

Tendency of Gathering of Information by Faculty Members and Research Scholars of Bangalore University

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Abstract: Any activity of an individual is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived need. Information is viewed as stimulus that reduces uncertainty and recognition of the existence of the uncertainty. A function of extrinsic uncertainty produced by a perceived discrepancy between the individuals current level of certainty and criterion state. The article finds the information seeking behavior of the faculty members and research scholars of the Bangalore University. The respondents are mainly seeking information for the purpose of research, teaching and for project proposals. They are keeping abreast with the current developments by using internet and by browsing current issues of print and online journals. The respondents gather information by consulting books, journals etc. in the library and by attending seminars, conferences, symposia etc.

Keywords: Information Seeking, Behaviour, Information Literacy, Information Needs, User Study, Bangalore University

1. INTRODUCTION

In the era of communication technology there is a strong need for faculty and students in the higher academic institutions particularly in the professional institutions to be more receptive and adaptive to new technologies involved in teaching and research process, so as enhance to cope with global changes in the education. For effective adoption and exploitation of new technology in accessing the e-resources, academics and students should thoroughly understand the techniques and tools involved. When the adoption habit instilled from an early age their receptiveness later on will be much more enhance. It is immense for libraries to have more proactive role in assessing the use of e-resources, electronic communication behavior of the users and in identifying new technologies, methods and linking global information resources based on the changing needs.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Aakre, Christopher A, et al (2019) identified the barriers and facilitators of point of care information seeking and use of knowledge resources. We inductively identified specific barriers or facilitators and from these synthesized a model of key determinants of information seeking

behaviors. We inductively identified 58 specific barriers and facilitators and then created a model reflecting 5 key determinants of information-seeking behaviors: time includes subthemes of time availability, efficiency of information seeking, and urgency of information need; accessibility includes subthemes of hardware access, hardware speed, hardware portability, information restriction, and cost of resources; personal skills and attitudes includes subthemes of computer literacy, information seeking skills, and contextual attitudes about information seeking; institutional attitudes, cultures, and policies includes subthemes describing external individual and institutional information seeking influences; and knowledge resource features includes subthemes describing information seeking efficiency, information content, information organization, resource familiarity, information credibility, information currency, workflow integration, compatibility of recommendations with local processes, and patient educational support. du Preez, Madely (2019) reports on a narrative inquiry study exploring the complexity of engineering contexts and endeavoring to establish how engineering contexts shape consulting engineers collaborative information behaviour. Fifteen responding engineers recollected their experiences of an engineering project in narrative interviews. The collected data were re-storied and analysed thematically. Multi-layered contexts seem to affect consulting engineers information behaviour. These include engineering organisations and engineering projects. Engineering organisations determine the information individual engineers are exposed to and provide natural boundaries that delineate the activities taking place within them. Engineering projects not only determine the information needs of engineers but also the information activities that will provide in their information needs. Due to team relationships that develop throughout an engineering project, social networks develop naturally and become important resources of engineering information. Mohammed Nasser Al-Suqri and Linda L. Lillard (2011) studied the barriers of information seeking by the social scientists of developing countries. They have undertaken the case study of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) of Oman. The data is collected using e-mail and face to face interviews and 70 faculty members are responded and 27 responses are received. The study revealed that the social scientists of SQU are facing two main barriers, that is library related barriers and non library related barriers. The main library related barriers are inadequate library resources, problems with the organization of library resources and information technology limitations. The study suggested that the SQU library should improve adequate resources and provide better communication technologies.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are as follows

1. To find out the purpose of information seeking by the faculty and research scholar so the Bangalore University
2. To find out how faculty and research scholars of Bangalore University are keep abreast with the current developments.

3. To study how the faculty and research scholars are gather the information they need for their research and academic activity.
4. To find out the satisfaction of customized services provided by the library to the faculty and research scholars of the university.

4. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on the survey method of research for collection of primary data from the faculty and research scholars of the Bangalore University. The unstructured questionnaire was framed and used as a tool for data collection. The collected data is keyed in SPSS software and analysed the data with suitable statistical techniques and the results are drawn.

5. INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The total number of questionnaires was distributed to faculty members and research scholars are 300 and the filled and returned questionnaires are 251 and the response rate is 83.66%. 96 (38.2%) respondents are female and 155 (61.8%) respondents are males.

