

Library Use Pattern of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar: A Study

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ABSTRACT

Library is considered as a heart of any institution. As such, they are expected to have sufficient collection so that they could provide good services to their readers. Hence, the collection of any library must be so strong that they can satisfy the needs of their readers. There are various ways of studying the information needs of the users and library use pattern is one such method on which basis the needs of resources can be ascertained. The present study is an attempt to analyze the use pattern of library users comprising of undergraduates, postgraduates, research scholars and faculty members of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar. The data were collected with the help of a standard questionnaire distributed to 150 users. The results of the study reveal that majority of the library users are of between 20-30 years' age group and males are dominating over female users. Most of the users visit library daily for borrowing books from the library. Books are the most used type of reading material which is used by 135 library users that constitute to 90.00% of the total sample. 74.66% of the library users seek assistance from the library staff to locate the books / documents. However, a lack of staff and ICT-based infrastructure is noticed in the study.

KEYWORDS: Information needs, Library use pattern, Undergraduate students, Post-graduate students, Research scholars and Faculty members.

INTRODUCTION

Information is very important to every aspect of today's information society or human being. However, the people's need for information is unlimited. People seek information from different sources and in different formats for

undertaking a variety of jobs and tasks. It is seen that prior to intervention of computer and communication technology, libraries were the major source of getting relevant information and documents for the students and scientists as well (Curley, 1990; Kachel 1997). But the use of information and

communication technology has completely changed the scenario of library use among them (Dhiman 2003; Dhiman and Rani, 2012). Now days, it is seen that the library is the most widely-used source of information available to literate societies. However, librarians must be aware of the kind of information being sought and how it can be obtained. Further, due to the rapidly escalating cost of purchasing and archiving print journals and electronic media, the library has the duty to provide and maintain efficient services (Thanukodi, 2009). Library use pattern is a reflection of the attitude and the approaches adopted in the search for information in a library. It is a measure of the level of importance attached to the library by its users (Odu and Edam-Agbor, 2018). So, it is very much important for the librarians to know the usage pattern of their library to improve the library service and to understand the users' needs.

It is a fact that today's libraries are available as the digital libraries where reading material is present in digital format or as electronic resources which have opened up the possibility of searching multiple resources at a time-a feat accomplished more easily than when using the printed equivalents. Electronic resources can be printed and searched and can be saved so that they can be retrieved or reused at a later date. Hence, the assessment of the collection and library use pattern has become necessary to study so that collection of library under survey i.e., of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar could be made strong and present services could be improved and new ones started as per the requirement of the users.

STUDY AREA

Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar that was established on 21 Apr 2005 vide act 17 of 2005, is a state university located in village panchayat Bahadrad (Haridwar),

Uttarakhand. It has following faculties (usvv.ac.in):

- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Linguistics and Translation
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of Sahitya
- Faculty of Vyākaraṇa
- Faculty of Adhunik Gyan Vigyan

University offers various courses just starting from certificate, diploma level to undergraduate and postgraduate level courses in various disciplines. M.Phil. in Sanskrit Sahitya, Navyavyakaran, Jyotish, Yoga, Hindi and Bhasha Vigyan is available in the university campus. Besides, doctoral programmes leading to Ph. D. are also available in the university.

The central library of the university is in existence since the establishment of the university itself. Various books on Vedic and Sanskrit literature, Hindi and English and Education are available in the library.

Further, library is enriched with the reference books, manuscripts and also 8-10 research journals related to PhD and other research degrees. Besides, 04 Hindi, 03 English daily newspapers with 01 weekly Sanskrit newspaper and 05 popular magazines, such as Pratiyogita Darpan etc., are also being subscribed by the library. However, online resources are not the part of the collection.

There are 03 library staff including 01 assistant librarian, 01 cataloguer and 01 peon. The library timings are according to the university timings while the time should be extended at least during the examination time. It is noted that though, the library is newly opened but it has a plenty of books for the students and also the reference books and journals for the use of research scholars.



