Original Article   *Available online at www.bpasjournals.com*

Information Seeking Behaviour of Students in Two Post-Graduate Colleges of District Nasik (Maharashtra): A Survey

Avhad Sharad T.*

Author's Affiliation:
*Librarian, Arts, Commerce and Science College, Canada Corner, Nasik, Maharashtra 422002, India

Corresponding Author: Avhad Sharad T., Librarian, Arts, Commerce and Science College, Canada Corner, Nasik, Maharashtra 422002, India
E-mail: avhadsharad1@gmail.com

How to cite this article: Avhad Sharad T. (2022). Information Seeking Behaviour of Students in Two Post-Graduate Colleges of District Nasik (Maharashtra): A Survey. *Library Progress International,* 42(2), 431-438.

ABSTRACT

The study investigates the information seeking behavior of students in two Post- Graduate Colleges of District Nasik (Maharashtra). The survey covers 272 students of two colleges. The survey reveals that 162 (59.55%) PG respondents admit that library timings 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. are adequate, 131 (48.16%) spent up to 1 hour in the library, 135 (49.63%) visit the library daily, 88 (32.35%) admit quality infrastructure facilities, 124 (45.58%) seek information from their teachers, 130 (47.79%) seek information for covering their class syllabus, 224 (43.75%) use library books, 224 (82.35%) are aware about N-List Program me and OPAC/Web OPAC, 119 (43.75%) not use library resources and services due to lack of time, 118 (43.38%) are satisfied with their library resources and services, 74 (27.20%) respondents perception about library staff is very good.

KEYWORDS: *Information Seeking Behavior, Students, Colleges, Library Resources and Services.*

INTRODUCTION

Information seeking behavior is a broad term which involves a set of actions that a human being takes to express his/her information needs, seeks, evaluate and select information and at last uses that information to satisfy his / her information needs. Information seeking behavior of an individual or a group of individuals may be determined on various aspects. Therefore, desirable to understand the purpose for that information is required, the environment in which the user operate his/her skills in identifying the required information, channels and sources chosen for acquiring information, and barriers to information. (Jayaraman S, Subramanian B and Krishnaswamy N., 2011) The phrase "information behavior" is used to consist of all activities comprising information seeking, information gathering, information receiving and communication. Information seeking precedes gathering, and information gathering most of the times mean seeking. At the beginning, information gathering appears or as a physical act than seeking. However, in a broader explanation, information gathering includes and presupposes information seeking and hence is a broader concept than information seeking behavior. However, both the terms are

quite frequently used interchangeably, and information behavior includes both. (Krikelas J., 1983) Most of time student's information-seeking behavior involves active or decisive information seeking; as a result of the requirement to complete class assignments, preparation of class discussions, seminars, workshops, conferences, or write research papers. Information seeking for learning, students is focus to a set of complex influences from personal to environmental. These issues are compounded by the propagation of information and communication and technology (ICT) in academics and the emergence of digital /electronic information resources. Therefore, research in the discipline of information-seeking focus on the factors which might have an impact on the behavior of students. This factor includes information, area of interest, academics role and the impact of convenience of various types of information resources (Ganaie Shabir Ahmad and Khazer Mudasir, 2014).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Following studies related to the present study are given below:

Yadav and Singh (2016) investigated on PG student and doctoral students' information need and information seeking behaviour and explored the seeking pattern of social science, information used.

Brindesi Monopolib and Kapidakisa (2013) found that research students mostly preferred simple searching technique and avoid the use of advanced search techniques such as Boolean operators and truncations. Furthermore,

Wang et. al. (2013) indicated that a enormous number of information sources is currently existed; however the most leading are library online databases, e-publications, Google, open access journals and online institutional repositories. Further, these studies explained that realuse of information sources is dependent on researchers' ability in the use of technology and thus the popular of the researchers are facing manifold barriers in ISB.

Kumar et. al. (2013) reported that absence of access to up-to-date information, obsolete library collection, untrained library staff and inadequate ICT facilities are the foremost barriers. Further, keeping in view the ISB, library usage and technological influences,

Rasul and Singh (2010) and Khan and Khan, (2014) suggested that library should provide up-to-date collection, latest and accessible information services, research guidelines and activities, awareness about plagiarism and research-related workshops and seminars. The above literature indicated that results are contradictory on ISB and the role of the library worldwide. Hence, it is essential to undertake the present study to examine researchers' ISB and their insight into the part of the library.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Main objectives of the study are:
- To identify the information-seeking behavior of Post-graduate students of two colleges of District Nasik.
- To know the library hours and time spent by the Post-graduate students in their libraries.
- To study the purpose of visit to the library by the Post-graduate students.
- To know the Infrastructure facilities provided by their college libraries.
- To know the methods of information seeking adopted by the Post-graduate students.
- To know the resources and services of the libraries mentioned in the study.
- To examine e-resources and web resources used by the Post-graduate students.
- To know the problems while using library services faced by Post-graduate students.
- To study the satisfaction and perceptions of the Post-graduate students.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is limited to the Post-Graduate Students of two Post-Graduate Colleges District Nasik (Maharashtra) i.e.
1. KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College, Nasik, 422002.
2. Arts and Commerce College Dindori

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study intends to describe the Information seeking behavior of students of Four Post-Graduate Colleges of District Nasik (Maharashtra).Therefore the investigator has adopted survey method for data collection through a well structured questionnaire consisting questions. The investigator received 272 questionnaires from the PG students with their response out of 300 distributed questionnaires. The data is showing in Table 1.

