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USE OF INFORMATION SOURCES IN GURU NANAK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, BIDAR

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Abstract:

Libraries are playing a significant role in fulfilling the information needs of all the kinds of people. As such, the academic libraries such as school libraries, college libraries and university libraries are providing information sources and services to its faculty members and students to fulfill their curriculum requirements. To assess the use of information sources in Guru Nanak College of Education, Bidar, Karnataka, present study is made. The study assessed the use of books, journals and internet based resources by 10 faculty members and 86 students. It is concluded with the remarks that there is need to increase the computer and internet facilities in the college library. Further, user education is essentially needed to use the information sources in the library.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries are described as the 'treasure houses of knowledge'. Though they have grouped under the category of storage of information, they have to play an important role in the collection and organization and dissemination of information.

There is no field of human activity wherein information is not a component. Whether it is education, research and development, agriculture, business and industry, the information has to be acquired, processed, stored, retrieved and disseminated for communication. Information is for use. It is capable of converting natural resources into artifacts and consumable products. Information generation, dissemination, transfer and communication take places between people through channels and media in a variety of contexts and in different formats. The formats may include text books, manuals, handbooks, theses, dissertations, research reports, bibliography, biography, dictionary, encyclopedia, yearbooks, almanacs, digital documents or any other such formats.

The information needs of different kinds of users are varied. In the sense, the users depending their requirements, needs the information. For instance, the students need information pertaining to their curriculum, teachers want information related to curriculum and its present developments, the business concerns needs information pertaining to finance, production, manufacturing, marketing etc of particular products, Scientists/research scholars need information pertaining to the development of information related to their pin pointed research topic, Farmers need information pertaining to the climate, soils, pests, pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, cultivation, seasons, etc.   In this way information proved to be a valuable resource in every one's life.

In assessing the user needs and library use by the users, Seetharama (1997) stated that in the design of information services/products, one of the initial steps is to determine the subject, scope of the product. For this purpose, information needs of the potential users needs to be studied. This is quite easy in the case of specialists belonging to a particular discipline or disciplines. To identify the user needs there is need for the User Needs Study through User Survey.

Today, the libraries are means to get information. Because, the library stores the information in different formats mentioned above. A library must consider the needs of its users, through the use of the existing documents, and anticipating future needs of the user while building collection of the documents in

the library. Therefore, the users of the library are playing an important role in using of the documents in the library. Hence, there is need to study the use studies of the library, so as to make future decisions pertaining to book selection, technical processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of the information. Dissemination of information involves providing exact information to the users directly in a personal way; or by guiding the users to find out themselves the information they need from various sources of information (Kumar: 2006). The sources of information includes different formats of documents, through which, information is represented. They are books, journals, magazines, newspapers, biography, dictionaries, encyclopedia, bibliography, handbooks, manuals, digital documents including CDs, internet, online and offline databases, etc. Present libraries are passing through an exciting phase of transformation under the impact of Information Technology. The machine readable databases, online retrieval, microforms amazing storage capabilities of CD-ROM discs etc., are some of the key contributions which have had their impact on library services. This gives new ways to store information in form of magnetic storage, microforms, video discs (Sharma, 1997). Further, internet is also a powerful information source of the twenty-first century, where one can find any required information. To assess the use of information sources in Guru Nanak College of Education by students and faculty members, the present study is made.

OBJECTIVES:

The following are aims and objectives for the present study:

1.To study the frequency of visit of the users to the library.
2.To know the use of Books, Journals, Project reports etc in the library.
3.To study whether the users are aware about the Computers and internet use to get the information.
4.To know the opinions of the library users about providing improved services and development of the library.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY:

Guru Nanak College of Education, Bidar was established in the year 2004 and affiliated to Gulbarga University, Gulbarga (Karnataka) since its establishment, the college is providing quality education to the students for fulfilling their aspirations and dreams in life. Guru Nanak College of Education, Bidar is housed in multi-storied new building near Nehru Stadium, Bidar with an annual intake of 100 students. The Laboratory, Library and other facilities are the best available in the city. The teaching faculty enjoys the reputation of being the most committed, dedicated and experienced teachers. Students counseling is an integral part of the college administration for taking care of weak and negligent students. The scheme of tests and assignments followed in the institution keep the students busy with their studies throughout the year.

The study adopted survey method for the collection of primary data. Questionnaire is by far the most important instrument used for the data collection. The questionnaires were addressed to the Faculty Members (Teaching Staff) working in and the students of B.Ed course studying in Guru Nanak College of Education, Bidar. Totally 10 Faculty members and 86 students were surveyed to collect the primary data.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

The collected data is analyzed and discussed as under.

