

Usage of Medical Library Resources: A Study in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal

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Abstract - This paper aims to analyse the usage of library resources, both physical and electronic, in the Central Library of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal. The study was designed to assess the usage of library resources in the Central Library of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal. The library visitor registry was surveyed for statistics. The research is limited to the usage of library resources at the RIMS' central library during the 2016–2021 academic session. The Library has 645 members registered during the last five academic sessions. The library has a record of 13738 women and 12435 men, totalling a total of 2,6173 users who visited the library during the last 2016-2021 academic years. The highest number of visitors (1179) was recorded in September during the 2019-20 academic year, followed by (1139) in September during the 2018-19 academic year, (1127) in October, (1115) in May during the academic year 2018-19 respectively. A total of 280 users visited the print journals section of the library during the academic year 2016-17, 342 during 2017-18, 356 during 2018-19, 365 during 2019-20 and 109 during 2020-21 respectively. The library has the highest number of visitors (906) who use E-resources recorded in September followed by (827) in October during the academic year 2019-20. The least number of visitors (106) were recorded in January during the 2020-21 academic session. Further, it is found that the highest number of users (6270) visited the library during 2018-19, and only (818) during 2020-21.

Keywords: Medical Library, Resources, Usage, COVID-19, Electronic Resources, RIMS, Imphal, Library

I. INTRODUCTION

The Medical Library is key to academic growth in the field of medicine and medical research. A well-stocked library is a repository of knowledge or a repository of human experience. Proper utilization of the library and its resources is crucial for medical learning students, medical practitioners, and other subject-learning users.

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) is situated in Lamphelpat, Imphal, Manipur. It is a regionally significant institution that serves the needs of the North Eastern Region in the field of medical education by offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses and bringing together educational facilities for training personnel in all important branches of medical specialities in one location. The goal of this institute is to provide high-quality medical education while

also improving the health of the North Eastern Region's seven states. Central Library of RIMS has a collection of more than 40000 books, 1101 CD ROM, 103 Journals including foreign journals, 2032 Thesis, 168 complementary journals, etc. The library has an area of 1650 Sq.m. and a seating capacity of more than 250 readers. It has access to WHO's MEDLINE database, Tele-medicine Centre, Regional Medical Library, and Advanced Hospital Information and Management System.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Jatto, *et al.*, (2021) conducted a study to assess how nursing students at Lead City University in Ibadan used the resources and services of the university library. This study used a descriptive survey approach, and the total population of nursing students was around 500 at the time of the study, with only 20% of the population (100) being used. Descriptive statistics were used to assess the data that were collected (frequency counts and simple percentages). The research reveals that just a minority (14%) of respondents utilise the library regularly. Textbooks receive the most use of all the library's information resources, followed by reference materials, newspapers, accessibility, and user happiness. However, the study suggests that routine internal examination of the library's resources and services, implementing an open system for book lending, and managing the library's environment should be its top priorities.

Ata, Maliha *et al.*, (2020) conducted a cross-sectional descriptive study based on a questionnaire. Their findings indicated that further work was needed to encourage self-directed education and the use of the library's resources and services must be increased. Parande, *et al.*, (2017) studied the primary reason for going to the library for undergraduate and postgraduate students. It further shows that undergraduate students were spending significantly more time during exam days as compared to postgraduate students. Most of the students were satisfied with the library services while over half were unhappy with the library's IT facilities. It shows that inadequate learning materials coupled with the non-availability of modern equipment and

the library’s insufficient physical equipment may have a detrimental effect on the students visiting the library. The study suggests the need for advanced technology to support library services and to enhance the usage of library resources and services. Lobo, J. D (2016) examined the use of electronic resources by the Faculty and Postgraduate students of Medical Colleges in Mangalore by distributing a questionnaire to the users of Medical College Libraries to determine the extent of the use of e-resources and identify ways to improve their utilization. The results indicate that the majority of respondents use e-resources and are content with the quality of library resources.

Prasannath, V (2015) study the reason for library visits, and the frequency of library visits by students, ascertain whether school libraries’ information resources meet those demands, look at the types of libraries’ resources that students utilize, and spot issues with library use. In the Batticaloa region of Sri Lanka, 180 advanced-level users were chosen at random from national schools. Data analysis techniques included counts, percentages, and descriptive statistics. 70% of respondents were satisfied with the course material, 40% of students used the library to examine their notes, and the majority used books and magazines. Finally, there were no suitable workout books. The research implies that audiovisual and technological resources may improve library use. It also advocates enough funding for contemporary information resources and teacher librarians.

Goel. N. K. *et al.*, (2012) conducted a study among the students of various professionals at the Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh about the uses of library and utilization of IT services in their respective libraries with help of a well-designed questionnaire. The study find that the vast majority of students choose to read either their books or assigned textbooks while they are in the library. It is impossible to emphasize the significance of a medical library that is adequately stocked to fulfil the requirements of medical students. The extent to which a library can successfully provide the user with the knowledge that he or she is looking for is one of the most important factors in determining the usefulness of the library as an educational tool.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify registered user categories under study.
2. To identify the gender-wise visitor.
3. To analyse the statistics of library usage based on visitor registers.

B. Limitations of the Study

The research is restricted to the usage of library resources at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences’ central library. The researcher examined the information that was accessible in the aforementioned library during five academic years, beginning in August 2016 and continuing until July 2021.