Figure 1: Study Area of the Central Library

EARLIER STUDIES

Manalan and Swaroop Rani (2001) have conducted a study on the use pattern of government documents comprising of administrative reports, research reports, census reports, legal documents and parliamentary proceedings etc. available in the major universities of Tamil Nadu. The study concludes that the availability of these documents in these universities is in a moderate level. However, the findings have shown that the government documents are not fully consumed but only partially by the social scientists in these universities. Thus, government and universities both should take care of these documents in terms of regulating their marketing, increasing the literature in resource centers and their bibliographic control etc.

Pareek and Rana (2013) has conducted a study on the information seeking behaviour and library use pattern through the questionnaire method distributed to 150 users and 100 questionnaires received back. The findings of the study indicate that guidance in the use of library resources and services is necessary to help the researchers to meet out some of their information requirements. Also, there is a need to make a plan for effective or better utilization of library sources and services.

Das (2017) has studied the infrastructure and utilization pattern of library resources by faculty members and research scholars in management institutions affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. The influence of the various demographic factors, such as gender, age, educational qualifications, designation and experience and mode of study on the faculty and research scholars, on the frequency of visit to the library, library collection, and library services, were seen and found to be significant or non-significant. The results of the t-tests also show that in many of the variables there is no significant difference in the opinion of the faculty and research scholars. Further, the study shows that the faculty and research scholars are keen to adapt to the trend of the digital era by increased use of Internet either in the library or computer laboratories or at home. The responses of the faculty and research scholars to the statement of various problems show their positive attitude in their perception of the problems.

Gyanchandani and Uraon (2018) have conducted a study on the users of National Gallery of Art (NGMA), Mumbai using structured questionnaires. The results of the study reveal that how library user's approach NGMA library and get the information of their interest especially related to modern and contemporary art available in the library in different forms viz. books, paintings, exhibition catalogues and pamphlets. This

paper also discusses about the requirement of physical environment like reading space, furniture and air conditioning which is necessary for the library as well as for the library users.

Singh and Mahajan (2020) have conducted a study to investigate the involvement of research scholars and faculty members in the use of library, library resources, purpose behind using them and satisfaction from the resources in five university libraries of Northern India. No significant relationship was found in frequency of visit to the library between the research scholars and faculty members across the libraries. However, research scholars were found to spent more time in their respective libraries as compared to faculty members and library is the prominent place for reading in the opinion of research scholars, whereas faculty members visited their respective libraries for circulation of the documents. But a significant difference was found between research scholars and faculty members about the availability of required resources, information sources used by them except non-book materials, whereas a significant relationship was found in opinion of research scholars and faculty members' satisfaction from the library collection.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The major objectives of the present study are:

1. To know the age-wise distribution of library users.
2. To ascertain the gender-wise distribution of library users.
3. To know the time spent by library users in library.
4. To ascertain the purpose of visiting the library-by-library users.
5. To know the frequency of visit of the library made by library users.
6. To ascertain the types of materials used by the library users.
7. To ascertain whether the library users seek the assistance of library staff or not in using the library.
8. To know the status of ICT-Based library sources and services being provided by the university.

METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire method was used to study the library use pattern of the users. The questionnaires were distributed to users personally and collected back after their responses in 5-10 sittings that has facilitated in having hundred percent responses. Some questions were open-ended and some were choiced questions. The study was conducted on a sample of 150 library users consisting of faculty members and the students including research scholars to examine their library use pattern from different angles.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected on questionnaires are tabulated and interpreted for various objectives as framed for the study. Abbreviations used in the tables are: UG = undergraduate students, PG = postgraduate students, RS= research scholars and FM = faculty members.

Age Wise Distribution of Library Users

Table 1 indicates that majority of the library users are of between 20-30 years' age group representing 73.33% of the total users; which is followed by the age group of 30-40 years that is represented with 35 library users contributing to 23.33% of the total users. However, least umber of library users fall within age group of 50-60 where 02 library users could be identified who constitute 01.33% to the total sample.

