

Review Article

Students' Use of Information Resources and Services in Arts and Commerce College Libraries

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A B S T R A C T

The current study looks into the use of information resources and services by students and teachers at Arts and Commerce College libraries in Sabarkantha District. A total of 180 (6 x 30) questionnaires were issued to students, and a total of 150 (6 x 25) completed questionnaires were returned, yielding an overall response rate of 83.33%. In order to determine the frequency of visits to the library, it was discovered that the majority of customers used text books and came to the library to borrow books. Towards the use of library resources and the role of the library in promoting the use of information resources. The study's findings and recommendations would be useful in taking suitable actions to increase information resource and service user utilisation of the library efficiently and effectively.

Keywords: Arts, Commerce, Information, Student, Library

Introduction

A library is a repository of knowledge. Academic libraries play an important role in offering excellent services to their users through student teachers and faculty, for example. Students use well-equipped libraries in their teaching and learning processes. The availability of a high-quality library has a beneficial impact on student enrollment (Niaz and Mace-(2006) Edwerd and Fisher (2002) claimed a successful educational system. It is entirely dependent on the availability and use of information sources and services. Academic libraries, in this regard, provide knowledge and information resources for teaching, learning, and process. Academic libraries provide timely support and encouragement for the use of new forms of teaching and learning exercises, both printed and electronic. Lectures take note of student assignments, research activity, and access to e-journals, e-books, and subscriptions. To online journals by Arts and Commerce students, it is worthwhile to explore and identify the current library resources in light of the students' requirements of those colleges for Arts and Commerce programmers. The study will identify

accessible materials and assess whether they are being used by Arts and Commerce students.

Objectives of the Study

- To investigate the availability of existing library materials.
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- To highlight the difficulties that students have in accessing the library.
- Determine student patterns in library utilisation.
- To examine the sources of learning about information resources and to express opinions about library series and facilities.
- To offer methods and means for making the best use of the library's existing information resources.^{1,2}

Need for the Study

The study focuses on various aspects of libraries, particularly information resources, such as services in college libraries, collection infrastructure facilities, user satisfaction, and difficulties in accessing and utilising information resources.

This study required not only identifying the gaps, but also finding solutions to improve the quality of library resources and series in arts and commerce college in Sabarkantha district.

As a result, there is a need to know how arts and commerce college libraries provide information sources and services to meet the needs of their users, as well as what sort of resources and services the staff and students depend on their library and information centre. The findings of this study are intended to be valuable for these libraries in reorienting their resources, services, and facilities to meet the information needs of their users.

Methodology

This poll was conducted using questionnaires delivered to students from six arts and commerce colleges in the Sabarkantha district. A total of 180 questionnaires were issued to collect data, with 150 of them deemed suitable for analysis. Questionnaires were delivered at random to users. The information gathered was analysed and provided in tabular form.

Scope and Limitations

The scope of the study is limited to the use of information resources and services by students at six arts and commerce college libraries in Karnataka's Sabarkantha district. Furthermore, students from arts and commerce colleges are included in the poll, but teaching and non-teaching staff from college libraries are not.

Data Analysis & Interpretation

Frequency of visit to Library

This is one of 150 responses. Every day, 85 people (56.67%) go to the library.

There are 33(22.00%) pupils who visit the library twice a week and 25(16.67%) students who do not. Furthermore, 7 (4.67%) of respondents use the library on a regular basis.

Purpose of Visit to the Library

It is shown that 122 (81.33%) pupils visit the library to borrow books and read materials. There are 107 (71.33%) people who go to the library to read newspapers. The library is visited by 108 (72%) students to consult reference sources. 88 students (58.67%) visit to consult about competitive examinations. 76 students (50.67%) come to consult prior papers. 70 pupils (46.67%) come to see what's new in the library. 67 students (44.67%) are looking for work information. 44 (29.33%) go to get Xerox copy materials and go to use the internet. As a result, the majority of students visit the library to borrow books and read subject materials.^{3,4}

User Opinion about location of Library Building

Show that 100(66.67%) students believe the location of the library building is handy, while 15(10.00) users believe the location is manageable and 35(23.33%) students believe the site is not convenient.

Average Time on Using the Library

Half of the students (74.33%) spend 6 to 10 hours per week at the library, while the other half (38.33%) spend 5 or less hours. A few students, 27 (18.00%), spend more than 20 hours per week at the library.

