INFORMATION NEEDS AND SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF THE STUDENTS OF KALIABOR COLLEGE: A STUDY

Rubi Goswami

Research Scholar, DLISc, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, India

ABSTRACT

Today in this era of LPG i.e. Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation, people are in need of fast and easy access of information. This trend is also seen in case of college and university students. This study will shed light on the information seeking behaviour of the students of Kaliabor College and their information access trends. The information seeking behaviour has changed in this digitised era and generally the habit of visiting library is also seen decreasing. The main aim of the study is to identify different information needs, sources, and types of library use by the students of Kaliabor College from various disciplinary fields. This paper also describes some aspects related to information seeking behaviour of young students, and their information needs.

KEYWORDS: *Information Need, Information Seeking Behaviour*

INTRODUCTION

Information is an important tool used in the realization of any objective or goal of the library. Information is an important factor in any library because these are needed by users. Library is a non profit making organisation serving its users with the main intension to make them satisfied as per their needs. In every library user needs information of increasing variety and diversity of levels, frequencies, volumes and with ease. In this digitised age the way to approach for information by user is also changed and the important thing is that users are interested in having information in a very fast and pinpointed way. The need for e-information is increasing day by day.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Fatima and Ahmad (2008)** discussed on the information seeking behaviour of the students of Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College. The study has been designed to know the information needs of the students and how library helps to fulfil those needs. It was also found from the study that students prefer text books and journals amongst all other services.

- According to **Reddi and Karisiddappa (1997),** information seeking behaviour of the professionals in the field of mental disabilities studies, journals are preferred as formal channel of information mostly.

- **Mahapatra and panda (2001),** in their paper "State of Information Seeking and Searching Behaviour of working Journals in Searching information", a total of 226 journalists were taken as sample for the survey and found that most of the journalists visit library and information centres regularly and use newspapers and other journals to fulfil their information needs.

- In a paper titled "A study of the information seeking behavior of undergraduate students of Makerere University, Uganda", **Kakai, Ikoja–Odongo and Kigongo–Bukenya** has discussed information–seeking activities to establish how undergraduate students seek information with the total of 104 undergraduate students selected from their first, second, and third year of study.

INFORMATION NEED

Information need can be briefly described as the amount of information required by a user to fulfil his/her information requirement. The desire to get knowledge about any topic is information need. Desire deals to need. And need leads to knowledge. So information needs is directly proportional to knowledge of a person. The concept of information needs has proved to be an elusive one, difficult to define, isolate and measure.

There are different factors which affect Information needs like- Information-sources/facilities available, different social, economical and political reason, individuals knowledge on a specific topic, his/her interests etc.

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

The way people search for and utilize information is termed as Information seeking Behaviour. The behaviour of seeking information depends on the information need of the person. It is for the purpose of satisfying the information goal of users. Information behaviour encompasses information seeking as well as the totality of other unintentional or passive behaviours (such as glimpsing or encountering information) as well as purposive behaviours that do not involve seeking, such as avoiding information. Information seeking behaviour of people has been changed during the digitised age. During the information age, the phenomenon is that the digital industry creates a knowledge-based society surrounded by a high-tech global economy. The changing dimension of information seeking behaviour can be traced from the following changes.

- Books to e-Books
- DVDs to Streamed Movies and Television
- CDs to MP3s
- Road Maps to GPS
- Photos to Flicker
- Snail Mail to e-Mail
- Magazines, Newspapers & Journals to Online Article Databases

A BRIEF OF KALIABOR COLLEGE

Kaliabor College is a fast growing institution of middle Assam established in the year 1969. This institution is providing higher education to a large number of students with a large and great teaching staff. The college is with a land area of 37 bighas. Kaliabor College is pertaining education with different Undergraduate Courses, post graduate courses and some professional courses. The Central Library of the college is a large and properly structured computerised library with a huge collection of 31,354 books, 12 journals, 13 newspapers and 10 magazines. The library is well furnished with lots of services. The library is also registered with INFLIBNET N-LIST programme which helps the users to get different online resources.

METHODOLOGY

This is a questionnaire based survey method. Along with it personal observation and interview method were also used to collect data.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out the awareness and use of library resources by the students.

- To find out the mostly used information sources and services by students.

- Determining the students' information seeking behaviour;

- Finding the problems faced by students in using the library.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

A total of 70 questionnaires were distributed to the undergraduate and postgraduate students, amongst a non–response rate of 8. With the left 62 questionnaires, 2 questionnaires were rejected because those were not satisfactorily filled. Only 60 questionnaires (85.71%) were used for analysis. The breakdown of participation is shown in the following table.