If category wise users are identified, then it comes to know that maximum users are postgraduate students who constitute 74 in numbers and leads to 49.33% among the total sample. It is followed by undergraduate students who are 55 in numbers and leads to 36.66% to the total sample of 150 users. Besides, there are 08 research scholars and 13 faculty members who constitute 05.33% and 08.66% respectively to the total sample.

Table 1: Age Wise Distribution of Library Users

S. No.	Age (in years)	UG	%	PG	%	RS	%	FM	%	Library Users	Total %
1.	20-30	55	36.66	49	32.66	05	03.33	01	00.66	110	73.33
2.	30-40	-	-	25	16.66	03	02.00	07	12.80	35	23.33
3.	40-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	03	02.00	03	02.00
4.	50-60	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	01.33	02	01.33
5.	60 above	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	55	36.66	74	49.33	08	05.33	13	08.66	150	99.99=100.00

Thus, most of the library users are between 20-30 years age group and category wise are the postgraduate students. However, category wise least number is of research scholar who

constitute 05.33% with 08 in numbers among the total sample of 150 library users. This situation is clearly depicted through figure 2 also.

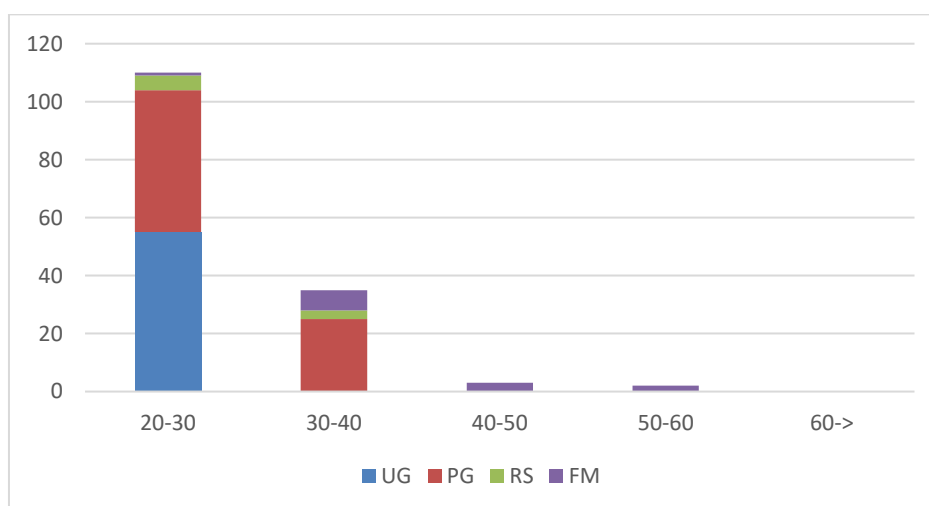


Figure 2: Age Wise Distribution of Library Users

Gender Wise Distribution of Library Users

Gender wise distribution of library users is shown in table 2 which demonstrates that in total 150 users is there who participated in the survey. Among them, out of 150, 110 are male

users and 40 are females who constitute to 73.33% and 26.66% respectively.

Table 2: Gender Wise Distribution of Library Users

S. No.	Gender	UG	%	PG	%	RS	%	FM	%	Library Users	%
1.	Male	45	30.00	50	33.33	05	03.33	10	06.66	110	73.33
2.	Female	10	06.66	24	16.00	03	02.00	03	02.00	40	26.66
	Total	55	36.66	74	49.33	08	05.33	13	08.66	150	99.99=100.00

In undergraduate category of the users, out of 55 users, males are 45 and females are 10 only leading to 30.00% and 06.66% respectively to the total sample. Likewise, 05 males and 03 females are there in research scholar category who constitute to 03.33% and 02.00% respectively. Same is the case with faculty members, where 10 are males (06.66%) and 03 are females (02.00%) in total sample. Further,

in postgraduate category of the users, males are 50 (33.33%) and female are 24 (16.00%); so, here also males are dominating over the females.

Thus, males with 73.33% are dominating over their counterpart, i.e., females who are only 26.66%. This is also very clear from figure 3.

