Information Seeking Behavior and Reading habits of special library users in Bhopal city

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Abstract – **This study was undertaken to determine the information seeking behavior and reading habits of special library users in Bhopal city. Information seeking behavioral studies is one of the important areas in user studies. The motives and purposes of users give rise to information use and requirements. To satisfy such needs and requirements, users adopt many ways and means of accessing and searching sources of information. Then they try to acquire necessary information both regularly and in an ad-hoc way as necessary from these sources. In the act of acquiring information, the user uses or calls upon the predetermined, this may thus lead to satisfaction or dissatisfaction in relation to purposes and needs. The users may seek information in a number of ways such as reading books, browsing periodicals, consulting abstracting and indexing periodicals, contacting colleagues and friends, seeking information from guides and senior co-workers, gathering information from library and information centers and attending seminars, conferences etc.**

Keywords – **Information seeking behavior; Reading habits; Special libraries etc.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The behavioral spectrum and habits of human beings when searching for information are the bedrock of information seeking research. The task of identifying these behavioral patterns is not easy for the simple reason that human beings are not homogenous and can choose numerous routes or approaches in their quest to satisfy an information need. Attempts at reducing human information seeking behavior to a few set patterns or steps may therefore be oversimplifying things. Various fields of study have over the years sought to pin down the information seeking habits of various user groups. For the Library and Information Science field, the reasons are obvious: as a service-oriented field, it is paramount that we know what our users want in order to respond accordingly.

In library and information science research is a substantial body of work addressing.

Information related behavior, including information needs, information seeking and use of information resources. Today information plays a very important role in human kind`s life and considered as basic resources. It also affects our personal and professional life Information needed by all to making decisions and required as other natural resources in their day to day activity.

II. INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOR AND READING HABITS

To put it straight, the information seeking behavior is the way in which the user goes about seeking and obtaining information. The users information behavior reflected in his relationship to the information unit and its various products and services. How much does the user already know? How does he select his source? How does he formulate his queries? How does he choose his information? And so on. Reading is one of the most fundamental components of the learning process and is seen as a catalyst for life-long learning and intellectual growth. Reading is also significant in the knowledge building of the youths, which contributes to the human capital growth of a country. It has been observed that the interest in reading is gradually fading. Lack of reading had caused a drop in the literacy level of the future generation.

III. SPECIAL LIBRARIES

On the chahracter and quality of things intended to be read. When things go to be read were written upon stone, whether in hieroglyphics or in sculptures of in ornaments of buildings, libraries were unknown. When things to be The character of libraries, their scope and the methods of managing them depend ultimatelty read were impressed upon bits of clay which were dried and baked, and preserved as records , collection of those records were made and kept, and librareis began. When things to be read were written upon paper or any of the many kinds of material which were used before paper was invented, it was clearly wise to collect them, store them safely and arrange them conventionaly for use. Things to be read thus gathered acnd housed formed the first, libraries properly so called.

3.1 Special Libraries in Bhopal

- IIFM (Indian Institute of Forest Management)
- NJA (National Judicial Academy)
- IGRMS (Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya)
- CRISP(Center for Research and Industrial Staff & Performance)
- IISS (Indian Institute of Soil Sciences)
- RRL (Regional Research Laboratory)
- MPCST (Madhya Pradesh Council for Science and Technology)

- NITTTR (National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research)
- BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited)
- Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal
- Vidhan Sabha Library, Bhopal
- The State Meusium of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal
- Tribal Research and Development Institute, Bhopal
- Prachya Niketan (Center of Advance Studies in Indology and Musology)

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Krishan Kumar conducts a survey concerning teachers and research scholars in the Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi. The important finding of this survey was quite a large percentage of research fellows do not use the library as much as they ought to. The majority of researchers (71%) feel the need to improve their skill in the use of science-technology literature.