Table 1: Data

Sr. No.	Name of the College	Questionnaires Distributed	Questionnaires received	Percentage
1	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	170	162	95.29%
2	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	130	110	84.61%
	Total	300	272	

Table 2: Adequacy of Library Hours

Sr. No.	Adequacy	Yes	Percentage	NO	Percentage
1	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	92	56.79	70	43.20
2	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	70	63.63	32	29.09
	Total	162	59.55	110	37.50

Table 2 shows that above mentioned colleges in the study, their library timings are 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and 59.55% PG respondents admits that library timings are adequate and only 37.50% respondents didn't agree with it.

Table 3: Time Spent in the Library

Sr. No.	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	Time Spent	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	82	49	1-2 hours	131	48.16
2	32	23	2-3 hours	55	20.22
3	36	21	3-4 hours	57	20.95
4	12	17	More than 4 hours	29	10.66
Total	162	110		272	

Table 3 shows that 48.16% majority of PG students spent up to spent 1-2 hours, 20.22% spent 2-3 hours, 20.95% spent 3-4 hours and respondent spent more than 4 hours in the library.

Table 4: Frequency of Visit to the Library

Frequency	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	75	60	135	49.63
Once a Week	35	25	60	22.05
Two or Three Times a Week	22	10	32	11.76
Monthly	18	8	26	9.55
Occasionally	12	7	19	6.98
Total	162	110	272	

Table 4 shows that 49.63% PG respondents visit the library daily, 22.05% visit 2 or 3 times in a week, 11.76% visit once in a week, 9.55% visit on monthly basis and 6.98% visit occasionally.

Table 5: Purpose of Visit to the Library

Purpose of Visit	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
For Study	70	44	114	49.26
Issue/Return of Books	75	63	138	50.73
For Preparation of Competitive Exams	62	42	104	38.23
For Reading Newspapers/ Magazines	72	65	137	50.36

Table 5 reveals that 50.73% PG respondents use the library for issuing and returning the library books, 49.26% use the library for study purpose, 50.36% use library for reading newspapers and magazines, 38.23% use library for preparing competitive exams.

Table 6: Infrastructural Facilities

Infrastructural Facilities	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Furniture	36	52	88	32.35
Reading Space	88	62	150	55.14
Lighting/Fans	158	70	228	83.82
Ventilation	144	96	240	88.23
Cleanliness	122	88	210	57.12
Drinking facility	78	68	146	53.67
Washroom	49	58	107	39.33

Table 6 shows that 83.82% PG respondents favors high quality infrastructure facilities are available in their library like as furniture and lighting/fans, 88.23% favors proper ventilation in their library, 55.14% admit proper reading place in the library, 57.12% for proper cleanliness, 53.67% for drinking facility and 39.33% for washroom facility.

Table 7: Methods of Information Seeking

Methods of Information Seeking	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Teachers	69	55	124	45.58
Library	65	23	88	32.35
Friends	18	22	40	14.70
Internet	10	10	20	7.35
Total	162	110	272	100.00

Table 7 reveals that 45.58% PG respondents seek information from their teachers, 32.35% from their library, and 14.70% from their friends.

Table 8: Purpose of Seeking Information

Purpose of Seeking Information	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
To Cover syllabus of the Class	88	42	130	47.79%
To increase general knowledge	44	21	65	23.89%
To keep up to date Information	30	47	77	28.30
Total	162	110	272	

Table 8 shows that 47.79% PG respondents seek information for covering their class syllabus, 23.89% seek information for increasing their general knowledge, 28.30% seek information for keep up to date their information.

Table 9: Use of Library Resources

Use of Library Resources	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Books	144	80	224	85.29
Journals/ Magazines	74	28	102	37.5
Electronic Resources	62	42	104	38.23

Table 9 reveals that 85.29% PG respondents use books in the library, 37.5% use Journals and magazines, 38.23% use e-resources provided by the library.

Table 10: Users Awareness about Library Services

Use of Library Resources	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
OPAC/Web OPAC	154	70	224	82.35%
Reference Service	74	32	106	38.97%
Inter Library Loan Service	12	10	17	6.25%
Book Alert Service	24	05	29	10.66%

Table 10 reveals that 82.35% PG respondents are aware about OPAC/Web OPAC for searching any document in the library, 38.97% aware about reference service, 10.66% aware about book alert service to know the latest books in their area of interest and 6.25% aware about inter library loan facility.