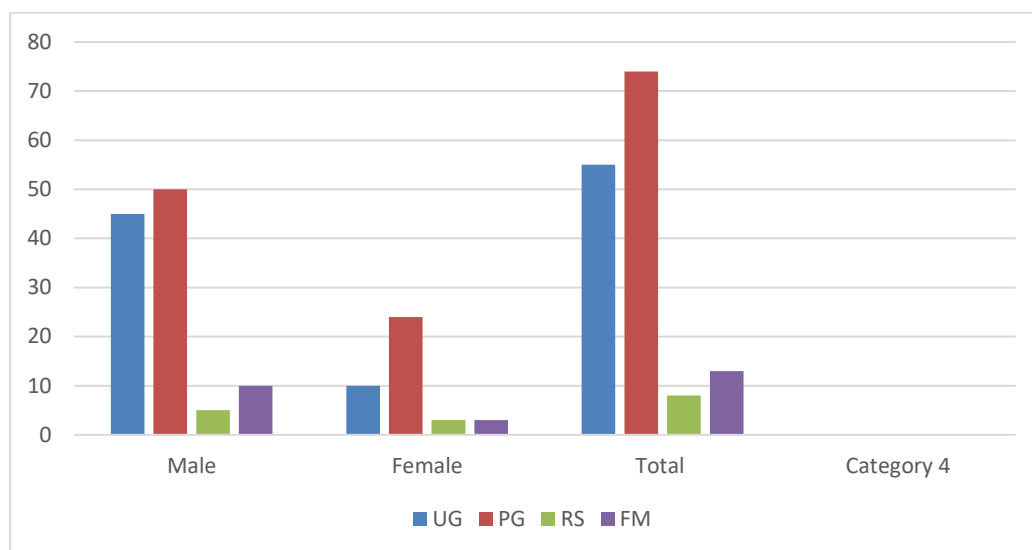


Figure 3: Gender Wise Distribution of Library Users

Time Spent by the Library Users

Table 3 indicates the time spent by library users in the library. It is that seen maximum use of the library is made by 62 users

comprising of 42 undergraduate and 20 postgraduate students who use the library 05-20 minutes per day. They constitute 28.00% and 13.33% of the total sample.

Table 3: Time Spent by the Library Users

S. No.	Time Spent in the Library per day	Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar								Total	Total %
		UG	%	PG	%	RS	%	FM	%		
1.	05-20 min	42	28.00	20	13.33	-	-	-	-	62	41.33
2.	20-40 min	13	08.66	30	22.00	-	-	08	05.33	51	34.00
3.	40-60 min	-	-	20	13.33	-	-	05	03.33	25	16.66
4.	More than one hour	-	-	04	02.66	08	05.33	-	-	12	08.00
	Total	55	36.66	74	51.32	08	05.33	13	08.66	150	99.99=100.00

However, least use is made by 12 users comprising of 04 postgraduate students and 08

research scholars who constitute to 02.66% and 05.33% to the total sample of 150 users. As far

as the faculty members are concerned, of total 13 members, 08 (05.33%) and 05 (03.33%) use the library 20-40 minutes and 40-60 minutes on average per day. It may be because they are the expert in their field and occasionally consult the library to refresh their knowledge. But research scholars are the only type of library users who sit more than 01 hour a day, which may be because of the fact that they want depth study for their research work.

If category wise users are identified, then it comes to know that 36.66% (55 in number) undergraduate students, 51.32% (74 in number) postgraduate students, 05.33% (08 in numbers) research scholars and 08.66% (13 in numbers) faculty members use the library all in all.

Purpose of Visiting the Library by Library Users

The purpose of visiting the library is shown in table 4 which indicates that in total, maximum library users visit library for borrowing documents from the library. Their number is 135 and they constitute to 90.00% of the total sample. It is further followed by the use of news papers which are read by 72 users who constitute to 48.00% use of the library. But there are 08 research scholars also who leads to 05.33% of the total use in using research materials. There are 60 library users who come to the library for consulting competitive examination material and their percentage is 40.00%. However, least use is made for recreational purpose where 03 (02.00%) users come to the library to recreate their mood.