Table 1: Purpose of Information Seeking

Sl. No.	Purpose of Information Seeking	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Discussions	80	5.8	5.8
2	General Awareness	152	11.0	16.8
3	Observation and experiments	144	10.4	27.2
4	Prepare the class notes	112	8.1	35.3
5	Preparing / Supplementing lectures	136	9.8	45.1
6	Reading / Thinking Purpose	176	12.7	57.8
7	Research Work	216	15.6	73.4
8	Teaching	192	13.9	87.3
9	Writing and Presenting Papers	176	12.7	100.0
	Total	1384	100.0	
	Standard Deviation	2.487		

Table 1 reveals the purpose of information seeking, 216 (15.6%) respondents opined that they seek the information for the research work. The research scholars and faculty members need information for writing the research articles and they have to produce the information for the welfare of the human kind. 192 (13.9%) respondents opined that they seek the information for the purpose of teaching. The faculties have to use the information for the preparation of classes and for research work. 176 (12.7%) respondents opined that they seek the information for the purpose of reading / thinking and writing and presenting papers in conferences and journals.

The table infers that the research scholars and faculty members seek information for the purpose of research work (15.6%), teaching (13.9%), reading / thinking and writing and presenting papers (12.7%), general awareness (11%) and Observation and experiments (10.4%).

Graph 1: Purpose of Information Seeking



Table 2: Respondents keep abreast with the current developments

Sl. No.		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Attendances at conferences	126	12.1	12.1
2	Internet / E-Mail alert	207	19.8	31.9
3	List server, E-archive, database as ADS, etc	135	12.9	44.8
4	Personal communication	117	11.2	56.0
5	Scanning of Current issues of Print/Online Journals	189	18.1	74.1
6	Scanning recent issues of abstracting tools	162	15.5	89.7
7	Through services from library as CAS & SDI	108	10.3	100.0
	Total	1044	100.0	

Table 2 discloses the how the respondents keep abreast with the current developments in their field of interest. 207 (19.8%) respondents opined that they use internet and e-mail alerts to keep abreast themselves. 189 (18.1%) respondents opined that they scan the current issues of print / online journals to keep abreast themselves. 162 (15.5%) respondents opined that they scan the recent issues of abstracting tools to keep themselves as updated.

The table discloses that the respondents keep abreast with recent developments themselves by using internet and e-mail alerts (19.8%), scanning current issues of print/online journals (18.1%) and scanning recent issues of abstracting tools (15.5%).

Graph 2: How do you keep abreast with the current developments

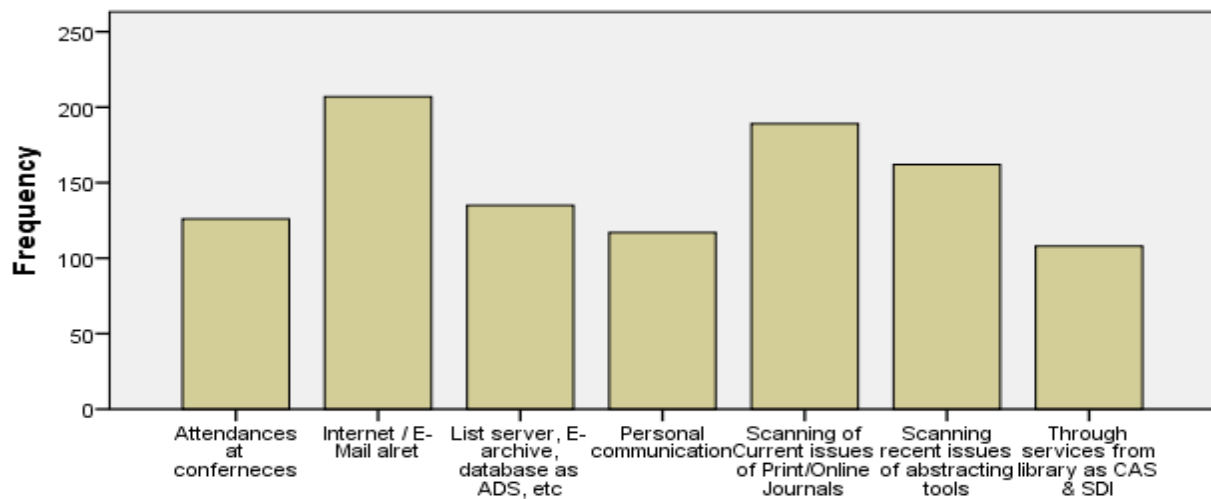


Table 3: Type of materials and format preferred for the study

Sl. No.	Age	Type of Materials			Total
		Both	Electronic	Print	
1	20-25	21	3	4	28
2	21-25	0	1	0	1
3	25-30	2	0	1	3
4	26-30	66	4	23	93
5	26-50	0	0	1	1
6	31-35	10	2	3	15
7	35-40	0	1	0	1
8	36-40	27	1	11	39
9	41-45	9	1	1	11
10	45-50	0	0	1	1
11	46-50	26	2	4	32
12	50-55	1	0	1	2
13	51-55	11	2	4	17
14	56-60	6	0	1	7
Total		179 (71.3%)	17 (6.8%)	55 (21.9%)	251