User opinion about Adequacy of Information Resources in the Library

The results suggest that 125 (83.33%) of the 150 users thought the information resources in their library were adequate, whereas 25 (16.67%) thought they were inadequate.

User Preferences over Print v/s Electronic Resource

In Sabarkantha district arts and commerce college, 100 (66.67%) of 150 respondents said they use printed information resources, while 10 (6.67%) said they use electric resources. Only one institution has implemented e- resources in the library. The remaining 40 (26.93%) users stated that they use print and electronic materials in the library for their studies.

College wise Role of Library in promoting the use of information responses

Show that 105 pupils (70%) utilise a newspaper, while 81 students (54%) do not. Journals and 55 out of 150 (36.67%) responders used student and teacher contributed content.

Users of Reference Sources by Student

Shows that 114 students out of 150 (76%) use dictionaries, with 28 of them attending an arts and commerce institution. Twenty students came from Hosmat, 19 from TMA, 18 from RTE, 16 from Hirekerur, and 13 from Motebennur Arts and Commerce College. They account for 82.35%, 80%, 73.08%, 72%, 72.73%, and 72.22%, respectively.

Out of the total 150 users who stated that they use HB and manual, 97 (64.67%) are arts and commerce (15 from Hosmat, 17 from TMEA, 14 from RTE, 12 from S B Mahila, and 10 from S S Maheta Arts and Commerce). They are 85.29%, 60%, 65.38%, 56%, 54.55%, and 55.56%.

Out of 66(44.00%) users respectively out of the total 150 users who opined that they make use of Biographical sources. 20 users are SKCE college 9 from Khedbrahma and Poshina college 11 from TMAE 10 from RTE 7 from S S

Maheta Arts and Commerce college they represent 58.82%, 36% 42.31%, 40%, 40.91% & 38.89% respectively Out of 59(39.33%) users out of the total 150 users who opined that they make use of newspaper clipping sources 22 users are SKCE College 10 from Vadali, 11 from TMAE, 9 from RTE, 5 from Ider & 2 from S S Maheta Arts and Commerce College. They represent 64.71%,40%,42.31%,36%,22.73% and 11.11% respectively.⁵

College wise opinions about facing difficult in locating information process

It is demonstrated that out of 84 (56.00%) customers who stated that they face discovering information resources in their repetitious libraries 8 come from Skce Hangal, 14 from Khedbrahma and Vadali, 18 from TMAE, and 15 from S S Maheta college library. They account for 23.53%, 56.00%, 69.23%, 60.00%, 63.64%, and 83.33% of the 66(44.00%) people who have no problem finding information sources. Users of Arts and Commerce colleges, in particular, have no difficulty using the system. 26 users out of 34 (76.47%), 11 (44.00%) to Ider, 8 (30.77%) to each TMAE and Vadali College, 10 (40.00%) to RTE, and 3 (16.67%) to S S Maheta Arts and Commerce College.

College wise opinions about reasons for difficulty in Locating References

Shows that 61 (40.67%) of 150 motion users experienced difficulty in obtaining information resources due to misplacement of their books. There are two users from, sixteen from TMAE and RTE, ten from Ider, and nine from Himatnagar College Libraries. They are 53 (35.33%) of 150 customers who have mentioned difficulty due to poor self-organization and scattered books in their library. 0% from SKCE, 11 from Vadali, 13 from TMAE, 10 from RTE and Himatnagar, and 9 from Ider College Libraries. The increased height of the racks causes trouble for 44 (29.33%) of the 150 users. The issue of small path between racks affects 23 (15.33%) of 150 users. 16 (10367%) of 150 users are affected. Those users are having problems since the books are locked. Users are having difficulty due to a lack of support from workers (13.67%) and a lack of light and evaluation in the stock room (12.0%).

Source of Learning about information resources

88 (58.67%) of 150 users stated that they seek help from teachers while learning about various information sources. SKCE has 24 users. 12 from the BCE Library, 14 from the TMAE Library, 13 from the RTES Library, and 15 from the TJCE and BRCE Libraries. There are 79 under each representing 52.67% who learned about information resources themselves with the help of their friends at the library. There are also 72 (48.00%) users who learned information about self-teaching by visiting libraries and 71 (47.33%) users who are mentored by other students. There

are 62 (41.33%) users who were directed by a librarian, 40 (26.67%) users who were guided by other personnel, and 37 (24.67) users who learned information from the internet/institution websites.⁶