Table 4: Purpose of Visit of the Library by Library Users (N= Multiple Answers)

S. No.	Purpose of Visiting the Library	Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar								Total	Total %
		UG	%	PG	%	RS	%	FM	%		
1.	For studying course material	-	-	34	22.66	-	-	-	-	34	22.66
2.	For borrowing documents	40	26.66	74	49.33	08	05.33	13	08.66	135	90.00
3.	For consulting research material	-	-	-	-	08	05.33	-	-	08	05.33
4.	For competitive exams	15	10.00	55	36.66	-	-	-	-	60	40.00
5.	To use reference materials	-	-	-	-	06	04.00	10	06.66	16	10.66
6.	To read newspaper/magazines	25	16.66	30	20.00	07	04.66	10	06.66	72	48.00
7.	For recreation	-	-	-	-	01	00.66	02	01.33	03	02.00

If category wise use is seen, undergraduate and postgraduate students use the library for borrowing the documents, consulting competition material and to read the newspapers and magazines. While, research scholars come to the library for borrowing books, consulting research material and use reference books along with reading newspapers. However, faculty members come to the library for taking books/documents and use reference materials and read the newspapers.

Frequency of Visiting the Library-by-Library Users

Table 5 indicates the frequency of visiting the library by the library users. It may be seen that majority of the library users visit library daily that is made by 78 users comprising of 30 undergraduates, 40 postgraduate students, 06 research scholars and 02 faculty members and they constitute to 51.59% use of the total library users. But there are also the members who visit the library "once in a week" and they are 38 in numbers who constitute to 25.32% among the total library users.

Table5: Frequency of Visiting the Library by Library Users (N= Multiple Answers)

S. No.	Visit to Library	Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar								Total	Total %
		UG	%	PG	%	RS	%	FM	%		
1.	Daily	30	20.00	40	26.66	06	04.00	02	01.33	78	51.59
2.	Once in a week	15	10.00	20	13.33	02	01.33	01	00.66	38	25.32
3.	More than once in a week	05	03.33	09	06.00	-	-	03	02.00	17	11.33
4.	Fortnightly	-	-	02	01.33	-	-	-	-	02	01.33
5.	Once in a month	-	-	03	02.00	-	-	-	-	03	02.00
6.	Occasionally	05	03.33	-	-	-	-	07	04.66	12	07.99
7.	Rarely	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	55	36.66	74	49.33	08	05.33	13	08.66	150	99.56=100.00

Besides, there are 17 users who visit the library “more than once in a week” and 12 users who visit the library “occasionally” and they constitute 11.33% and 07.99% of the total users. However, least use is made by 02 users who visit the library on “fortnightly” basis.

If category wise use is seen, it is clear that out of 55 undergraduate students, 30 (20.00%) use “daily”, followed by 10.00 % use made by 15 users as “once in a week” and by 05 users each as “more than once in a week” and “occasionally”. Among, postgraduate students, 40 students (26.66%) use the library “daily”, 20 students (13.33%) use “once in a week” and 09 (06.00%) of them use “more than once in a week”. However, least use is made by 02 students, who use the library

“fortnightly” but there are also 03 postgraduates who use the library on “fortnightly” basis. Further, 06 research scholars (04.00%) use the library “daily”, followed by 02 scholars on “once in week” basis. If we talk about the faculty members, 02 of 13 faculty members comprising of 01.33% use the library on “daily” basis, and 07 of them “occasionally”.

Types of Materials Used by Library Users

Table 6 demonstrates the type of materials used by the library users of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar. It may be seen from the table that books are the most used type of the reading material which is used by 135 library users that constitute to 90.00% of the total sample.

