

Information Seeking Behaviour of Post Graduate Science Students

Dr. Sharad Avhad

KVNN, Arts, Commerce and Science College, Nashik, Maharashtra, India

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to reveal the information seeking behaviour of post graduate students. A well framed questionnaire was used to gather the data related to the objective. The finding revealed that the majority of the students use the information resource for study and research purposes. The study recommended, orientation programmes for P G students to make awareness of e- resource and better utilisation of the library services.

KEYWORDS: Information, Seeking, Behavior, Post Graduate Students

How to cite this paper: Dr. Sharad Avhad "Information Seeking Behaviour of Post Graduate Science Students" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-7 | Issue-6, December 2023, pp.291-295, URL: www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd60141.pdf



Copyright © 2023 by author (s) and International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development Journal. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)



- 1. Introduction:** - The Information Seeking Behaviour (ISB) mainly depends upon the attitudes skill and knowledge (ASK) of individual and resources and technologies available around. It also difference from person to person, time to time, as well as place to place and type of information. Hence, it is essential to know the ISB of the users of information. The Present study is an attempt to search out the information seeking behaviour of students at KVNN Naik ACS College Nashik.
- 2. Need of the Study:-**The role of information is very vital in every activities of student's life. Human beings necessary needs information for implementing any plan or project. Recognition of the behaviour of science post graduate students seeking information and their needs about information is a not easy task because students do not pay full concentration towards available resource. This study is necessary to find out how students seek the information, which channels of information they use while searching information, what type of library information sources and services they use.
- 3. Objective of the Study:-**The main objectives of the study are:-
 - To study the information seeking behaviour post graduate students
 - To study the barriers in seeking information
 - To study the utility of Electronic Resources available in library.
 - To study the behaviour of library staff with post graduate students.
 - To suggest strategies that improves post graduate students information Seeking Behaviour.
- 4. Research Question:-**The following questions have been formulated for the purpose of the research.
 - What is the need for information of the students?
 - What are the sources of information students are familiar with?
 - What are the problems faced by students while seeking information?
- 5. Study Area:-**Information Seeking Behaviour of Science faculty Post Graduate students in KVNN Naik Arts, Commerce and Science College affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University from Nashik .There are about 140 science faculty postgraduate students in various departments (Chemistry, Zoology and Physics).

6. **KVNN Naik Arts, Commerce and Science College**-KVNN Naik ACS College established in 1998 have 20 under graduate and 7 Post graduate departments. (3 Science post graduate departments). The college outreaches to the widest range of rural as well as urban youth. Significant number of its students is rural, remotely inhabited and first generation learners.
7. **Literature Review**- The present era is 'information era'. Science has special value in present society, so as to the students. All-round development of any nation is depends upon the development of science and technology of the nation. Information seeking is a essential activity refers to the way individuals search for and make use of information to fulfil their information needs and requirements. It describes "how users search, get and use information in different contexts (Esew, Makarft, Goshie, and Jimada, 2014).

The study of information seeking behaviour can be traced back to the late 1940s. Since that time a large number of studies have been carried out particularly in the developing countries on the various aspects of information seeking behaviour, in the fields of Social Sciences, Humanities and Science and Technology. Saikia and Gohain, 2013 revealed that students and research scholars are highly satisfied with the collection and use these online journals both for academic and research purpose.

8. **Methodology**- The study was conducted through questionnaire based survey method. The questionnaire was personally distributed to the students, from the Department of Physics, Chemistry and zoology at KVNN Naik College. The questionnaires were distributed 70 students out of which 60 filled in questionnaires were returned by the students with the response rate of 85.71%.

Following Methods were adopted in selecting the sample for conducting this study.

- Research Design:** Descriptive research
- Sampling Method:** Convenience sampling
- Geographical Area:** Nashik (One College) KVNN Naik Arts, Commerce and Science College
- Sampling Frame:** PG students (Physics, Chemistry, Zoology)
- Sampling Period:** Academic Year 2018-19
- Sample Size:** 60
- Data collection Methods:** Bothe primary and secondary data
- Instrument Need in Collecting Data:** Structured Questionnaire
- Statistical tools:** Percentage analysis paragraphs and diagram

9. Data analysis and Interpretation

The information given by Post Graduation students is systematically analysed and presented in successive paragraphs and diagram.