During the last decades the interest in students' library use and information behavior has increased mainly because of the increase in student numbers and libraries needs to meet their clients' demands in the best possible way. Studies of students' attitudes to and use of university libraries has been conducted in several countries. Findings from earlier studies concerning students problems in trying to use the library are validated in the studies performed in 80's and 90's.10Kanungo made an attempt to investigate the methods of seeking information seeking information by the women researcher in the disciplines of history and political science in the University of Delhi and Jawaharlal University. The study attempts to make a comparative analysis of the methods adopted by these researchers in finding, accessing and seeking information. Being empirical in nature, the study has been conducted in the form of a 'user survey' using questionnaire and interview methods.

Problem recognition, problem definition, problem resolution, and (where needed) solution statement. Wilson (1997) proposed a global model of the field. The former perceives information seeking, searching and use as associated with the different stages of a goal directed problem-solving process, the stages being

Taylor Graham (1999) Exploring the contexts of information behavior shows the role of information-seeking behavior in teams, and information-seeking and the World Wide Web. The range of contexts within which information behavior is now studied shows that the field has expanded well beyond a concern for the literature and information service needs of scientists.

V. OBJECTIVES

- To find out information sources of consulted by the users mostly
- To find out awareness of the library services
- To study the problem faced by the readers of special libraries, in gathering information and to provide suggestions to overcome such problems:

- To evaluate the role of modern information technology in their information needs and reading habits.
- To study the effectiveness of existing information system and services provided by; local libraries

VI. METHODOLOGY

The target populations in the study were special library readers and librarians of Bhopal city. A survey method was used for data collection.

VII. QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTERED TO READERS

Total number of special libraries	Questionnaire administered to readers	Number of readers responding	Percentage
10	500	500	100

VIII. Data Analysis

Table 1:Status of the reader

Statement	Responses	Percentage
Student	269	53.8
Research scholar	85	17
Staff member	110	22
Others	36	7.2
Total	500	100

Table 1 shows that 53.8% readers are the students, 17 % are research scholars, 22% readers are staff members of the institution/ organization and 7.2% readers belongs to other category.
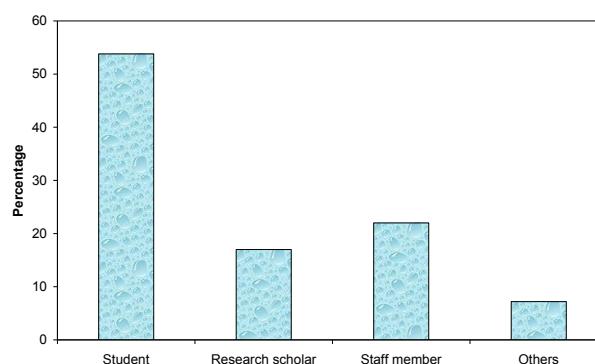

Fig. 1. Status of reader

Table 2: Use of library

Statement	Responses	Percentage
Always	369	73.8
Sometimes	131	26.2
Never	00	00
Total	500	100

The question was asked to the respondents that, do you use library. Table no.4.5 shows that maximum readers i.e.73.8% readers always use library, 26.2% readers use the library sometimes.
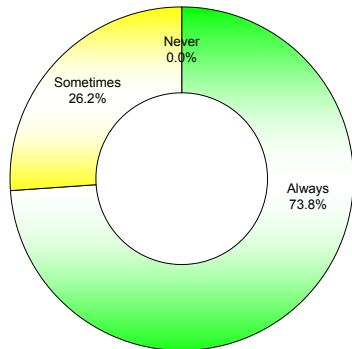

Fig. 2. Use of Library

Table 3: Difficulties in seeking required information and keeping.

