

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOR OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF SIET, AURANGABAD: A STUDY

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to examine the information seeking behavior of graduate Engineering students of Sai Institute of Engineering And Technology College, under Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangbad.The study adopted a descriptive survey design and data was collected from the respondents using questionnaire. The major findings of the study are majority of the respondents prefer to use of information. 90% of the respondents opined that the seeking information to their academic needs affect to visit the library.

Keywords: *Information seeking behavior; Engineering students; User study.*

Introduction:

In the educational field the library is the widely used source of information available to literate society. Today information plays a very important role in the different way of education level and basic resources of information. Librarian must be aware of the information sources and how it can be obtained the information. Information behavior is a sub-discipline within the field of Library and information science. It includes as how the user need, seek, mange, give and use information in different manners. Information behavior has been found to be linked to a verity of interpersonal behavior asking questions to the library users. Engineering library must understand the information needs of students, faculty, and scholars in order to address those needs. This study explores the information seeking behavior of graduate engineering students of Sai Institute of engineering And Technology, Aurangabd. Today’s the education field are facing different challenges that their awareness about library resources. Information seeking behavior is expressed in various forms, from reading printed materials to research and experimentations. Those students are actively seeking current information from the various media available in library. e.g.; journals encyclopedia, books, other facilities. The sources of information available to in the library, the librarian has the duty to provide and maintain efficient services.

SIET Engineering College:

SIET Aurangabad has been set up with a vision of expansion and mobilization of facilities for offering good quality Technical education and research, Inaugurated in 2011. The institute has since developed itself into a technologically strong setup. And providing quality management education, and thereon opportunities to the youth of the country. The institutes’ offers a comprehensive four years under Graduate Program in Management (Engineering). The course has been designed to provide a holistic approach towards addressing business problems of the new millennium and beyond. The institute has embarked upon a journey towards developing sustainable Management Education framework and has identified sustainability as the core trust area. Corporate with their intentions to create wealth and bring value to its stakeholders too have evolved to take on the larger cause of doing sustainable education in SIET Aurangabad.

Review of Literature:

There have been number of studies related to graduate students information seeking and use of information resources, many of them conducted in this research to fill that gap and to add to the knowledge in the areas of information seeking behavior and information resources in higher education.

Ai-Saleh (2004); investigated graduate students information needs for electronic information resources in Saudi Arabia. An author utilized a quantitative survey and a sample of 500 graduate students in three Saudi Universities. Overall, the study indicated that the majority of electronic information resources of Saudi universities libraries were underutilized as they were not found to meet the information needs of graduate students. The majority of graduate students were reluctant to use electronic resources due to some barriers. The main barrier to student information actions was related to insufficient instructions and not enough librarians to help in using the library's electronic resources.

Kerins, Maddens, and Fulton (2004) ; investigated the information seeking from Engineering and law who planned to become professionals. They used semi-structure interviews adopting the critical incident techniques. The later studies, the authors found that postgraduate have particular information needs and require information skills education. Through conducting brief problem solving exercises, the study also found that students often did not consult librarians and academic staff when adopting information seeking strategies.

Rempel and Davidson (2008); Graduate students are required to carry out exhaustive research within their field, yet they are often inadequately supported by faculty or library instructional programmed in learning about the research process. These students are the future faculty and professionals within their disciplines.

Chu and Law; Rempel and David; Bruce (2008) ; this study have been indication of the increasing importance of this area and implies that librarians and information professionals have realized how critical it is to understand graduate students information seeking behavior, because there students are likely to be the researchers and academics of the future.

Laila (2010); has found out that the social science faculties heavily depend on books and journals for teaching. There use of informal sources is comparatively less than formal sources. Journals and books are considered as the most important for sources to meet their needs. Among the information sources, conferences, subject experts, and colleagues are given higher importance than librarians and Government officials.

Need of the Study:

Today, information technology has developed rapidly and access to information and information seeking behavior. The users of information are finding difficulty in identifying the relevant information at the right time when it is required. To provide better services, information and collection development policy it is necessary to found the information seeking activities of the library users.. These studied has been identified the information seeking behavior of graduate students of SIET college of Aurangabad.

Objectives:

The objectives of the present study are:

- To find out information needs and seeking behavior of graduate students in Sai Institute of engineering and Technology collage.
- To study the availability of information resources that affects the information seeking patterns and communication process of graduate students.
- To identify the types and information resources use directly graduate students and determine the level of their use.
- To find out the main purpose of information seeking behavior.
- To identify time spent and frequency visiting to the library for information seeking.

Methodology:

The study is based on the questionnaire survey method. The questionnaires was conducting both open and closed ended question. The Sai Institute of Engineering and Technology collage of Aurangabad are selected for this study. The total 120 questionnaires were carefully sorted, entred and analyzed using the survey method. These studies are structured questionnaire was designed to the graduate students to know the information seeking behavior.

Scope and Limitations of the Study:

The present study attempts to examine and limited to the information seeking the 120 graduate students of Sai Institute of Engineering and Technology College, Aurangabad. It includes the first to final year's students of all five branches, civil, computer, electrical, electronics and telecommunication, and mechanical engineering.

Data Collection and Data Analysis:

Data collection:

The data have been collected with the help of structured questionnaires. The 100 questionnaires were distributed to the students personally. The data gained from the responses were analyzed to understand student's information seeking behavior, information needs and the library needs have been fulfilled by the SIET collage library system and its services.

