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Research Article

Studies on Digital on Information users of Higher Education in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, India.

K.Viji¹ and Dr. K.Nithyanandam²

¹Chief Librarian, Kanchi shri Krishna College of Arts & Science, Kilambi, Kancheepuram, Tamilnadu, India- 631 551.

¹ Research Scholar, Research and Development Centre, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore - 641 046, Tamil Nadu, India

²Chief Librarian, Hindustan University, Padur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Corresponding Author : vijikannan235@gmail.com

Abstract

Keywords

Digital Libraries,
College library,
Higher education.

The present study found that there is different exist among the surveyed institutions in terms of library facilities including ICT, the library services and the initiatives from the library side towards the information literacy. This gap needs to be bridged, particularly in colleges by organizing structured and formal information literacy program particularly with regard to e-resources. Many of the surveyed institutions are need to design their own library websites, providing links to the subscribe and open access scholarly resources. Access to e-resources consortium, library networks both at national and international have to be made among these libraries. It is also suggested that many of the surveyed research institute and college and university libraries need to appoint qualified library professionals as against science and strength and need to be deputed them for professional training so as enable them to update their skills and knowledge on information science.

INTRODUCTION

Information, data, idea, facts, concept and the knowledge which required to individual or group of human resources to accomplish a particular desire or to sustain and protect the environment in which the human resources potential can functionalize and operate is known as information need. Information need pertinent to the particular objective and activity of an individual or an organization were the individual has to perform assigned tasks and responsibility that may be of personal, academic, research procedural, factual, recreational, economical, conceptual and goal based. Information user needs an academic and research environment is not alone stick to the teaching, learning, research scientific factual and conceptual but also prevails as to the behaviour of an individual scientists, academician and of as student.

INFORMATION USERS

In a library information centre the users are the last link or the recipients of the information in the communication cycle.

There are a number of items used on a synonym to user as patron, client, member, and customer. Of these, user is a preferred term, which may be defined as a person who uses one or more libraries' services at least once a year. Users are individuals who can be divided into different categories on the basis of tasks assigned to them in a library organization.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher has chosen descriptive research design and the method is normative survey, and questionnaire technique. The survey is also analytical in terms of collecting the details of the best practices based on the format chosen by the NAAC, that covers descriptors as objectives of the practices, the process, the impact of practices, resources required and the contributor. Data was collected using Structured Questionnaire. The Questionnaire was refined and modified based on pilot study carried out in twenty three deemed universities and colleges at Kanchipuram district and with the

consultations of experts. Telephonic and personal clarifications were also made to solicit the data on best practices so as to suite the format.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the present scenario of the selected Higher Education Institution in Kanchipuram District.

To study the existing library and information environment in the surveyed institutions.

To study how best the infrastructure, services, facilities, learning resources of the library are being compatible with changing learning environment.

To find out the methods and resources used by the librarians in implementing the best practices.

To identify the impact of best practices followed in the various libraries surveyed.

To understand the problems faced by the librarians in implementing the Library Services.

To make suggestions for the implementation of the selected Higher Education Institution in Kanchipuram District.

HYPOTHESES

Users do differ with regard to use pattern of Information.

Users do differ with regard to the designation and Information literacy level.

Users do differ with regard to their productivity level.

Users between the categories differ in accessing e-resources.

Users do differ with regard to the designation on their information needs.

LIST OF INSTITUTIONS STUDIED

S.No.	Name of the Deemed University	Location	Discipline	YoE
1.	BSAR Crescent University Vandalur	Kancheepuram	SF	1984
2.	Hindustan University	Padur	SF	1985
3.	Sathyabama University	Jeppiar Nagar	SF	1987

S.No.	Name of the Engineering Colleges	Location	Discipline	YoE
1.	Adhiparasakthi Engineering College Melmaruvathur	Kancheepuram	SF	1984
2.	Anand Institute of Higher Technology	Kazhipattur	SF	2000
3.	DMI College of Engineering	Palanchur	SF	2001
4.	GKM College Engineering & Technology	Alappakka	SF	1996
5.	Kanchi Pallavan Engineering College	Iyyengulam	SF	2001
6.	Mohamed Sathak AJ College of Engineering	Siruseri	SF	2001
7.	PB College of Engineering	Irungkattukottai	SF	2001
8.	Sakthi Mariamman Engineering College	Thandalam	SF	2001
9.	Shri Andal Alagar College of Engineering	Mamandur	SF	2001
10.	Sri Muthukumar Institute of Technology	Chakkarayapuram	SF	1996
11.	Sri Ramanujar Engineering College	Vandalur	SF	1992
12.	Sri Sairam Engineering College	West Tambaram	SF	1995
13.	Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	Kalavakkam	SF	1996
14.	Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering	Pennalur	SF	1985
15.	Thirumalai Engineering College	Kilambi	SF	1999