Table 6: Types of Materials Used by Library Users (N= Multiple Answers)

S. No.	Types of Materials Used	Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar								Total	Total %
		UG	%	PG	%	RS	%	FM	%		
1.	Books	40	26.66	74	49.33	08	05.33	13	08.66	135	90.00
2.	Periodicals/ Magazines	15	10.00	55	36.66	08	05.33	08	05.33	76	50.66
3.	Newspapers	25	16.66	30	20.00	08	05.33	10	06.66	73	48.66
4.	Press cuttings	-	-	10	06.66	05	03.33	10	06.66	25	16.66
5.	Dissertations/ Doctoral Dissertations	-	-	20	13.33	08	05.33	10	06.66	38	25.33
6.	Reports			05	03.33	08	05.33	08	05.33	21	14.00
7.	Microforms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Audio-Visuals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	CD-ROMs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Others, if any	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

It is followed by the use of periodicals and magazines which is made by 76 (50.66%) users and use of newspapers by 73 (48.66%) users. Least use is made of reports that is made by 10 users (06.66%) comprising of postgraduates, research scholars and faculty members that may be for their research work. If talk about the category wise use, out of total undergraduate students, 40 of them use books, 15 periodicals and magazines, and 25 newspapers. Out of 74 postgraduate students, all takes books from the library, followed by the use of periodicals and magazines by 55 of them and use of newspapers by 30 and that of doctoral dissertations/doctoral dissertations by 20 of them. While, out of 08 research scholars, all of them use books, periodicals and magazines, newspapers and dissertations and doctoral dissertations etc. accept that of press cuttings which is used by 05 of them

only. Further, out of 13 faculty members, all of them study books and the use of newspapers, press cuttings and consultation of dissertations/doctoral dissertations etc. is made by 10 each of them. However, 08 of faculty members also study the periodicals and magazines.

Assistance taken by Library Users from Staff

Table 7 indicates whether the library users seek assistance from library staff of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar to locate the books and other reading materials from the library or not? It is seen that majority of library users (74.66%) seek assistance from the library staff to locate books/ documents comprising of 40 (22.66%) undergraduate students, 55 (36.66%) postgraduate students, 07 (04.66%) research scholars and 10 (06.66%) faculty members.

Table 7: Assistance taken by Library Users from Staff

S. No.	Take assistance from Staff to locate Books and Other Reading Materials	Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar								Total	Total %
		UG	%	PG	%	RS	%	FM	%		
1.	Yes	40	26.66	55	36.66	07	04.66	10	06.66	112	74.66
2.	No	08	05.33	15	10.00	01	00.66	01	00.66	25	16.66
3.	No Reply	07	04.66	04	02.66	00	00.00	02	01.33	13	08.66
	Total	55	36.65	74	49.32	08	05.32	13	08.66	150	99.98=100.00