DATA ANALYSIS

- **Frequency of visiting Library**: The frequency of visit of students to the library is classified in four time gaps is shown in the Table-1. It is found that majority of the students with 27 numbers (45%) visit library weekly followed by 16 numbers of students (26.67%) daily and 11 students (18.33%) with twice in a week basis.

Table 1: Frequency of Visiting Library

Sl. No.	Frequency	No. of Respondents	%
1	Daily	16	26.67
2	Weekly	27	45.00
3	Twice in a week	11	18.33
4	Very Rarely	6	10.00
	Total	60	100.00

- **Purpose to Visit Library**: Table-2 is depicting that main purpose of visiting library is borrowing books with the frequency of 22 numbers of students (36.67%) followed by 14 students (23.33%) to study. Another main purpose is seen that almost 13% students go to library to complete their class notes and to complete homework.

Table 2: Purpose to Visit Library

Sl. No.	Purpose	No. of Respondents	%
1	To Study	14	23.33
2	To Borrow Books	22	36.67
3	To read Journals	5	8.33
4	To use Internet	5	8.33
5	To see the recent arrivals	2	3.33
6	Complete Lecture Notes	8	13.33
7	Develop personal competency	4	6.67
	Total	60	100

- **Use of Library Sources and Services:** Newspaper is found as the main source to bring students to the library with 83.33% followed by Issue/ Return service with 75%. Xerox facility (60%) provided by library is also an another service which students used to use frequently.

Table 3: Use of Library Sources and Services

Sl. No.	Services	Yes	% of Total	No	% of Total	No Response	% of Total
1	Issue/Return	45	75.00	12	20.00	3	5.00
2	Reference Service	31	51.67	21	35.00	8	13.33
3	periodicals	35	58.33	20	33.33	15	25.00
4	Newspaper	50	83.33	4	6.67	6	10.00
5	Internet	22	36.67	26	43.33	12	20.00
6	Xerox	36	60.00	12	20.00	12	20.00
7	CAS	12	20.00	32	53.33	16	26.67

- **Ways to seek Information**: among the three ways to seek information, browsing shelves by themselves is the most preferred one with 68.33%.

Table 4: Ways to Seek Information

Sl. No.	Ways	Frequency	%
1	Consulting Catalogue	12	20.00
2	Browsing Shelves	41	68.33
3	Asking Library Staff	7	11.67
	Total	60	100

- **Problems regarding the use of library**: According to Table-5, majority of the respondents (48.33%) said that non availability of books and other related materials is the major problem while seeking information followed by incompleteness of records (25%).

Table 5: Problems Regarding the Use of Library

Sl. No.	Problem	Frequency	%
1	Non availability of books and other materials	29	48.33
2	Incompleteness of record	15	25.00
3	Non supporting Library staff	5	8.33
4	Lack of time to locate information	11	18.33
	Total	60	

CONCLUSION

The study brings to the conclusion that majority of the students of kaliabor College visit the Central Library in a regular basis. The information needs of the students are generally towards text books as well reference books. Issue/ return of book is the main purpose and acquiring of knowledge is also their intension. There is a good response of the students towards the open access system of the library. In spite of self searching, sometime they need help from library staff to locate their needed information. According to most of the respondents, lack of books is the major problem they are facing while using the library. Users are in demand of proper and systematic internet service in the library. Some of them are showing interest for fully automated library too. It is the duty of the Library staff that they should try to understand the actual needs of the users then only they can satisfy the users properly.

REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. *Fatima Nishat, Ahmed Naved (2008). Information seeking behaviour of the students at Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University: A Study. Annals of Library and Information Studies, 55, 141-144.*

2. *Kakai Miriam, Ikoja–Odongo R and Kigongo–Bukenya I M N (2004). A study of the information seeking behavior of undergraduate students of Makerere University, Uganda. World Libraries, 14(1).*

3. *Singh K P, Satija M P (2007). Information Seeking Behaviour of Agricultural Scientists with particular reference to their information seeking Strategies. Annals of Library and Information Studies, 54, 213-220.*

4. *Reddi S Hari Krishna, Karisiddappa C R (1997). Information Seeking Behaviour of the Professionals in the Field of Disabilities with special reference to Mental Handicap in India. Annals of Library and Information Studies, 44(2), 54-64.*

5. *Mahapatra R K, Panda K C (2001). State of Information Seeking and Behaviour of working Journalists in Orissa: A Study. Annals of Library and Information Studies, 48(4), 133-138.*

6. *http://www.kaliaborcollege.org/ (searching date 23.11.2016)*

7. *http://uir.unisa.ac.za/bitstream/handle/10500/1941/dissertation.pdf?sequence=1 (searching date 23.11.2016)*

8. *http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3134&context=libphilprac (searching date 22.11.2016)*