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A Study on Information Seeking Behavior of Professors of Arts Colleges Affiliated to Gujarat University

krina Kalpesh Patel

krina8_patel@yahoo.com

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Krina Patel

Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science,
Gujarat University,
Ahmedabad.
krina8_patel@yahoo.com

Abstract:

A study was conducted on 100 teaching professors in arts colleges affiliated to Gujarat University to find out the information retrieval behavior problems of arts college's professors. A self-constructed questionnaire was used to find out the problems of the professors. The questionnaire was filled and analyzed with expert advice. A statistical application for data analysis found the percentage of professors' departmental problems and also used graphs for its clear society.

Key words:

Arts College, Gujarat University, Professors, Information Seeking, Information Seeking Behavior

Introduction:

To keep up with today's rapidly changing society, change is necessary in every field. There is also a demand for change in the education sector to meet the increasing demand and expectations of information in the society. Nowadays the responsibility of the teacher has increased a lot because our children are the future citizens of the country and it is the responsibility of the teachers. Knowledge of the general subject of study and teaching work also makes the instructor practical in any subject and can be helpful in scientific or intellectual development. This research was conducted to find out how professors try to extract useful information from large amounts of information and what sources they use and how professors behave in obtaining information.

The following problem is taken as the problem for the study:
"A Study on Information Seeking Behavior of Professors of Arts Colleges Affiliated to Gujarat University"

Objectives of the research:

- To know the information retrieval behavior of the professors of the arts colleges affiliated to Gujarat University.
- To know the difficulties faced by the professors in getting information from libraries.
- To know the purpose for which the professors visit the library and when.
- To know what services are provided in the libraries of the affiliated colleges and how much the professors are satisfied with those services.
- To know how the professors themselves contribute in the development of their library.

Study questions:

- How much time do professors spend in the library to get information?
- How much and how much do professors use the library to get the information they need?
- How do professors behave in order to obtain information?
- What difficulties do professors have in getting information from libraries?
- What services are provided in libraries and how satisfied are the professors with those services?
- What suggestions and opinions do the professors have for the development of their library?

Research methodology for the study:

In addition to major study methods such as questionnaires, in-person interviews, telecommunication visits, and daily and observation methods, studies are conducted based on library records. One of the main methods of study is the questionnaire method used for this study. I have selected five art colleges affiliated to Gujarat University and have tried to fill out questionnaires from professors who have come face to face. A total of 100 professors from colleges selected from Gujarat University affiliated arts colleges were given face-to-face questions to fill the question hours, out of which 88 professors returned the questionnaire.

The need and usefulness of research:

The main objective behind doing any research is to know who and how much will benefit from that research in the future. This research is also doing for the same purpose. The need and usefulness of this research is that this study will provide direction and guidance for new research, be useful for problem solving, be useful in formulating policy and planning, and can be used to know customer feedback. For this study, professors from five different colleges in Ahmedabad,

selected from Arts Colleges affiliated to Gujarat University, are teaching various subjects like Gujarati, English, Psychology, History, Political Science, Hindi, Sanskrit, Economics, Sociology and Philosophy. The study did not include institute directors, coordinators or professors working on honorarium.

Information about selected colleges affiliated to Gujarat University:

Bhavans sheth R.A.college of arts and commerce:

Bhavans College was established in the year 1965. He was re-selected with a grade by NAAC in 2014. The college has 12 departments like English, Gujarati, Psychology, Sociology, Commerce, Statistics, Sanskrit, Persian, French, Indian Diaspora and Computer Science. It runs programmers for B.A, B.Com. , M.Com. M.Phil. and Ph.D. It has been given the most prestigious grant by the UGC for a college with the potential for excellence. It has research scholars for M.Phil. And Ph.D. From India and abroad under different faculties. It's marked as Model College by Gujarat higher education department in cbcs.

C.U.Shah Arts College for girls:

CU Shah Arts College for girls was established in 1966 in Ahmedabad. The college is known for its virtues among students. This institute offers a wide range of educational courses and programmers approved by the UGC. Gujarat University, Ahmedabad is widely recognized for its academic standards. Smt. Sadguna C. U. Shah Arts College for Girls, Ahmedabad takes a holistic view of education and focuses on both academic as well as personality development of students. A carefully designed and updated curriculum along with qualified and experienced faculty in the college ensures that students acquire the best education and skills that can make them emerge as qualified professionals. To provide a quality educational environment to the students, the college has developed all the necessary infrastructure. The key among them are hostel, library, laboratory, playground, canteen, gym, medical help, education loan, auditorium, scholarship.