Table 11: Users Awareness about Web Based Services

Users Awareness about Web Based Services	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
N-List Programme (1,35,000 ebooks & 6000 e-journals)	112	62	174	63.97%
E-Databases	72	33	105	38.60%

Table 11 shows that 63.97% PG respondents are aware about N-List Programme and 3860% aware about e-databases.

Table 12: Problems Faced while Using Library Resources and Services

Problems Faced while Using Library Resources and Services	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Lack of latest information about resources	72	42	114	41.91%
Lack of knowledge of	62	62	124	45.58%

how to use library resources and service			
Do not know how to use OPAC/Web OPAC	75	34	109	40.07%
Lack of time	74	45	119	43.75%

Table 12 reveals that 43.75% PG respondents not use library resources and services due to lack of time, 41.91% due to lack of latest information about resources, 45.58% due to lack of knowledge of how to use library resources and services, and 40.07% don't know how to use OPAC/ Web OPAC.

Table 13: Satisfaction with Library Resources and Services

Satisfaction with Library Resources and Services	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Very satisfied	92	62	154	56.61%
Satisfied	70	48	118	43.38%
Total	162	110	272	

Table 13 reveal that 43.38% PG respondents are satisfied with their library resources and services and 56.61% are very satisfied.

Table 14: Perception about Library staff

Perception about Library staff	KVN Naik, Arts, Commerce and Science College , Nasik	Arts and Commerce College Dindori	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Excellent	74	42	116	42.64%
Very Good	42	32	74	27.20%
Fair	46	36	82	22.05%
Poor	0	0	0	0.00
Total	162	110	272	

Table 14 reveals that 27.20% PG respondent's perception about library staff is very good, 22.05% perception is fair, 42.64% perception is excellent and not single respondent perception is poor about library staff.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 162 (59.55%) respondents admit college library timings from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. are adequate.
- 131 (48.16 %) respondents spent up to 1 hour in the library.
- 135 (49.63%) respondents use their library daily.
- 114 (49.26%) respondents use library for study purpose.
- 88 (32.35%) respondents admit furniture/lighting/fans facility in their library is qualitative.
- 124 (4558 %) respondents seek information from their teachers.
- 130 (47.49%) respondents seek information for covering their class syllabus.
- 224(85.29 %) respondents use library books.

- 224 (82.35%) respondents are aware about OPAC/Web OPAC and N-List Programme.
- 189(43.75%) respondents don't use library resources and services due to lack of time.
- 118 (43.28%) respondents are satisfied with library resources and services.
- 74 (27.20%) respondents perception about library staff is very good.

SUGGESTIONS

- Respondents recommend orientation and training programs for students as well as library staff in every academic year.
- Wi-Fi connectivity with more speed required in the library.
- CCTV in library is recommended by the respondents for more vigilant.
- More computers are required in the libraries for comfortably using electronic resources in the library.

CONCLUSION

The ICT has undoubtedly influenced the information seeking behaviors of students to change the ways for access of library resources and services. It is observed that the majority of PG students sought information to cover their class syllabus, study and issue and return of the library books. Respondents used several methods to seek information, but they sought information from their teachers. The survey reveals that Use of Internet, e-mail and N List Programme is being used maximum by the respondents.

REFERENCES

1. Brindesi, H., Monopolib, M., & Kapidakisa, S. (2013). Information seeking and searching habits of Greek physicists and astronomers: A case study of undergraduate students. Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences 73, 785 – 793.

2. Ganaie Shabir Ahmad and Khazer Mudasir (2014). Changing trends in information-seeking behavior: a review, Journal of Knowledge & Communication Management, 4 (1), 13-26.

3. Jayaraman S, Subramanian B and Krishnaswamy N (2011). Information needs and information seeking behaviour of students in Karpagam University: a survey, Library Progress (International), 31(2), 181-187.

4. Khan, A., Bhatti, R., Khan, G., & Ismail, M. (2014). The role of academic libraries in facilitating undergraduate and post-graduate studies: a case study of the University of Peshawar, Pakistan. *Chinese* Librarianship: an International Electronic Journal, *38*, 36-49.

5. Krikelas J. (1983). Information seeking behavior: patterns and concepts, Library Quarterly, 19(5), 10-14.

6. Kumar, A. (2013). Assessing the information need and information seeking behaviour of research scholars of M.B.P.G. College: A Case Study. International Journal of Digital Library Services, 3, 1-37.

7. Rasul, A., & Singh, D. (2010). The role of academic libraries in facilitating postgraduate students' research. Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science, 15 (3), 75-84.

8. Wang, M. (2013). Supporting the research process through expanded library data services. Program: electronic library and information systems, *47* (3), 282-303.

9. Yadav, A. K.S & Singh, P. K. (2016) Information Needs and Information-Seeking Behavior of Post-Graduate and Doctoral Students. Library Progress (International). 36(2), 153-165.

****