S.No.	Name of the Arts/Science Colleges	Location	Discipline	YoE
1.	Asan Memorial College of Arts and Science	Jaladampet	SF	1994
2.	Kanchi Shri Krishna College of Arts and Science	Kilambi	SF	1994
3.	Mohamed Sathak College of Arts and Science	Sholinganallur	SF	1991
4.	Pachaiyappa's College for Men	Nasarathpet	GA	1950
5.	SIVET College	Gowrivakkam	GA	1966

POPULATION, STUDY CATEGORY, SAMPLE, RESPONDED INSTITUTIONS AND RESPONSE PERCENTAGE

Districts of Tamil Nadu	Deemed University					Engineering College					Arts & Science College				
	P	SC	S	R	R%	P	SC	S	R	R%	P	SC	S	R	R%
Kanchipuram	6	3	150	112	74.67	15	15	750	590	78.67	5	5	250	174	69.60

SAMPLE SIZE

Printed questionnaire has been distributed in person to the respondents (Faculty Members, PG Students) of the identified higher education institutions in Kanchipuram district. 1150 Questionnaires were distributed randomly among the respondents. Of which 274 questionnaires were incomplete, 876 were filled in and received. Therefore response rate was 76.94 percent.

STATISTICAL TOOLS

The SPSS package was used for tabulations, correlation analysis and time series analysis of the data and simple percentile analysis have been used for analyzing the data besides other selective, appropriate statistical tools.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is limited to the process, methods, and resources adopted in implementing best practices in the academic Deemed Universities and college libraries situated in Kanchipuram District only. The study also examines the outcomes and limitations in implementing the best practices in the libraries studied during July 2013 to August 2014. The area covered under study is limited to the Deemed Universities and College Libraries in Kanchipuram District. The selected Deemed Universities and Colleges libraries have different types of disciplines mainly Engineering, Arts and Science. All Institutions also offer Post Graduate courses and Ph.D., Programmes.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

A maximum of 67.35 percent are of Engineering Colleges, of which, Next to this, 19.86 percent of Arts and Science Colleges and 12.79 percent Deemed Universities were studied.

The 722 respondents are Doctorates (82.42 percent) and there are 72 respondents were post doctorates (8.22 percent). It is inferred from the analysis that all the respondents are Ph.D holders and a few are M.Phil degree respondents.

The majority of the respondents (49.20 percent) belong to the age group of 41-50 years. It is followed by the age group of 51 and above years (23.52 percent). It is found that majority of respondents are belonging to the age group of

41-50 working in the higher education institutions of Kanchipuram District.

That 83.90 percent of respondents (735) received project funds from various funding agencies. Remaining 16.10 percent of the respondents (141) were preceding their research work with their institution funds.

Maximum of (41.34 percent) of the respondents (362) spent up to 5 hours per week for accessing internet for their informational needs, 28.08 percent of the respondents (246) spent 6 to 10 hours per week for accessing e-mail alerts. It is also found that 39.15 percent of the respondents (343) conferring with co-workers and others experts by spending 6 to 10 hours in a week.

The surveyed respondents generally visit the library Once in a Week (42.92 percent) and Fortnightly (24.20 percent), while only a few of them (11.19 percent) visit library Daily and 67 (7.65 percent) respondents visit the library once in a month. It is inferred that more than 40 percent of the respondents to visit library once in a week.

Majority of the respondents opined that they aware the library rules (74.77 percent), collection details of books and journals (66.76 percent) use of OPAC/Web OPAC (65.58 percent), familiarity with library staff (69.70 percent), awareness and use of library services and infrastructures (62.64 percent) and access information in their respective Institutions (60.58 percent).

It is quite strange that only 38.52 percent of the respondents felt that they are accessing information at the library and information centers of their respective Institutions, while 77.40 percent of the respondents opined that they are familiar

The important areas need to be given importance and details to be disseminated to the users. 91.21 percent of the respondents opined that the search strategies to be trained to the users on internet searching. 76.60 percent of them and of opinion that the users have to be trained in library website usage.

The usage of search engines by the respondents, 88.36 percent of respondents (774) prefer Google, 61.19 percent of the respondents prefer to search through Yahoo (536), AltaVista comes in the fourth place preferred by 18.15 percent of respondents (159), while Rediff by 23.74 percent of respondents (208).

The extent of level of satisfaction among the respondents revealed that only a small portion of the respondents were highly satisfied with the library environment among the surveyed institutions by rating Excellent (14.04 percent) and Very Good (20.55 percent). Forty percent of the surveyed respondents revealed that library services are Good, while one fourth of the surveyed respondents ratified their level of satisfaction as average.

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