S.L.U. Arts and Commerce College for women:

S.L.U. Arts College was established in the year 1920, which is proud to be the first women's college in Ahmedabad. Established with the objective of empowering women with higher education, this college is located in the urban commercial center of Ahmedabad. Against the backdrop of the turbulent times of the Indian independence movement and Gandhiji's leadership ideology of women's participation in all spheres, some prominent freedom fighters and social reformers of Gujarat felt the urgent need to start an institution of higher education for women only.

Mahatma Gandhi's vision that if you educate a woman, you educate the family and the entire society was carried forward by a group of like-minded social reformers and activists. In 1920, three students from Ahmedabad completed their schooling by appearing for the 'Shalant Examination', and there was an urgent need to continue their studies.

H.K. Arts College:

H.K. Arts College is located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. Established in 1860, the institute is accredited by AICTE. HKAC, Ahmedabad offers 16 courses in two streams called Arts. The college has a good structure and a well-equipped library. The infrastructure and facilities of HK Arts College Ahmedabad include a campus spread across various facilities in the form of library, computer centre, classrooms with proper teaching and teaching assistants, medical facilities, etc. This institution wants to put each of its students in an institution/company of great prestige. Object and area of expertise. The infrastructure and facilities of H.K. Arts College, Ahmedabad include a spread-out campus along with various facilities in the form of library, computer centre, classrooms with proper teaching and learning aids, medical facilities, etc. This institution wants to put each of its students in an institution/company of great prestige.

S.V.Arts College:

The S.V. Arts College was established in the year 1945 in Ahmedabad to establish speakers within the use of creative degrees of progress within the exhibiting learning structure, to invite all the underhanded reforms of our under-studies, to make them potential heads of social change, to incite the sensitive merits of the occasion in future speakers.

Data Collection:

The questionnaire prepared for this study was filled with departmental information. The first section contained information about professors, the second section contained information access methods and sources, and the third section included library services and customer services. To collect the data, the researcher went to each of the 150 professors selected as samples and after meeting the head or principal of the college, they were allowed to fill the problem list and then tried to fill the data individually.

After returning the questionnaire, the questionnaire was sent to the expert and his suggestions were used in the analysis of this data to find out the percentage of problems of the professors using statistical analysis. Tables and graphs were also used to present this information properly. Readers and practitioners have tried hard to understand the origin of this study in a short span of time. The information is illustrated graphically in MS Excel to make this analysis easier to understand.
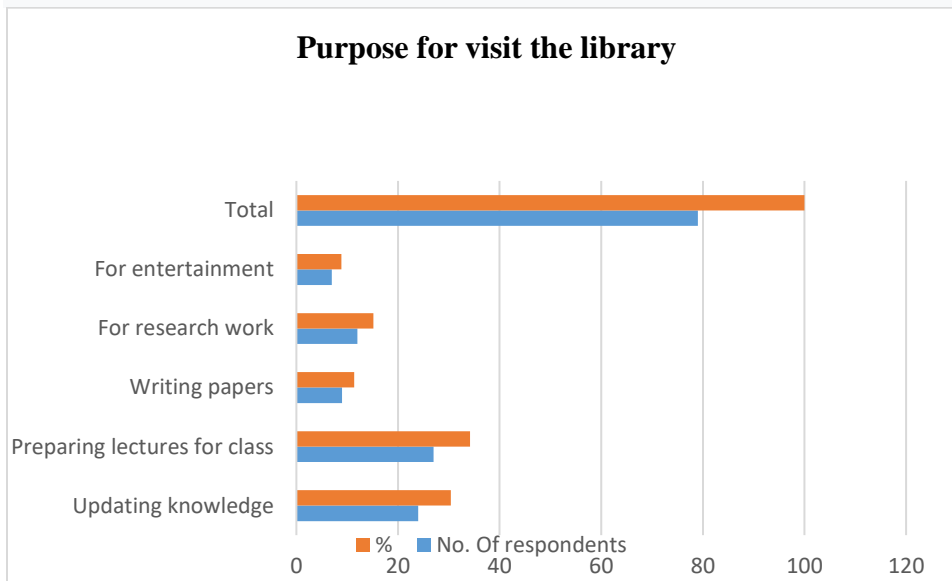
Data analysis:

The information has been graphically illustrated in MS Excel to make this analysis easier to understand.