Statement	Responses	Percentage
Always	334	66.8
Sometimes	146	29.2
Never	20	4
Total	500	100

Table no. 3 indicates the maximum readers (66.8%) faced difficulties in seeking required information and keeping it. The causes are: lack of time, paucity of publication, lack of literature, lack of library services, scattered sources of information etc. These difficulties faced by readers time by time. 29.2% readers faced sometimes and 9% readers never faced any difficulty to seeking the information.
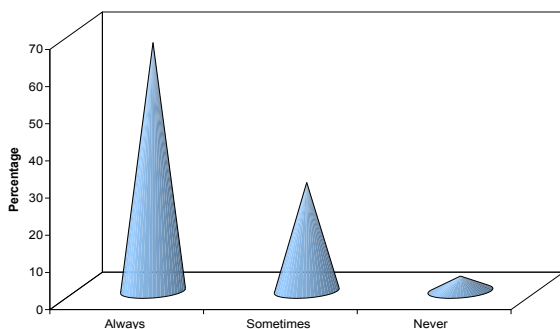

Fig. 3: Difficulties in seeking required information

Table 4: Time spent in (Personal) library

Statement	Responses	Percentage
Use daily up to 30 min	3	3.48
Use daily up to an hour	8	9.30
Not use daily, but alternate days up to an hour	5	5.81
Once in a week spend more than one hour	16	18.60
Whenever get time, no time limit.	54	62.79
Total	86	100

The question was asked to the respondents that, how much time do you spent in personal library. Table no. 4 indicates that the maximum readers (62.79%) spend time without any limitation. whenever they get time they use the personal llibrary.18.60% readers gives more than one hour once in a week, 9.30% reader spend one hour daily, 5.81% readers spend one hour alternate day, and 3.4% readers spend up to30 minutes daily in their personal libraries.
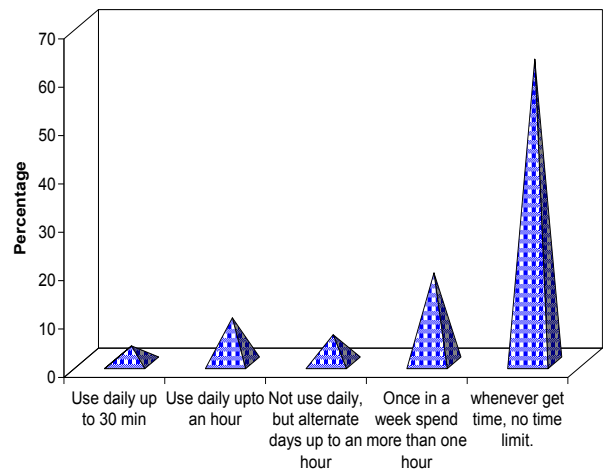

Fig. 4: Time spent in (Personal) library

Table 5: Availability of recent publications of books in the library

Statement	Responses	Percentage
Always	239	47.8
Sometimes	166	33.2
Never/don't know	95	19
Total	500	100

Table no. 5 indicates that the availability of recent publications of books in the libraries. 47.8% readers stated that the books always available, 33.2% readers said sometimes and 19% readers said, never found recent publications in their libraries or don't know about it.
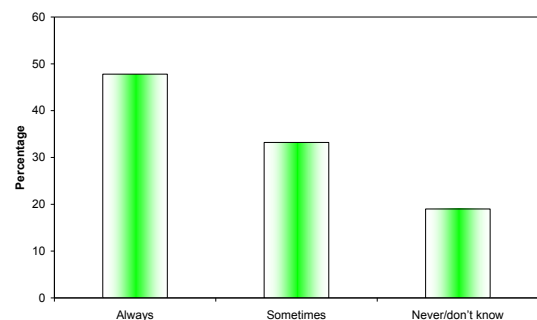

Fig. 5: Availability of recent publications of books in the library

Table 6: Satisfaction with the books of their subject in the libraries

Statement	Responses	Percentage
Most sufficient	98	19.6
Sufficient	289	57.8
Not sufficient	113	22.6
Total	500	100

