overall satisfaction of library services for seeking information. Among the respondents, the majority of 82 (54.67%) respondents' opinion about the overall satisfaction of library is good, 19 (12.67%) respondents' opinion about the overall satisfaction of library is very good, 36 (24%) respondents' opinion about the overall satisfaction of library is satisfied and 13 (8.66%) respondents' opinion about the overall satisfaction of library is poor.

FINDINGS

Most of the respondents belong to the female category.

Majority of the respondents belong to the age between 17 to 20 years.

43 (28.67%) respondents belong to the first years.

72 (48%) respondents visit the library once a week.

Majority of respondents (64.66%) spend less than one hour.

76 (50.67%) respondents seeking information from English newspapers.

83 (55.33%) respondents are using the library for preparing for competitive examination.

52 (34.67%) respondents learn and get aid from library staff.

Majority of the respondents search materials in library by using author names.

63 (42%) respondents are using library catalogue.

Majority of 82 (54.67%) respondents' opinion about the overall satisfaction of library is good.

CONCLUSION

Understanding the actual needs of information users, enchanting users and taking steps to satisfy them is the first step towards effective service provision. It can achieve through search formal in depth studies. Libraries have always welcomed new changes for enhancing their services and satisfactory clientele's needs. It's a high time for traditional libraries that they change their approach as the availability of the digital resources is growing day by day.

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