Table No. 1: Showing the purpose for which Professors visit the library:

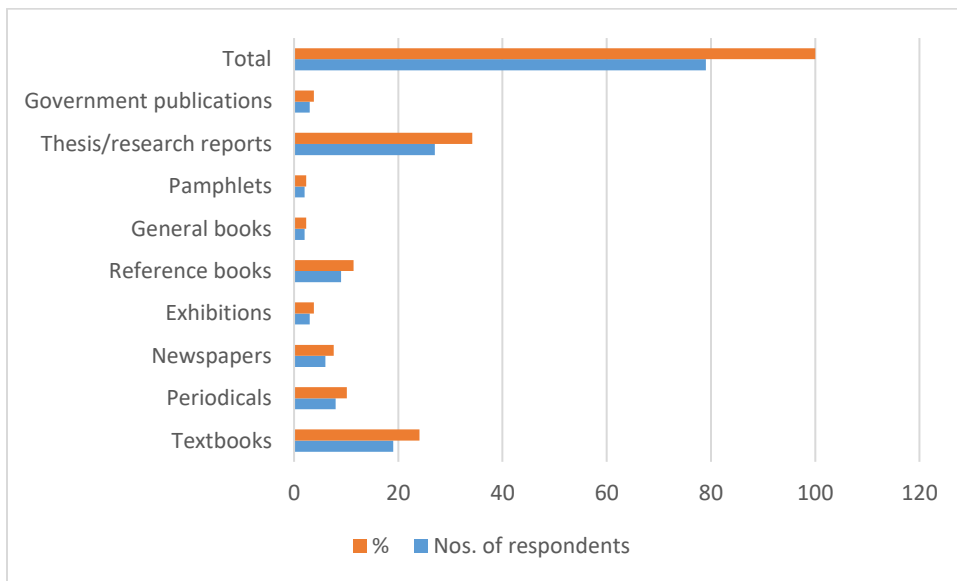| Purpose	No. Of respondents	%
Updating knowledge	24	30.37
Preparing lectures for class	27	34.17
Writing papers	9	11.39
For research work	12	15.18
For entertainment	7	8.89
Total	79	100

The Professors in the Arts Colleges mostly come to study for Updating Knowledge and Preparing Lecture for Class. Very few Professors came for Writing Papers or for research work and for Entertainment.

Table No. 2: Showing the Materials Used for Seeking Information

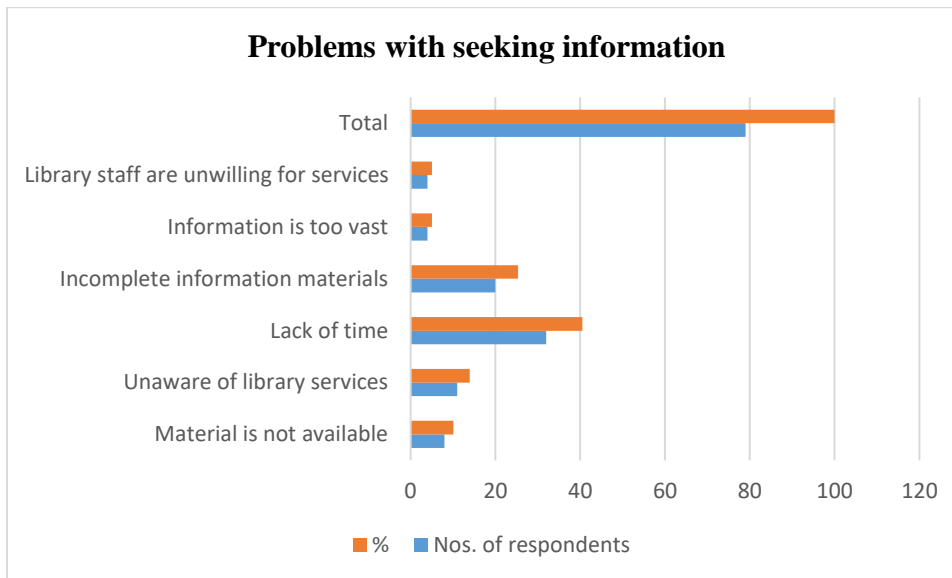| Types of materials	Nos. of respondents	%
Textbooks	19	24.05
Periodicals	8	10.12
Newspapers	6	7.6
Exhibitions	3	3.8
Reference books	9	11.39
General books	2	2.31
Pamphlets	2	2.31
Thesis/research reports	27	34.17
Government publications	3	3.8
Total	**79**	**100**