Table no.4.9 shows that 19.6 % readers are most satisfied with the books available in the libraries of their subjects. 57.8% readers are satisfied with the books available and 22.6% are not satisfied with the availability of books in the libraries.
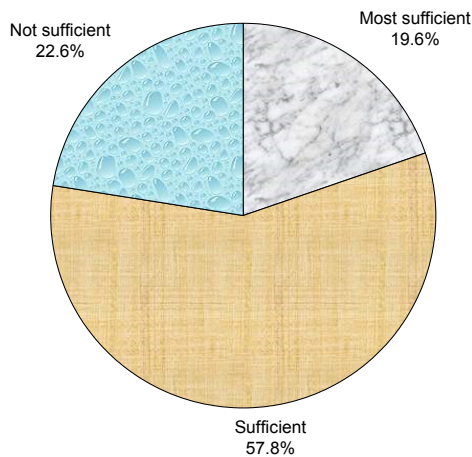

Fig. 6: Satisfaction with the books in the libraries

Table 7: Difficulties in seeking required information and keeping

Statement	Responses	Percentage
Always	334	66.8
Sometimes	146	29.2
Never	20	4
Total	500	100

Table no. 7 indicates the maximum readers (66.8%) faced difficulties in seeking required information and keeping it. The causes are: lack of time, paucity of publication, lack of literature, lack of library services, scattered sources of information etc. These difficulties faced by readers time by time. 29.2% readers faced sometimes and 9% readers never faced any difficulty to seeking the information.
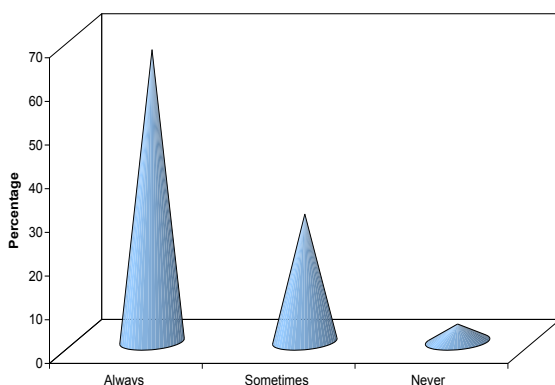

Fig. 7: Difficulties in seeking required information

1. Most of the readers of special libraries are students(53.8%) they are busy in their studies. and 17% are research scholars, 22% staff members (Teaching staff/members of organization), and rest of all (7.2%) are others(members of library other than staff).
2. It has been found that 73.8% readers always use the library, and get benefits of it. 26.2% use the library sometimes. But no reader was found who never use the library.
3. Readers (66.8%) always face difficulties (advances in your area/field, lack of time, paucity of publication, lack of literature, lack of library services, scattered sources of information) in seeking the information by many reasons. Maximum readers named it Barriers of information
4. Whenever they get time they use the library without any time limitation, said 62.79% readers. 18.60% readers spend more than an hour in a week, 9.30% readers spend an hour daily, 5.81% readers spend an hour alternate days, 3.48% readers use personal libraries daily.
5. Recent publications of books always attract the readers. The 47.8% readers find it always in the libraries, 33.2% find the recent publications some times and 19% readers do not found the recent publications of books in the libraries.
6. 19.6 % readers are most satisfied with the books available in the libraries of their subjects. 57.8% readers are satisfied with the books available and 22.6% are not satisfied with the availability of books in the libraries.
7. The maximum readers (66.8%) faced difficulties in seeking required information and keeping it. The causes are: lack of time, paucity of publication, lack of literature, lack of library services, scattered sources of information etc. These difficulties faced by readers time by time. 29.2% readers faced sometimes and 9% readers never faced any difficulty to seeking the information.

IX. CONCLUSION

The whole study has been concluded on the basis of survey on special libraries of Bhopal. In particular the information seeking behavior was examined in the context of their use of information and reading habits. . It is complex pattern of actions and interactions which people engage in, when seeking information of whatever kind and for whatever purpose. Result of the study shows that these special readers not employ similar methods for locating relevant information as other readers. Results also shows that the main reason for , or barriers to the use of information was due to lack of time and non availability of reading material, distance of library, etc.   The behaviour comprehends a number of components like attitude, approach, positive activity, information gathering, pattern of seeking information, psychological temperament etc.

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