A: Administrative information –

10.A;1 Table 1: Year wise Distribution of respondents-As pointed out in table No.1 the questionnaires are filled up by 38 (63.33%) students from first year and 22 (36.66%) students from second year. First years students face many problems while seeking information.

Sr. No.	First Year Respondents	Second Year Respondents
1	38 (63.33%)	22 (36.66%)

B: Library-

Information seeking methods

10.B:01. Purpose of Seeking Library Information-The preferred number of respondents 21 (35.00%) of respondents use to write an assignment/ research papers, 37 respondents seeking information to exam preparation, 34 (55.83%) of respondents stated to solve immediate practical problems, 31 (51.66%) stated that they seeking the information to updating knowledge, 22 (36.66%) keep up to date for their Career development, 09 (15%) respondents seeking information to general study. Least 09 students seek information for general study.

10. B: 02 Type of sources respondent's read-

Sr. No.	Sources Read	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Printed Reference sources	30	50%
2	Journal	10	16.66%
3	News paper	20	33.34%
4	E-Books	12	20%
5	E-Journal	16	26.66%
6	Both Print and Electronic	38	63.33%

Table no **10. B: 02** shows that 30 (50%) P.G. Science students use printed reference sources. 10 (16.66%) students use magazines and 20 (33.34%) students use newspaper, 12 (20%) use E books, 16 (26.66%) students used e- Journal, 38 (63.33%) use both print and electronic material in library. In students searching behaviour the printed sources is more used than e-resources. In information communication, Selection, Coordination, and search the electronic sources swiftly useful; for understanding this library orientation programme should be more developed.

10. B: 03. You aware through library orientation program about the rules, facilities and services of the library.

Sr. No.	You aware through library orientation program about the rules, facilities and services of the library.	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	45	75%
2	No	15	25%

45 (75%) students get the information of library, by library orientation programme. Because of that 25 % students become aware library services and facilities. So it is not only beneficial to keep updated and standard reading sources but also provides the sources towards the readers. Only then the students will become aware about the rules, regulations and facilities.

10. B: 4. Revised edition list of reference to important quality authors and publishers are available in the library-

Sr. No.	Revised edition list of reference to important quality authors and publishers are available in the library	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	28	46.66%
2	No	32	53.33%

10. B: 4. - 28(46.66%) students experience that, the library resource material is being updated by purchasing new books. Whereas 32 (53.33%) students experience that the library resource material is not being updated by purchasing new books. The success of the library is depended on the qualitative and updated resource material, best writers and editions of the books. This is the reason that the new resource material should be purchased.

10. B: 05. Barriers you face for seeking information-Table shows that irregular power supply is a major challenge faced by 24(40%) parentage respondents. 70% of respondents get is insufficient library liming while seeking for information.24 students says incomplete resources in library. 30 (50%) students says some information sources are old.

Sr. No.	Barriers you face for seeking information	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Irregular power supply	24	40%
2	Insufficient library Timing	42	70%
3	Incomplete resources	24	40%
4	Some Information sources are old	30	50%
5	Friends are unwilling to help	28	46.66%

C: Electronic Resources:

10. C: 01. Use of OPAC for finding books- Table **10. C: 01.** 1 indicated that the majority of almost 24(39.16%) percent of users are not using the OPAC to find books of other materials which are available in the library whereas the remaining 36(60.00%) of users are using the OPAC catalogue effectively to know about the books what they need for their research. Most of the students should use OPAC. Few that students should teach how to search books. The confidence should be developed for the OPAC.

Table 10. C: 01. Use of OPAC for finding books

Sr. No.	Use of OPAC	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	36	60.00%
2	No	24	39.16%
	Total	60	100%

10. C: 02. Type of e-resources PG students read-

Table no 10. C: 02. : Shows that 30 (50%) P.G. Science students use reference books. 10 (16.66%) students use magazines and 20 (33.34%) students use newspaper, 12 (20%) use E books, 16 (26.66%) use, e- Journal, 38 (63.33%) use both print and electronic material in library. In students searching behaviour the printed sources is ore used than sources. In information communication, Selection, Coordination, and search the electronic sources swiftly useful; for understanding this library orientation programme should be more developed.

