# Utilization of Library Services among the Students of Academic Institutions in Pudukkottai District, Tamil Nadu: A Case Study

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## Abstract

*This paper described that students visit the libraries for collecting information from different faculties. The researchers have attempted to find out the perceptions and outlook of the academic acumen library users, with high response to utilize the facilities are available. In this study it is found that female respondents are higher than male respondents and show much interest in utilizing the library resources. Most of the students visit the library once in a week and they prefer reading the books. This study shows the quality of collection with respect to books, journals and e-resources. Google is most popular search engine among the user for browsing the net. Book lending service is the most preferred by the students.*

*Keywords: Academic Library, Information Technology, Search Engines*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Education aims to impart knowledge and makes good citizens. Libraries are the repositories of knowledge and form an integral part of education. Libraries have a long history, starting with the chained and closed-access libraries of earlier times to the present-day hybrid, digital, and virtual libraries that use the latest technology for provision of information through various services. Accordingly, librarians have also changed from store keepers who were concerned with protection of books against theft, mutilation, and pilferage, to that of information officers, navigators, and cybrarians who find themselves in the vast ocean of reading materials and are busy in satisfying their clients who want information any time and anywhere.

With the advent of computers, the nature of libraries has changed dramatically. Computers are being used in libraries to process, store, retrieve and disseminate information. As a result, the traditional concept of library is being redefined from a place to access books to one which houses the most advanced media including CD-ROM, Internet, and remote access to a wide range of resources. Libraries have now metamorphosed into "digital institutions" [1]. Gone are the days when a library was judged by its quantitative resources. Today, libraries are surrounded by networked data that is connected to vast ocean of Internet-based services. Moreover, electronic resources relevant to the professions are developing at an unprecedented pace.

Today this field is called the fields of information, and there is a growing number of schools and colleges of information. The uses of information technologies or IT in different facets of every day life are considered as a barometer of a country's progress. Dramatic improvements are taking place in the two major components of IT: Computers and Telecommunication and these both have affected the entire scenario [2]. The Impact of information technologies on the library is quite obvious as it has created new types of work, prompted redefinition of certain functions, influenced interpersonal relationships and transformed traditional organization structures into new institutional entities [3]. This study focuses academic institutions that are located in Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu. Pudukkottai district is focal place of education in southern part of Tamil Nadu in India. These districts having around 53 institutions have been taken for the research and the questionnaires distributed only in seven colleges of arts

and science, engineering and technology, polytechnic and education. 150 questionnaires were distributed and only received 141 questionnaires from the respondents. The researcher has found various methods of services functioning in the libraries of these academic institutions. This is one of the significant attempts carried out for the research. Different methods adopted by the library users in searching the legal database by the users are identified. An attempt is made to assess the service quality; use of various search engines and impressions of the law libraries is presented. Some of the popular journals and databases used are listed [4]. In the present situation, higher education is bound to opt for the unavoidable shift form the culture of print to a culture of digital technology. This affects teaching, learning and research and also the whole of higher education [5].

## 2. OBJECTIVES

Following are the important objectives of the study.

1. To find the profile of the library users, specifically, of students from academic institutions in Pudukkottai districts of Tamil Nadu;

2. To observe the users needs and their academic and other purpose;

3. To determine the types of information sources and services required among the users.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

A structured questionnaire was distributed to the 150 respondents of users in Arts, Paramedical, Engineering and Technology institutions library and received 120 questionnaires from different faculty of these institutions. All the responses were evaluated, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in the following paragraph. The statistical application in this research was done though the Microsoft Excel.

## 4. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of the survey carried out by the investigators on the research topic 'User needs' towards the fulfillment of their requirement for their study and other activities in making use of library services in the academic institutions of Pudukkottai district in Tamil Nadu: A case study is analyzed by several tabulation presented here.

**Table 1 Institution-wise Respondents in Pudukkottai District**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Institutions | No. of Respondents | % |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | J.J.College of Arts and Science | 22 | 15.60 |
| 2 | Govt. Arts College for Women | 20 | 14.18 |
| 3 | Ganesar Arts and Science College | 20 | 14.18 |
| 4 | Srinivasa Polytechnic College | 19 | 13.47 |
| 5 | Mount Zion College of Engineering | 21 | 14.89 |
| 6 | Arputha College of Arts and Science | 20 | 14.18 |
| 7 | Mother Terasa Education Institution | 19 | 13.47 |
| Total | | 141 | 100 |

Institutions-wise respondents have given information through the filled up questionnaires distributed among the students in six colleges identified in Pudukkottai district. The 150 questionnaires were issued among the students and all the data covered; only 141 questionnaires were received back with information filled in. The table 1 shows that the student respondents belong to arts & science, engineering & technology, polytechnic and education. In the six colleges where 141 questionnaires were distributed 19 and above respondents have contributed in each institution.