In the Arts Colleges professors mostly used textbooks and thesis/Research Reports for Updating Knowledge and Preparing Lecture for Class. Very few professors used Periodicals, Newspapers, Reference Books, Pamphlets and Government Publications.

Table No. 3: Showing Problems with Seeking Information:

Problems	Nos. of respondents	%
Material is not available	8	10.12
Unaware of library services	11	13.92
Lack of time	32	40.50
Incomplete information materials	20	25.34
Information is too vast	4	5.06
Library staff are unwilling for services	4	5.06
Total	**79**	**100**

The study looked at problems faced by faculty members while seeking information. The following table reveals the difficulties in detail. This data is useful for library management.
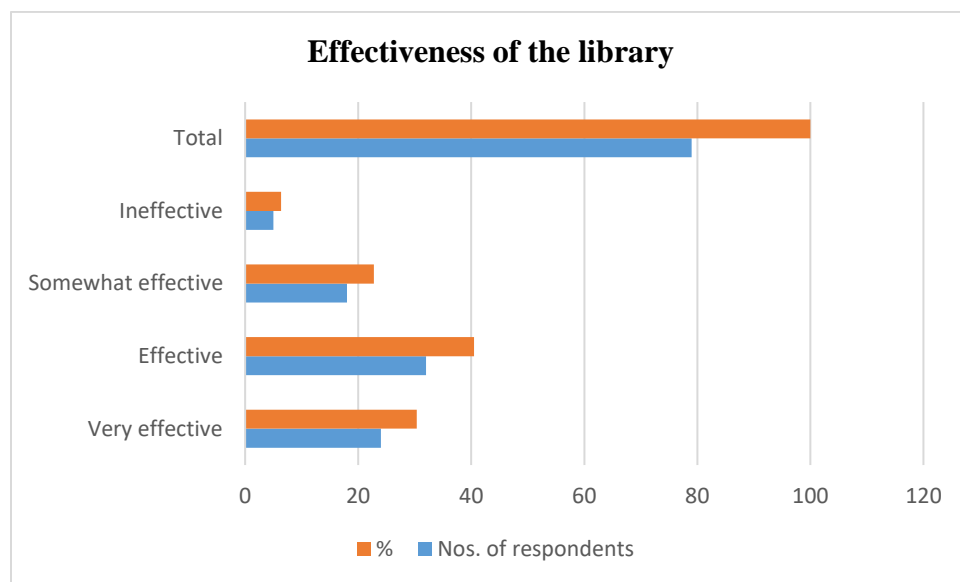

Table No. 4: Showing Effectiveness of the Libraries:

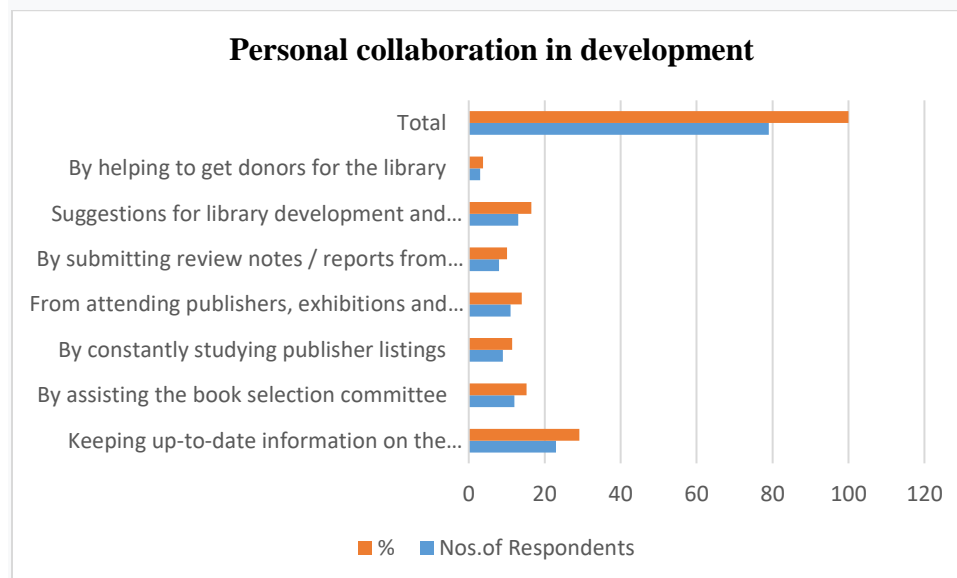| Effectiveness	Nos. of respondents	%
Very effective	24	30.38
Effective	32	40.50
Somewhat effective	18	22.79
Ineffective	5	6.33
Total	**79**	**100**