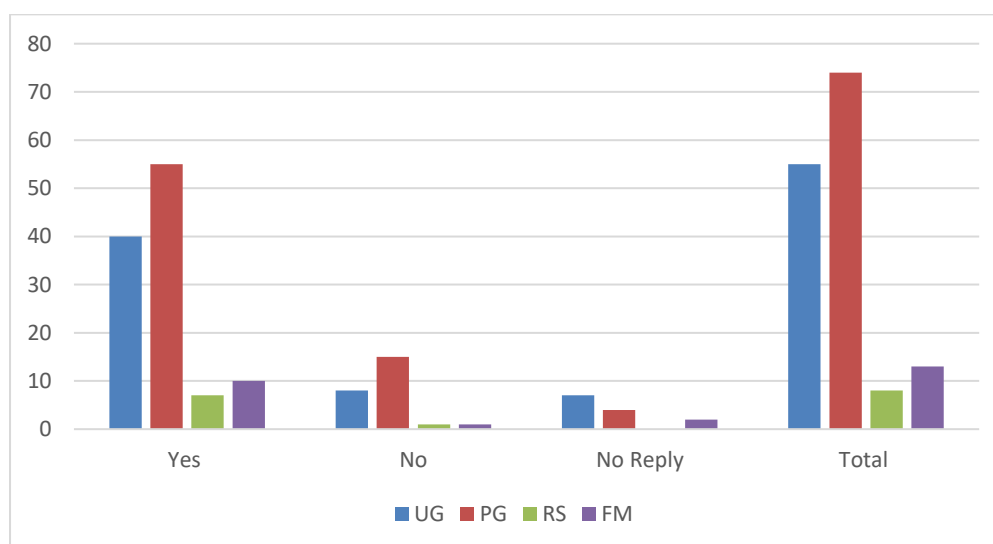


Figure 4: Assistance taken by Library Users from Staff

However, 16.66% of the users were also not found to take assistance from the library staff—either they are well versed with the library arrangements and the materials or they hesitate in asking assistance from the staff. But there are a few users who did not reply on this point and they are 13 in number that constitute only 08.66% of the total users.

Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the library users take assistance from the library staff and they are satisfied with the help rendered by them. The status of the assistance taken from library staff by the users is also shown in figure 4.

ICT-Based Library Services

There exist 05 computers in library as far as the ICT based services are concerned. These are meant for the use of library users. But library is not automated yet and manual issue-return etc. is made. No online/offline e-resources are subscribed in the library. However, account for access of National Digital Library is opened and users can access the books and other materials of interest exist over National Digital Library. Besides, the access of SWAYAM, e-PG Pathshala and other open source / free reading materials is also available.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The major findings of the study are as under:

- Majority of the library users are of between 20-30 years' age group representing 73.33% of the total users; which is followed by the age group of 30-40 years that is represented with 35 library users contributing only 23.33% to the total users. However, least number of library users fall within age group of 50-60 where 02 library users could be identified who constitute 01.33% to the total sample.
- Gender wise distribution of the users shows that out of 150, 110 are male users and 40 are female who constitute to 73.33% and 26.66% respectively.
- Maximum use of the library is made by 62 users comprising of 42 undergraduate students, and 20 postgraduate students who use the library 05-20 minutes per day. However, least use is made by 12 users comprising of 04 postgraduate students and 08 research scholars who constitute to

02.66% and 05.33% to the total sample of 150 users. Further, 36.66% (55 in numbers) undergraduate students, 51.32% (74 in numbers) postgraduate students, 05.33% research scholars (08 in numbers) and 08.66% (13 in numbers) faculty members use the library.

- Maximum library users (135 users) come to the library for borrowing documents from the library; followed by the use of news papers which is read by 72 users which constitute to 48.00% use of the library. However, least use is made for recreational purpose where 03 users come to the library to recreate their mood.
- Majority of the library users visit library daily that is made by 78 users comprising of 30 undergraduates, 40 postgraduate students, 06 research scholars and 02 faculty members and they constitute to 51.59% use of the total library users. Least use is made by the users who come to the library on fortnightly basis.
- Books are the most used type of the reading material which is used by 135 library users that constitute to 90.00% of the total sample. But least use is made of reports which are made by postgraduate students, research scholars and faculty members probably for their research work.
- 74.66% of the library users seek assistance from the library staff to locate the books / documents. But there are a few users who did not reply on this point and they are 13 in number and constitute only 08.66% of the total users.

Besides, the access of National Digital Library is being provided to the users so that they can access the materials of interest exist over National Digital Library.

DISCUSSION

It is seen that the users of the libraries of different institutes and universities are aware of the variety of information resources which are available in the market. However, the present study will help in identifying the user demands in present era as well as the status of infrastructure and utilization in the library of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar. Various undergraduates, postgraduates, research scholars and faculty members were noted in the study who consult the library for

reading books, newspapers, dissertations and research materials but male users were found to use library more as compared to the number of female users.

However, room exists for improvement: there is an urgent need of automation of the library services so that users could know the information about the collection of the library quickly and use them efficiently. It is also seen that library is not a member of any library consortia to access online e-resources. Hence, library authority should act immediately either by having membership of any consortium or by making self-arrangement to purchase e-resources which are the dire need in present era. Further, there is a shortage of library staff in the library which at least should be at par UGC recommendations / formulae and library timings are needed to be extended at least during examination timings.

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