**Table 2 Gender-wise Respondents**

| Gender | No. of Respondent | % |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 64 | 45.39 |
| Female | 77 | 54.61 |
| Total | 141 | 100 |

**Table 3 Course-wise Respondents**

| Sl. No. | Course | No. of Respondents | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Diploma | 19 | 13.47 |
| 2 | UG | 64 | 45.39 |
| 3 | PG | 58 | 41.13 |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Table 2 shows that out of 141students, 64 students (45.39%) are male and 77 students (54.61%) are female and it is found that more number of female students visit the library for their study purpose.

Table 3 shows that out of 141 respondents, 64 respondents (45.39%) are UG students, 58 respondents (41.13%) are PG students, and 19 respondents (13.47%) are belong to Diploma category.

**Table 4 Discipline-wise Respondents**

| Sl. No. | Discipline | No. of Respondent | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Arts& Science | 82 | 58.17 |
| 2 | Education | 19 | 13.47 |
| 3 | Polytechnic | 19 | 13.47 |
| 4 | Engineering | 21 | 14.89 |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Of the total respondents 58.% belong to arts & science students followed by engineering students in the second position with 14.89 %. The polytechnic and engineering students are in same level (13.47 %). It is observed that 44.68% differ between Arts & Science, Education and Polytechnic respondents.

From the library users shown in Table 5, it is clear from the table that majority of the respondent's visit the library once in a week representing 69.50 %, and occupying top level. The next level of 21.98 % visits the library daily. Less than 10 % of students visit the library occasionally and rarely.

It is seen from Table 6 that 39.71% of library users visit their respective libraries most frequently for reading the books. Preparation of project/seminars by the respondents occupies 17.02 % and students taking notes of the same level. The next priority of respondents wishes to read the newspaper and magazines. The quantum of students, who refer the journals and browse the Internet, has been identified below 10%.

**Table 6 Purpose of Visit to the library**

| Sl. No. | Purpose | No. of Respondent | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | To Read the Books | 56 | 39.71 |
| 2 | Preparation for Project/Seminar Work | 24 | 17.02 |
| 3 | To Take Notes for Assignment | 24 | 17.02 |
| 4 | To Refer Journal Article | 11 | 7.80 |
| 5 | To Brows Internet | 9 | 6.38 |
| 6 | To Read Newspaper and Magazines | 17 | 12.07 |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

**Table 5 Frequency of Library Visit**

| Sl. No. | Frequency | No. of Respondent | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Daily | 31 | 21.98 |
| 2 | Once in a week | 98 | 69.50 |
| 3 | Occasionally | 9 | 6.38 |
| 4 | Rarely | 3 | 2.14 |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

The academic library often provides various services like books lending service, reference service and Inter library loan and so on. It is shown by table 7, the majority of respondent prefer the book lending service, reference service, inter library loan and net browsing. These services are used most frequently and its mean and SD values are 12 and 10.70 respectively.

**Table 7 Prefer the Services in Libraries**

| Sl. No. | Purpose | Most Frequent | Frequent | Often | Rarely | Never |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Book Lending | 30 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | Reference Service | 9 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| 3 | Inter Library Loan | 2 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| 4 | Net Browsing | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | Mean | 12.0 | 9.75 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| | SD | 10.70 | 2.27 | 1.87 | 2.17 | 2.23 |

The frequency of use of various search engines by the academic library users are provided in Table 8. The respondents while browsing the net frequently uses Yahoo, Google, Hotmail, Alta vista and Lycos search engines. These respondents occupy the mean of 17.71 and SD 27.85. The decrease in the trends in use of search engines mean 15.28, 9.85, 10.42 and 33. Also the SD measures 10.23, 6.74, 5.23, and 5.31 respectively at showed the periodicity use of search engines.

**Table 8 Use of Search Engines**

| Sl. No. | Purpose | Most Frequent | Frequent | Often | Rarely | Never |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Google | 85 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| 2 | Yahoo | 11 | 27 | 6 | 4 | 29 |
| 3 | Altavista | 3 | 11 | 24 | 12 | 35 |
| 4 | Lycos | 1 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 43 |
| 5 | Hotmail | 1 | 28 | 10 | 12 | 34 |
| 6 | Rediffmail | 10 | 25 | 6 | 14 | 30 |
| 7 | Sify | 13 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 35 |
| | Mean | 17.71 | 15.28 | 9.85 | 10.42 | 33.0 |
| | SD | 27.85 | 10.23 | 6.74 | 5.23 | 5.31 |

## 5. CONCLUSION

This study reveals that student respondents of science secured maximum utilization level due to keen search and obtaining information from scientific journals and electronic publications. Female respondents are higher than male respondents; it is seen from this research. Under graduate respondents are higher than other diploma and post graduates. Arts respondents are predominant in this study. According to respondents, most frequently used service are book lending, reference services and inter library loan its mean and SD score is higher than others. The maximum number of users are visited the library for preparing notes for seminars, conferences and assignments. The Internet users prefer google search engine and yahoo is next in position in this study.

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