Table 3 reveals that the type of materials and formats used by respondents in the library, 66 (26.29%) respondents aged about 26-30 are using both print and electronic information for their research and academic works. 23 (9.16%) respondents aged about 26-30 are opined that

they use only print format information for their study and research. 17 (6.8%) respondents of all age groups are opined that they use only electronic forms of information for research and academic works.

The overall analysis infers that 71.3% of the respondents of all age groups are using both print and electronic forms of information for research and academic activities. 21.9% opined that they use only print form of information for their studies and only 6.8% of the respondents opined that they use only electronic form of information for their research and academic activity.

Graph 3 : Type of materials and formats preferred for the study

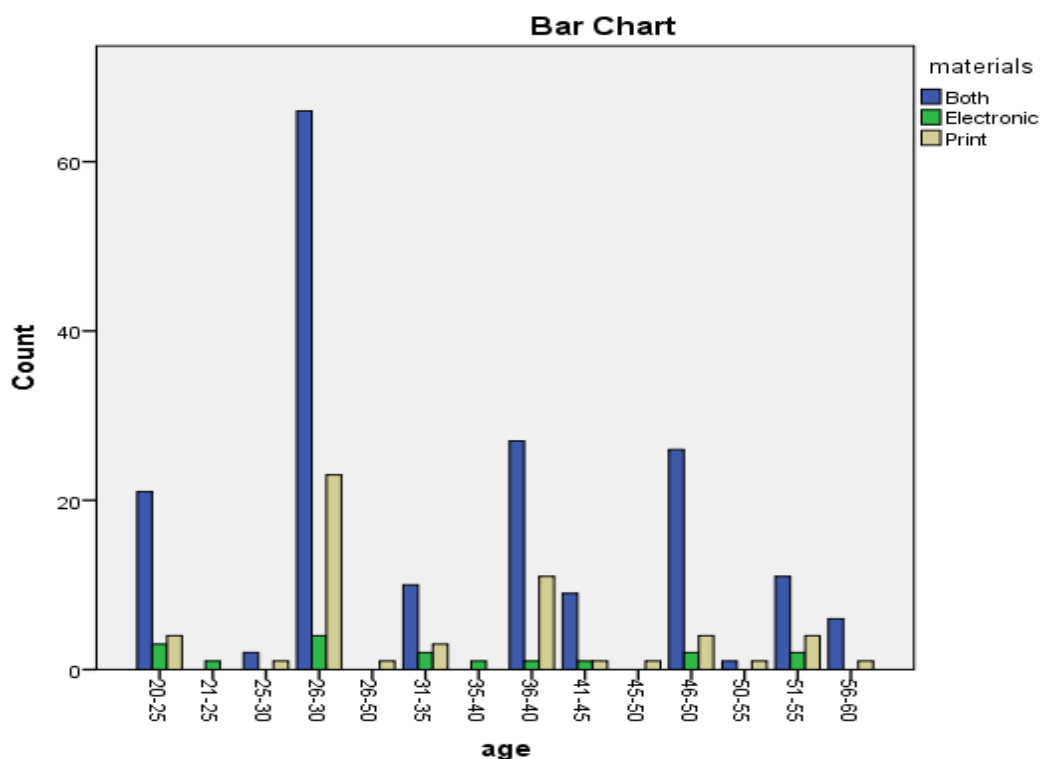


Table 4: Gathering of information by the respondents

Sl. No.	Gathering of Information	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	By attending seminars, conferences, symposia etc.	184	25.0	25.0
2	By being member of learned societies and associations	96	13.0	38.0

3	By consulting books, journals etc. in the library	256	34.8	72.8
4	By consulting colleagues in the field	128	17.4	90.2
5	By visiting exhibitions	72	9.8	100.0
	Total	736	100.0	

Table 4 discloses how respondents gather information they need, 256 (34.8%) respondents opined that they gather information by consulting books, journals etc. in the library, 184 (25%) respondents opined that they gather information by attending seminars, conferences, symposia etc. 128 (17.4%) respondents opined that they gather information by consulting colleagues in the field and 96 (13%) respondents opined that they gather information by being member of learned societies and associations.