Opinion about Library Services and Facilities

Shows that all 150 (100%) respondents were extremely satisfied with the issue and return of books service in their libraries, with 131 (89.33%) users delighted with the lighting and ventilation in their libraries. 132 users (88.00%) are pleased with their biometric facility. The toilet facility is satisfactory to 122 (81.33%) of users. 121 (80.67%) people were satisfied with the reading room facility. 117 (78.00%) people are pleased with the reference service option. 113 (75.33%) people are pleased with the library furniture facility. Among users, 111 (74.00%) are pleased with the organisation of library resources. 135 (90.00%) respondents are dissatisfied with the Xerox & photocopy service, and 150 (100.00%) users are dissatisfied with the library category / OPAC service. The internet to library is satisfactory to 96 (64.00%) of users.

User Opinion about seeking Assistance from Library Staff

shows that 117 (78.00%) of 150 users sought assistance from library workers in locating the needed information resources. There are 33 (22.00%) of all respondents who do not seek assistance from library staff.

Extent of User Satisfaction about Library Staff

Shows that 27(18%) of respondents were extremely satisfied with the library staff, whereas 64(42.67%) of user respondents were somewhat satisfied. Only 2(1.33%) customers are dissatisfied, while 33(22.00) are slightly satisfied.⁷

Findings of the Study

1. Of the respondents, 85 (56.67) utilise the library on a daily basis.
2. 115 of the 150 respondents wished that the working hours of the receptive libraries were more convenient.
3. Out of 150 respondents, 100 (66.67%) believe the library building's location is handy.
4. 6-10 hours per week There are 74(49.33%) students that spend 6 to 10 hours each week in the library. 38 pupils (25.33%) spend 5 or fewer hours at the library.
5. Of the 150 respondents, 125 (83.33%) believe that their library's information resources are adequate.
6. Out of 150 respondents, 101 (67.33%) said they only use printed information resources.
7. A total of 122 (81.33%) students visit the library to borrow books and read materials in their studies.
8. Among 34 users of arts and commerce college, 34 users representing 100% regarded books as a sufficient

source of information, and 19 users responded that they utilise seminars and assigned works.

9. 97 out of 150 individuals, or 64.67%, said they use dictionaries.
10. Out of 114(150) users, 76% indicated that they use handbooks and manuals.
11. They use biographical sources, according to 66 users.
12. 73 (48.67%) individuals stated that they had trouble locating information resources in their particular libraries.
13. Out of 8(34) users, 13 said it was easier to find information resources in arts and commerce colleges' libraries.
14. 47 out of 150 users (31.33%) have trouble locating information resources due to book misplacement.
15. 88 out of 150 users, or 58.67%, express that they take guidance from teachers, while 41.33% of 62 users believe that they take guidance from librarians in learning about various information sources to library.
16. 150 (100%) of respondents were extremely happy with their libraries' issue and return book services.
17. 150 out of 117 customers (78%) have stated that they seek assistance from library workers in accessing the necessary information resources.
18. There were 27 (18%) highly satisfied respondents and 63 (42%), moderately satisfied respondents with the library staff.
19. Totally arts and commerce Library, Sabarkantha users are satisfied with the use of information resources and services, ICT based, and good service Library.

Recommendations

The arts and commerce college library's e-resources facility should be enhanced to allow users easier access.

The majority of respondents believe that the library should have more staff members and Xerox machines.

The administrations of arts and commerce colleges should offer user training and orientation programmes to help students make better use of accessible ICT, e-resources, e-books, e-journals, and e-databases, and they should be encouraged to participate in these activities.

Karnataka's arts and commerce institutions must reform their courses to focus more on ICT and change their library atmosphere.⁸⁻¹⁰

Conclusion

Teachers training (Arts and Commerce) college libraries must play a prominent role in the development of teacher youth in education in today's society by providing information related to literacy programmes and more user studies at regular intervals in their college. They must also strengthen their library facilities, e-recourses, and services to assist learners and the educational process. Cognitive

abilities are promoted through the provision of new services by libraries to students, instructors, and faculty, who will benefit the most.

Users' library visits are impacted to some extent by ICT and the availability of all e-resources. However, users visit their library to refer books, journals, and connect with library workers via e-mails, asking for help and making ideas as needed. There are more challenges for library professionals for exciting new initiatives to be discovered unfamiliar places about more opportunities are also coming up due to ICT, The library should organise seminars, workshops, and orientation programmes for users at regular intervals of time to keep them up to date with the latest resources, services, and technologies.

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