Data Analysis:

Department wise Distributions:

Table -1. Departments wise Distributions

Departments	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
FE All Common	16	6	22	5.61%
Computer Engineering	11	5	16	4.08%
Civil Engineering	70	3	73	18.62%
Electrical Telecommunication Engineering	14	4	18	4.59%
Electrical Engineering	72	9	81	20.66%
Mechanical Engineering	169	13	182	46.42%
Total Percentage =	352(89.79%)	40(10.20%)	392(100%)	99.98%

The above Table-1 shows that department wise distribution of respondents. The total respondents are 392, in which 352(89.79%) male and 40(10.20%) female. The majority of the respondents 46.42% are mechanical engineering students and followed by 4.08% are computer engineering.

Frequency of Library Visit:

Table – 2. Frequency of Library Visit

Frequency	Male	Female	Total
Daily	49(13.92%)	06(15%)	55(14.3%)
2-3 Times in a Week	84(23.86%)	14(35%)	98(25%)
Weekly	131(37.21%)	11(27.5%)	142(36.22%)
Monthly	88(25.00%)	9(22.5%)	97(24.74%)
Total =	352(100%)	40(100%)	392(100%)

Survey respondents were asked whether they visit library daily, 2-3 times in a week, weekly, and monthly. Table-2, shown the majority of respondents visit to the library weekly 14(36.22%), then 2-3 times in a week 98(25%), monthly 97(24.74%) and daily 55(14.3%). It indicates that the library is being used by the engineering students mostly weekly.

Purpose of Library visit:

Table- 3 Purpose of library visit

Purpose of library visit	Male	Female	Total
To study	68(19.31%)	10(25%)	78(19.89%)
Preparing notes/ research	46(13.06%)	2(5%)	48(12.24%)
Browsing materials	124(35.22%)	8(20%)	132(33.67%)
Reading journals & books	35(9.94%)	6(15%)	41(10.45%)
For updating knowledge	29(8.23%)	6(15%)	35(8.92%)
Newspaper clipping & new arrivals	50(14.20%)	8(20%)	58(14.79%)
Total Percentage =	352(100%)	40(100%)	392(100%)

In response of purpose of library visit Table-3 shown that that the majority of respondents to study browsing of materials 132(33.67%), in the library. And less respondents of male 29(8.23%) for updating knowledge, and in female 2(5%) preparing notes and research for visit to the library for seeking information.

SIETCL Sources & Services:

Table-4 SIET Central Library Sources & Services

SIET Central Library Sources & Services	Male	Female	Total
Borrowing Facility	12(30%)	162(46.0)	174(44.38%)
Reading Room	10(25%)	75(21.30%)	85(21.68%)
Reprography Facility	8(20%)	53(15.05%)	61(15.56%)
Reference Books & Journals	6(15%)	34(9.65%)	40(10.20%)
Other Facility (Newspaper & Novels.)	4(10%)	28(7.95%)	32(8.16%)
Total Percentage =	40(100)	352(100)	392(100)

The above Table-4 indicate that borrowing facility reading room, reprography facility, reference books and journals and other facility includes newspaper and novels etc. Such a behavior of library users are being utilized majority while borrowing facility 174(44.38) are used and other facility newspaper and novels reading 32(8.16) less utilized by students. The finding shows that there is a necessity to create awareness of use of library sources and services among the engineering students.

Time Spent In SIETCL For Seeking Information:

Table-5 Time Spent in SIET Central library For Seeking Information

Time Spent In Library For Seeking Information	Male	Female	Total
1-2 hours	215(61.07%)	22(55.00%)	237(60.45%)
2-3 hours	107(30.39%)	13(32.5%)	120(30.61%)
3-4 hours	30(8.52%)	5(12.5%)	35(8.92%)
Total Percentage =	40(100)	352(100)	392(100)

The above table-5 shows that the majority of respondents 1-2 hours 237(60.45%) are spent, 2-3 hours in the library 12.(30.61%) and 3-4 hours less as 35(8.92%) of time spent for seeking information in the library, when the students are visit to the library.

Problem Faced In SIETCL:

Table -6 Problem Faced In SIET Central Library

Problem Faced In Library	Male	Female	Total
Lack of Knowledge How to Used Library Services	23(6.53%)	10(25%)	33(8.41%)
Lack of Time	100(28.40%)	13(32.5%)	113(28.82%)
Lack of Latest Information Materials	222(63.06%)	12(30.00%)	234(59.69%)
Library Staff Not Responsive	07(1.98%)	5(12.5%)	1293.06%)
Total Percentage =	40(100)	352(100)	392(100)

The above table-6 indicates that, the problem faced in SIETCL the majority of problem are ; lack of latest information materials 234(59.69%), then lack of time 113(28.82%), lack of knowledge how to used library services 33(8.41%) and less problem faced the students in library as library staff not responsive 12(3.06%). On the basis of above finding a collection development policy and user’s awareness programmers are necessary for maximum utilization of the library services.

Findings:

The majority for the present study are:

- Majority of the respondents 46.42% are mechanical engineering students are presents.
- Majority of the respondents 36.22% are weekly frequency of visit to the library.
- Majority of the respondents 33.67% are browsing materials was the purpose of to visit library.
- Majority of the respondents 44.38% are borrowing facility SIET central library sources and services.
- Majority of the respondents 60.45% 1-2 hours time spent in the library for seeking information.
- Majority of the respondents 59.69% lack of latest information materials are problem faced in SIET central library.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that users satisfied with the present working hours of the library. Problem their information needs, engineering students prefers to use latest information sources and services. Borrowing materials and other facility plays a significant role an engineering student's information seeking behavior of the library.

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