The analysis discloses that books and journals (34.8%) and seminars, conferences, symposia (25%) are the major sources of information for the respondents for collecting recent and nascent information.

Graph 4: Gathering of information by the respondents

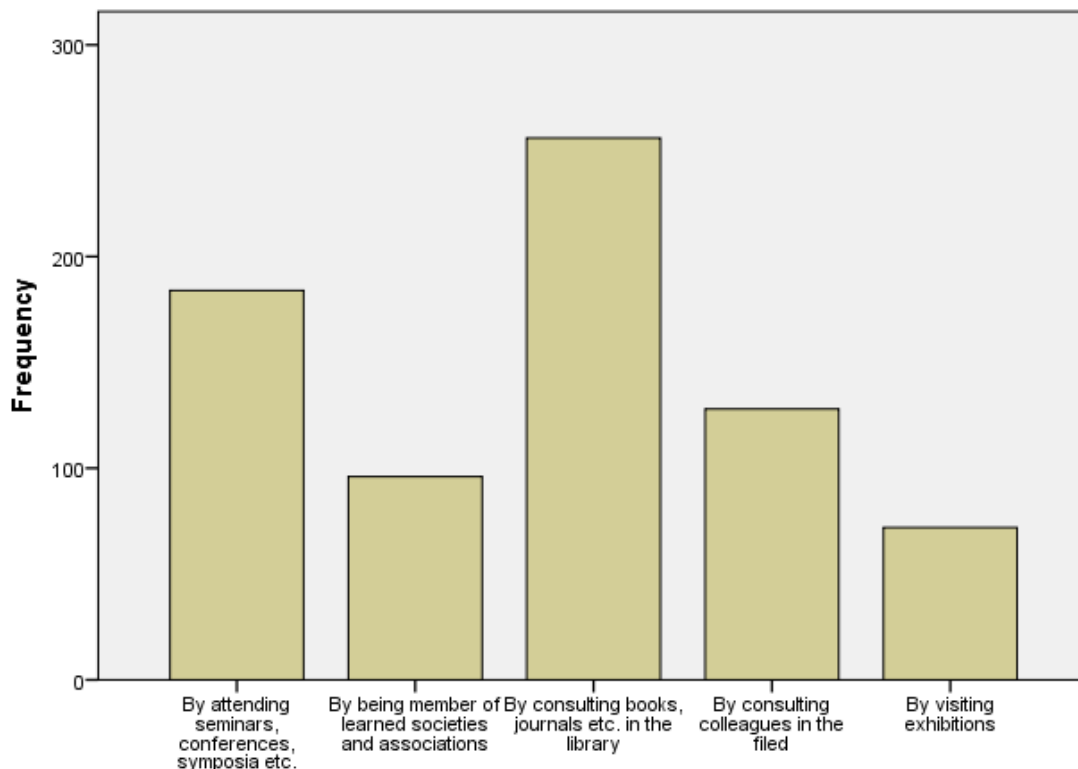


Table 5: Level of satisfaction with the customized library services provided in the library

Sl. No.		Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Highly Dissatisfied
1	The order and maintenance of library materials on shelves (shelf arrangement)	100 (39.8%)	141 (56.2%)	10 (4.0%)	0	0
2	Availability of books /journals listed in library catalogue.	63 (25.1%)	121 (48.2%)	39 (15.5%)	10 (4.0%)	18 (7.2%)
3	Timely document delivery system	37 (14.7%)	128 (51.0%)	30 (12.0%)	37 (14.7%)	19 (7.6%)
4	Provide training to use the information source/services to the users.	18 (7.2%)	128 (51.0%)	49 (19.5%)	47 (18.7%)	9 (3.6%)
5	Library staff knowledge about library products and services	28 (11.2%)	167 (66.5%)	10 (4.0%)	36 (14.3%)	10 (4.0%)
6	Helping tendency of library staff to find your required information from the library	27 (10.8%)	119 (47.4%)	59 (23.5%)	27 (10.8%)	19 (7.6%)
7	Availability of computers and internet facilities.	27 (10.8%)	138 (55.0%)	68 (27.1%)	18 (7.2%)	0
8	Document scanning and printing facilities	36 (14.4%)	137 (54.6%)	68 (27.1%)	10 (4.0%)	0
9	Photocopying facilities	36 (14.4%)	92 (36.7%)	76 (30.3%)	20 (8.0%)	27 (10.8%)
10	Environment of the library	19 (7.6%)	110 (43.8%)	57 (22.7%)	38 (15.0%)	0
11	Library hours	46 (18.4%)	139 (55.4%)	48 (19.1%)	0	18 (7.2%)
12	Suggest a Book	45 (17.9%)	121 (48.2%)	75 (29.9%)	0	10 (4.0%)