1. Frequency of Visit to the Library:

Frequency of visit to the library decides about the usability of the documents in the library. It also will provide information about the nature of the users, needs of the users, documents referred by the users, etc. The following table provides the information regarding frequency of visit of the users to the library.

Table No. 1. Frequency of Visit to the Library

Sl. No.	Users	Daily		Twice in a Week		Weekly		Once in a Month		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	4	40	2	20	4	40	--	--	10	100
2	Students	23	26.74	25	29.07	38	44.19	--	--	86	100
	Total	27	28.13	27	28.13	42	43.74	--	--	96	100

The above table disclosed that about 27 (28.13%) users visit the library daily, followed by 27 (28.13%) users visit the library twice in a week and the remaining 42 (43.74%) users visit the library weekly.

2. USE OF THE JOURNALS IN THE LIBRARY:

As already discussed, the periodicals and journals play an important role in providing primary information for the users. Following is the response as expressed by the users of the Guru Nanak College of Education regarding the use of the periodicals:

Table No.2. Use of Journals in the library

Sl. No	Users	Indian Journals		Foreign Journals		Both		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	2	20	--	--	8	80	10	100
2	Students	28	32.56	19	22.09	39	45.35	86	100
	Total	30	31.25	19	19.79	47	48.96	96	100

From the above table, it is clear that about 30 (31.25%) users read the Indian journals, about 19 (19.79%) users read only foreign journals and the remaining 47 (48.96%) use all the kinds of the journals.

3. APPROACH TO USE THE JOURNALS:

There are different kinds of approaches through the journals may be read and referred. They are searching journals through their contents page, through subject keywords or class numbers, through index, and such other way. The following table provided information about the approaches of the usage of journals by the users.

Table No. 3. Approach to the use of Journals

Sl. No.	Users	Searching Contents		Searching Subject-wise		Searching Index		Any other approach		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	6	60	--	--	4	40	--	--	10	100
2	Students	58	67.44	--	--	26	30.23	2	2.33	86	100
	Total	64	66.67	--	--	30	31.25	2	2.08	96	100

It is noted that majority of the users of the library, that is about 64 (66.67%) users are searching the journals through the contents page, about 30 (31.25%) users are searching through index and the remaining 2 (2.08%) users are searching the journals through other kinds of approach.

4. USE OF TEXTBOOKS IN THE LIBRARY:

It is noted that the information needs of the students and teachers are usually are limited to the curriculum of the course. In this regard, to a larger extent the textbooks will satisfy the information needs of the students and teachers. Hence, the use of textbooks is essential for every faculty member and student in the library. The following table revealed the use of the text books by the users of the Guru Nanak College of Education, Bidar.

Table No. 4. Use of Text books

Sl. No.	Users	Indian Books		Foreign Books		Both		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	2	20	1	10	7	70	10	100
2	Students	51	59.30	5	5.81	30	34.88	86	100
	Total	53	55.21	6	6.25	37	38.54	96	100

It is noted that the all the users use the textbooks. Of all the users (96) covered under the study, 53 (55.21%) users use Indian books followed by, only 6 (6.25%) users use only foreign books and the remaining 37 (38.54%) users use both foreign and Indian books.

5. APPROACH TO USE THE TEXTBOOKS:

There is necessity to know the techniques of use of the textbooks. The users may use the contents page, or index for searching of information in a textbook. It is necessary to know the different approaches through which the textbooks are used in the library. The following table disclosed the same.

Table No. 5. Approach to use the Text Books

Sl. No.	Users	Contents Page		Subject		Index		Any Others		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	5	50	4	40	1	10	--	--	10	100
2	Students	30	34.88	26	30.24	30	34.88	--	--	86	100
	Total	35	36.46	30	31.25	31	32.29	--	--	96	100

About 35 (36.46%) users covered under the study have responded that they search textbooks through searching of contents page, 30 (31.25%) users search textbooks through the searching of subject, keywords and class numbers and the remaining 31 (32.29%) users responded that they search textbooks by

searching index of the book.

6. USE OF INTERNET IN THE LIBRARY:

A network can be defined as the interconnection of two or more systems. Computer systems connected in a network can exchange information between themselves and share the use of hardware devices connected such as the printer, scanner etc. Internet is a collection of different networks connected together or a collection of hosts connected together by a subnet. The internet is a very large network that is available world-wide. The internet is the largest network in the world, which provides World Wide Web (WWW) Service to the users. The internet often referred as Net is a general purpose, international communication and information system.

The internet is a present day primary information source as it consists of many utilities such as Search Engines, Electronic mail, Discussion groups, Forums, newsletters, e-books, e-journals, professional blogs, etc. The following table disclosed the use of internet by the different users in Guru Nanak College of Education, Bidar:

Table No. 6. Use of Internet in the library

Sl. No.	Users	Use the Internet		Do not use the Internet		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	7	70	3	30	10	100
2	Students	58	67.44	28	32.56	86	100
	Total	65	67.71	31	32.29	96	100

The above table made it clear that about 65 (67.71%) users covered under the study uses the internet regularly and the remaining 31 (32.29%) users do not use the internet.