Almost half of the total respondents believe that the library was very effective and 22.79 % professors believe that library was somewhat effective when only 6.33 % go with ineffective.

Effectiveness of the library

Category	Nos. of respondents	%
Total	~79	100
Ineffective	~5	~6
Somewhat effective	~18	~23
Effective	~32	~40
Very effective	~24	~31

Table No. 5: Areas of Personal Collaboration in Development of Library:

Areas of personal collaboration in development	Nos.of Respondents	%
Keeping up-to-date information on the subject	23	29.12
By assisting the book selection committee	12	15.19
By constantly studying publisher listings	9	11.40
From attending publishers, exhibitions and book fairs	11	13.93
By submitting review notes / reports from new publishers	8	10.12
Suggestions for library development and providing guidance	13	16.45
By helping to get donors for the library	3	3.79
Total	**79**	**100**

Professors mostly collaborate with keeping up-to-date information on the subject with 29.12 %. Then followed by Suggestions for library development and providing guidance (16.45%), by assisting the book selection committee (15.19%), from attending publishers, exhibitions and book fairs (13.93%), by constantly studying publisher listings (11.40%), and by submitting review notes / reports from new publishers (10.12%), by helping to get donors for the library (3.79%).

Personal collaboration in development

Summary of Findings:

Almost all respondents use library resources for teaching, more than half for research and a small number for various other purposes. University lecturers make heavy use of books, while assistants, associates, and full professors also use journals, indexes, abstracts, encyclopedias, and other reference materials. Internet usage is high among all categories of faculty members. More than half of respondents consider peers to be their primary informal information channel. More than a quarter consult with subject matter experts, and about one-fifth consider seminars, conferences, and workshops useful for obtaining up-to-date information. Three-fourths of the reading material in the library is in English. Journal subscriptions are insufficient to meet faculty information needs in their disciplines.

Almost all respondents complained about the lack of indexing and abstracting services. The reference service appears to be somewhat useful. Interlibrary loan services are in strong demand. While the library resources were determined to be valid and accurate, they are also outdated. Most professors prefer their office and home rather than the library for their academic and research work.

The choice of a place to study may be based on factors other than purely academic. Within the university community, there is a preference for off-campus study locations. The reason may be cultural or climatic. Bahawalpur is very hot during the summer, where the temperature reaches 50 degrees centigrade.

The city is also facing the problem of electricity load shedding. Non-availability of required materials on the shelves was a problem for the respondents. Three-fifths complained of a lack of material, especially current periodicals. HEC digital library services are limited to the library and university campuses and face the same number of difficulties. Lack of computers and lack of internet access is a problem for most of the respondents. Internet usage is high, especially among young faculty. HEC Digital Library resources are found useful for conducting research. Different search engines are used by the respondents. A significant number of users suggested that a liaison officer be appointed for better communication between the library and faculty.

Conclusion:

The findings of the study indicate that the collection meets the needs and requirements of the library users as the successful management of the library depends only on the selection of the library collections. Consequently, librarians must be aware of the needs of library users and how faculty access information from the library. Knowledge of faculty information needs and information-seeking behavior is essential to developing valuable collections and improving facilities and services. It is recommended that library staff or reference librarians focus on helping users develop a better image for the library. Reference librarians should help teachers improve their information-seeking and find the types of information they need.

Krina Patel   Research Scholar,
Department of Library and Information Science,
Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.
krina8_patel@yahoo.com