The table 5 reveals the level of satisfaction of the customized library services provided in the library. 141 (56.2%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the order and maintenance of library materials on shelves (shelf arrangement). 100 (39.8%) respondents opined that they are highly satisfied by the shelf arrangement and 10 (4.0%) respondents opined that they are neutral in expressing the shelf arrangement.

121 (48.2%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the availability of books /journals listed in library catalogue. 63 (25.1%) respondents opined that they are highly satisfied

by the availability of books /journals listed in library catalogue and 18 (7.2%) respondents opined that they are highly dissatisfied on availability of books /journals listed in library catalogue.

128 (51%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the timely document delivery system. 37 (14.7%) respondents opined that they are highly satisfied by the timely document delivery system and 19 (7.6%) respondents opined that they are highly dissatisfied on timely document delivery system.

128 (51%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the provide training to use the information source/services to the users.. 49 (19.5%) respondents opined that they are neutral by the provide training to use the information source/services to the users and 9 (3.6%) respondents opined that they provide training to use the information source/services to the users.

167 (66.5%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the library staff and their knowledge about library products and services. 36 (14.3%) respondents opined that they are dissatisfied by the library staff and their knowledge about library products and services and 10 (4%) respondents opined that they are strongly dissatisfied by the library staff and their knowledge about library products and services.

119 (47.4%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the helping tendency of library staff to find your required information from the library. 59 (23.5%) respondents opined that they are neutral by the helping tendency of library staff to find your required information from the library and 19 (7.6%) respondents opined that they are strongly dissatisfied by the helping tendency of library staff to find your required information from the library.

138 (55%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the availability of computers and internet facilities. 68 (27.1%) respondents opined that they are neutral availability of computers and internet facilities and 18 (7.2%) respondents opined that they are dissatisfied by the availability of computers and internet facilities.

137 (54.6%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the document scanning and printing facilities. 68 (27.1%) respondents opined that they are neutral document scanning and printing facilities and 20 (8%) respondents opined that they are dissatisfied by the document scanning and printing facilities.

110 (43.8%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the environment of the library. 57 (22.7%) respondents opined that they are neutral environment of the library and 38 (15%) respondents opined that they are dissatisfied by the environment of the library.

139 (55.4%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by the Library hours. 48 (19.1%) respondents opined that they are neutral Library hours and 18 (7.2%) respondents opined that they are dissatisfied by the Library hours.

121 (48.2%) respondents opined that they are satisfied by suggest a Book. 75 (29.9%) respondents opined that they are neutral suggest a Book and 1 (%) respondents opined that they are highly dissatisfied by suggest a Book.

6. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The research scholars and faculty members seek information for the purpose of research work (15.6%), teaching (13.9%), reading / thinking and writing and presenting papers (12.7%), general awareness (11%) and Observation and experiments (10.4%).
2. The respondents keep abreast with recent developments themselves by using internet and e-mail alerts (19.8%), scanning current issues of print/online journals (18.1%) and scanning recent issues of abstracting tools (15.5%).
3. 71.3% of the respondents of all age groups are using both print and electronic forms of information for research and academic activities. 21.9% opined that they use only print form of information for their studies and only 6.8% of the respondents opined that they use only electronic form of information for their research and academic activity.
4. Books and Journals (34.8%) and Seminars, Conferences, Symposia (25%) are the major sources of information for the respondents for collecting recent and nascent information.
5. The respondents urged to provide the internet services in the departments (20.6%), to extend the working hours of the library by 24X7 (14.7%), to provide a place for the group study (11.8%), to extend inter library loan facility to all the members and to subscribe the electronic and digital resources (10.3%) and also respondents requesting the library to extend the co-operation of the library staff in terms of service and co-operation (2.9%).

The study reveals the importance of information seeking and behavior of the faculty members and research scholars in information gathering. The respondents mainly search information for their research work and teaching. The respondents are more pond-off with the e-resources and they are obligatory to use the e-resources. The respondents are using mainly e-journals, e-books and e-databases for their study and research work. They are suggested to extend the library services 24X7 and also to improve inter library loan facilities for the library users.

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