7. INTERNET IS USEFUL INFORMATION SOURCE:

As already discussed the internet is network containing millions of electronic books, electronic journals, search engines, newsletters, news forums, discussion groups, etc. Hence it is agreed that the internet is a useful primary information source. The following table shows the expressions and opinions of the users of the Guru Nanak College of Education, Bidar.

Table No. 7. Internet is useful information source

Sl. No.	Users	Internet is useful Information Source		Internet is not Information Source		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	6	85.71	1	14.29	7	100
2	Students	48	82.76	10	17.24	58	100
	Total	54	83.08	11	16.92	65	100

Among the total 65 (100%) users of the internet in the Guru Nanak College of Education, Bidar, about 54 (83.08%) users stated that the internet is a useful information source and the remaining 11 (16.92%) users do not agree that the internet is an information source.

8. KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF INTERNET UTILITIES:

There are different uses and utilities of internet such as Electronic mail, Discussion Forums, Search Engines, Groups, e-books, e-journals, e-proceedings, newsletters, mailing list providers, commercial websites, web logs, etc. Of which, a question was asked whether the users use all of these utilities. The response of the library users is stated as under:

Table No. 8. Knowledge and Use of Internet Utilities

Sl. No.	Users	E-Mail		Search Engines		Forums		Information Source		Web logs/ Commercial Web sites		Others		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	3	42.86	4	57.14	--	--	6	85.71	--	--	2	28.57	7	100
2	Students	7	12.07	42	72.41	--	--	48	82.76	--	--	--	--	58	100
	Total	10	15.38	46	70.77	--	--	54	83.08	--	--	2	3.08	65	100

Of all the 65 (100%) users of the internet, only 10 (15.38%) users use the electronic mail, 46 (70.77%) of the users use the search engines, about 54 (83.08%) users use the e-books, e-journals, newsletters that are regarded as information sources and the remaining 2 (3.08%) users use other kinds of utilities in the web. It is surprising to note that no user is aware about professional groups, discussion forums, web logs and commercial web sites.

9. APPROACH TO USE THE INTERNET:

Internet is a latest technology and it needs to be learned from others. The others may include the teachers, library staff, outside computer training educational institutions, self and such other way. The following table showed the responses of the users of the library regarding the approaches to use the internet.

Table No. 9. Approach to use Internet

Sl. No.	Users	Library Staff Guidance		Teachers' Guidance		Self		Others		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	5	71.42			2	28.58	--	--	7	100
2	Students	35	60.34	8	13.79	15	25.86	--	--	58	100
	Total	40	61.54	8	12.31	17	26.15	--	--	65	100

The above table depicted that about 40 (61.54%) users learned to use the internet by the guidance of library professionals, about 8 (12.31%) users know to use the internet by their teachers and remaining 17 (26.15%) users learned to use the internet on their own.

10. REASONS FOR NON-USE OF INTERNET:

The collected data revealed that about 31 users covered under the study have responded that they do not use the internet. Hence it is necessary to know about the reasons for non-use of internet by the users. The following table has shown the collected data regarding the reasons for non-use of internet.

Table No. 10. Reasons for non-use of Internet

Sl. No.	Users	No Knowledge		Shortage of Time		Not available		Others		Total	
		No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
1	Faculty Members	1	33.33	--	--	2	66.67	--	--	3	100
2	Students	12	42.86	--	--	16	57.14	--	--	28	100
	Total	13	41.94	--	--	18	58.06	--	--	31	100

From the above table, it is noted that about 13 (41.94%) of the users who does not use internet responded that they do not have knowledge about the internet and the remaining 18 (58.06%) users have responded that internet is not available to them.

CONCLUSION:

User Education is also a needed area to utilize the sources of information properly in the library. Library users need to be acquainted with the organization and operation of the library in order to be able to use it well and meaningfully. The user education consists of the library use considering library rules, services, layout of the library, the arrangement of different documents, using of classification and cataloguing techniques, obtaining information from the internet, utilities of the internet, different sources of information and their proper use, etc.

It is also noted that due to the invention and application of the internet in the library, its use is enhanced. Unfortunately, a few of the users of the College of Education library, do not know about the same. Further, many of the users do not know the different utilities such as Electronic Mail, Discussion Forums, Professional Groups, e-books, e-journals, mailing list providers, listservs, etc. For this purpose, the library professionals and faculty members must have to conduct a short-term training program on the use of computers and internet. As a few users suggested, there is need to increase the number of computer systems in the library and upgrade the internet connectivity.

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