INFORMATION ACCESS PATTERN IN SELECTED ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN DINDIGUL DISTRICT – A CASE STUDY

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Abstract: *The present study is of descriptive in nature using normative survey. This is an assessment study that describes the extent of status of the parameters prevailed in the study environment. The researcher has chosen data collection methods through structured questionnaire survey and observation. A pilot study was made and the findings were used to modify and refine the data collection tool.*

Key Words: *Information Access Pattern, Information Sources*

1. INTRODUCTION:

It is to mention that the information seeking behaviors of the workplace community varies from that of the general readers of the library system. The work place community needed much pinpointed information in relation with their working environment and day to day activities. It is note that there is no significant studies on assessing information access pattern of Engineering College library users is found in the library science literature, particularly in the Dindigul District city.

2. INFORMATION ACCESS PATTERN:

Information access pattern is defined here as any activity of an individual that is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived need. In this context, information is viewed as any stimulus that reduces uncertainty; need is defined as a recognition of the existence of this uncertainty in the personal, or work-related, life of an individual and the information need is defined as a function of extrinsic uncertainty produced by a perceived discrepancy between the individuals current level of certainty about important environmental objects and a criterion state he seeks to achieve.

3. OBJECTIVES:

The following objectives are framed for the purpose of the study

- To study the Total number of respondents selected as sample in the type of engineering college libraries surveyed
- To identify the Use of electronic sources for information
- To find the Type of information often required
- To identify the Ranking on forms of e-resources accessed
- To find the Searching for full text scientific journal articles

4. AREA OF THE STUDY/SURVEY:

The investigator wants to take research on a vast spectrum of human experience and knowledge. A total of 5 Engineering Colleges are surveyed resulting in a large sample numbering 48. The sample comprises of Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Students.

Table – 1
Total Number of Respondents Selected as Sample in the Type of Engineering College Libraries Surveyed

S. No	Engineering Colleges in Dindigul	Questionnaire Distributed	Responses Received
1	PSNA College of Engineering and Technology	10	10
2	SSM College of Engineering and Technology	10	09
3	SBM College of Engineering and Technology	10	10

4	NPR College of Engineering and Technology	10	10
5	Anna University College of Engineering	10	09
	Total	50	48

Source: Primary data

The present study has adopted simple random sampling method and questionnaire has been randomly distributed to the users of selected engineering college libraries that comprises of students and faculty members. 50 questionnaires were distributed, 2 were not furnished with all relevant information and hence 48 filled in questionnaire were used for the analysis and response rate is 96 percent.

Table – 2
Use of Electronic Sources for Information

Electronic Source	Students	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
	n=48				
Wikipedia	18	10	10	10	**48**
	37.50%	20.83%	20.83%	20.83%	100.00%
Blogs	16	10	7	6	**39**
	33.33%	20.83%	14.58%	12.50%	81.25%
Social networks	16	9	8	6	**39**
	33.33%	18.75%	16.67%	12.50%	81.25%
Online Databases	14	8	7	5	**34**
	29.17%	16.67%	14.58%	10.42%	70.83%
CD-ROM Databases	13	7	6	4	**30**
	27.08%	14.58%	12.50%	8.33%	62.50%
Websites	12	7	6	3	**28**
	25.00%	14.58%	12.50%	6.25%	58.33%

Source: Primary data

The trend of use of electronic information sources among the surveyed respondents found significant difference. The majority of the respondents 48 (100.00 percent) have used Wikipedia, which is followed by Blogs and Social networks 39 respondents (81.25 percent). Online databases, CD-Rom Databases, Websites are used by 34 (70.83 percent), 30 (62.50 percent) and 28 (58.33 percent) respondents.

Table - 3
Type of Information often required

Type of Information	Students	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
	n = 48				
Procedural Information	16	10	9	10	45
	33.33%	20.83%	18.75%	20.83%	93.75%
Product Information	14	9	6	5	34
	29.17%	18.75%	12.50%	10.42%	70.83%
Factual and Statistical Information	13	8	6	4	31
	27.08%	16.67%	12.50%	8.33%	64.58%
Information for writing research articles	13	8	5	5	31
	27.08%	16.67%	10.42%	10.42%	64.58%
For administrative progress	12	7	4	4	27
	25.00%	14.58%	8.33%	8.33%	56.25%
For guiding the Students	0	6	4	4	14
	0.00%	12.50%	8.33%	8.33%	29.17%
For special lectures and Academic activities	0	6	4	4	14
	0.00%	12.50%	8.33%	8.33%	29.17%

Source: Primary data

Among the various types of information often required between the categories of respondents, a majority preferred Procedural Information 45 (93.75 percent), Product Information 34 (70.83 percent) respondents. Followed by Factual and Statistical Information and Information for writing research articles are having each 31 (64.58 percent)

respondents. For administrative progress 27 (56.25 percent) respondents. For guiding the Students and for special lectures and Academic activities are having each 14 (29.17 percent) respondents.

The faculty members and students from the surveyed engineering colleges have been referred and ranked the use and relevance of different forms of e-resources that were accessed for their academic research information needs. It is found that a majority of the respondents pretend e-books 42, full text articles 38 and Article Abstracts 35 the first preference, while the next larger group of respondents ranked Standards 30 as the first choice of e-resources format accessed. Patents 28 were ranked as last preference among the large group of respondents.

Table - 4
Ranking on forms of E-Resources Accessed

Information Searched	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Total
E-books	42	3	2	1	0	48
	87.50%	6.25%	4.17%	2.08%	0.00%	100.00%
Full text articles	38	4	3	2	1	48
	79.17%	8.33%	6.25%	4.17%	2.08%	100.00%
Articles abstracts	35	6	4	3	0	48
	72.92%	12.50%	8.33%	6.25%	0.00%	100.00%
Standards	30	10	3	3	2	48
	62.50%	20.83%	6.25%	6.25%	4.17%	100.00%
Patents	3	6	10	1	28	48
	6.25%	12.50%	20.83%	2.08%	58.33%	100.00%
Models/designs	10	8	12	10	8	48
	20.83%	16.67%	25.00%	20.83%	16.67%	100.00%

Source: Primary data

Table - 5
Searching for full text Scientific Journal Articles

S.No	Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	A general purpose search engine	42	87.50
2	A specific journals website	41	85.42
3	A multi-journals search website with links to full text	35	72.92
4	Online citation index	31	64.58
5	Local libraries reference room or stacks	28	58.33

Few statements were given to the respondents to get an idea on which they are best suitable for their information seeking. 87.50 percent of the respondents viewed that general purpose search engine and 85.42 percent specific journal website articles are well suited for their search. Next to this, 72.92 percent of the respondents are multi-journals search website with links to full text.

5. CONCLUSION:

Information access pattern of the respondents studied in encouraging as the students and faculty of the surveyed Dindigul district based selected Engineering Colleges are adopting the range of search methods and approaches to information. Accessing information through staff and Students are the most preferred mechanism used by the respondents to get the information. The mean were used as source to consume the scholarly information are both print and e-resources. Among the e-resources, e-books, full text articles, abstracts, models and designs were mostly used forum of documents.

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