10. C: 03. Uses of N-List database in Library-12(20%) students search for information from the N-list through e-books, while 16 (26.66%) students search for information from N-list through Journal, and 33.33 (%) students use data base and other information tools. Students should download most of the resources from N-List. The technical session's mare conducted for searching more information student's key words search, focus formulation, selection, and information presentation.

D. Staff cooperation-**10. D: 01. Which is the Students Opinion on Behaviour of Library Staff?**

Sr. No.	Which is the Students Opinion on Behaviour of Library Staff	No of Respondents Yes	Percentage
1	Approach of Library Staff	35	58.33%
2	Welcoming & easy to talk-	20	33.33%
3	Available when you need them-	40	66.66%

35 (58.33%) respondents say good approach of library staff. 20 (33.33%) students says library staff is welcoming and easy to talk.

10. D: 02. Which barriers you face for seeking information- shows that non co-operative library is major challenge faced by respondents while accessing information. The least number of respondents 20 % opined that lack of subject knowledge among library staff.

11. Findings

Based on the analysis, the findings of the results are found from the study which was conducted for postgraduate students form KVN Naik ACS college science postgraduate students during the period (Academic Year 2018-20) of study are as follows.

The first year post graduate students are 38 (63.33%) and second year students 22 (36.66%)the first year post graduate students confused while seeking information. They are unaware how to and to wear to the information seeking. So, there students should be selected for and they should be studied.

The main purpose of visiting the library is preparing for examinations, followed by preparing for carrier development and to complete assignment and research work. The majority of the respondents uses the library for solve practical problem 34(55.83%) while 31 (51.66%) use library for updating knowledge.

Most of respondents 30(50.00%) are prefer print reference sources, followed by 10(16.66%) used journals and38(63.33%) of respondents prefer both print and electronic format. .

Majority of the research scholars need training programme / orientation programme to search scientific / technical information.Majority 75% of the respondents opinioned as the training programs me attended by them were 'useful'.

The economical budget should be increased by the libraries for the post graduate branches Rather information seeking technique should be taught to the student. 44(73.33%) respondents are depended on the information seeking behaviour, 16 (26.66%) students are not depended on the library.

It was identified that the majority of 36(60.00%) of respondents were using the OPAC whereas 24(40.00%) of respondents were not using OPAC effectively. There are 60 % respondents who can well use Web OPAC to find out their required document within the library.

In students searching behaviour the printed sources is ore used than sources. In information communication, Selection, Coordination, and search the electronic sources swiftly useful; for understanding this library orientation programme should be more developed

Most of the students used reference given by lectures, 28 (46.66 %) Students are used index for searching information. 24 students follow up on references and bibliography, 12 students used footnotes, 16 students follow up references given by colleagues.

12. Recommendation and Suggestions-

For the reference books renewed publication and writers have been selected to purchase the books. Rather than using the same in multiple copies select multiple books of different authors and publication to promote the innovative collection of books in the library. In the library innovative and user friendly services shall be initiated.

Students must take part in the library orientation program and the library skill classes that are taught by the library staff at the beginning of the new session. The library professional and supportive staff must always be willing and ready to provide assistance to students who have little or no knowledge of using the library.

Finally, it is concluded that the college librarians, information specialists and library professionals should join hands to develop the information-seeking behaviour of users at global level. The study points to the significance of providing access to quality information resources and eliminate the bottlenecks that hamper easy access to information sources. The administration should develop their strategies in the

light of the findings of the study. Most of the students are depended on the library; so the library should be enriched and developed.

13. Conclusion-

Its challenge for the present era's librarians to make the resources available and also to disseminate it to the right reader at the right time. Helpful library surroundings increase regular users of the library which can create with a positive approach and helping nature of library staff. Importantly, library should provide initial orientation workshops and ongoing seminars for student to train them in using resources. So that utilization of resources and services is maximized. College Libraries can influence students' information behaviour by re-evaluating their instructional programmes and stipulation of resources and services. They can take guide by working with library staff to guide students.

14. References

- [1] Esey, M., Makarft, A. Goshie, R.W. & Jimada, A. An Overview of Users Information seeking Behaviour on Online Resources. Journal of Humanities and Social sciences (JOSR). 2014.19(1), 09-17.
- [2] Saikia, Mukesh and Gohain Anjan. Use and User's Satisfaction on Library Resources and Services in Tezpur University (India); a study. Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal). 2013.