C. Methodology of the Study

The study was designed to assess the usage of library resources in the Central Library of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal. The library visitor registry was surveyed for statistics. This study also used secondary data and MS Excel to make conclusions.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. User Category

Table I below depicts library membership registrations throughout five academic years (2016-2021). In addition to the staff personnel, the user category ranges from undergraduate to postgraduate. Since registration for library membership is not mandatory except for Bachelor of Science in Nursing, only 153 users are registered as library members for the 2016-2017 academic year, followed by (141) in 2017-18, (126) in 2018-19, (124) in 2019-20, and 101 members during 2020-21. The academic year 2016-17 has the highest number of members i.e., 153 and the lowest membership was recorded during the 2020-21 academic year. The Library has 645 members registered during the last five academic sessions.

TABLE I LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATIONS

Category	Year				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
MBBS	43	42	28	23	11
BDS	19	28	23	11	4
B.Sc Nursing	47	42	42	45	48
M.Sc Nursing	0	0	0	7	8
MD/MS	40	19	26	27	26
M. Phil	0	5	1	6	0
Teaching Staff	2	5	5	5	4
Non- Teaching Staff	2	0	1	0	0
Total	153	141	126	124	101

B. Gender-Wise Usage

Figure 1 below displays the number of visitors by gender during the 2016-2021 academic year. During the 2018-2019 academic year, there were 5905 female visitors to the library, followed by 4136 male visitors. During the 2017-18 academic year, there are 3059 male visitors and just 2104 female visitors visited the library. During the academic year

2020-21, just 725 male and 381 female visitors visited the library, making it the year with the fewest library visits over the last five academic years.

During the 2016-2021 academic year, a total of 13738 women and 12435 men visited the library. It is determined that female library visitors surpass male library visitors.

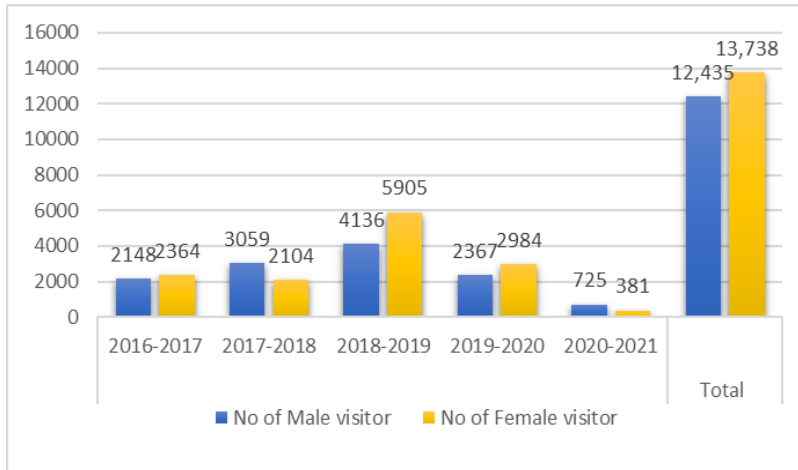


Fig. 1 Gender-wise usage

C. Yearly Visitors Usage

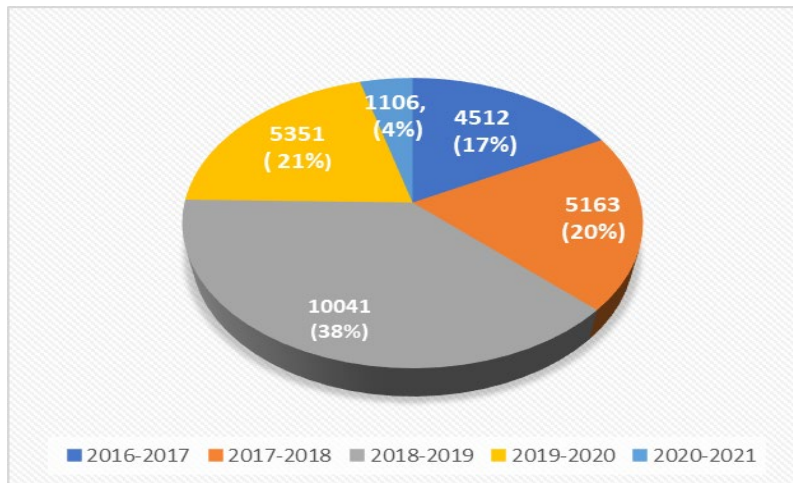


Fig. 2 Year-wise Visitor

Figure 2 below displays the number of visitors from 2016 to 2021. The 2018-19 academic year has the largest number of library visitors, while the 2020-21 academic year has the lowest number. The library has reported 2,6173 visitors during the past five years.

2019-20 academic year, followed by (1139) in September during the 2018-19 academic year, (1127) in October, (1115) in May during the academic year 2018-19 respectively.

D. Monthly Visitor Count

Table II shows the monthly wise visitor during the 2016 to 2021 academic year. It is revealed that the highest visitor (1179) was recorded in the month of September during the

The minimum number of (7) visitors was recorded in the month of April followed by June (12) and May (32) during the Academic year 2019-20. It further revealed that during the academic year 2020-21, the library remained closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic except during the month of January to April.

TABLE II MONTHLY VISITOR COUNT

Months	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
August	244	601	494	805	0
September	317	552	1139	1179	0
October	452	405	1127	1022	0
November	499	432	966	1096	0
December	165	158	676	447	0
January	209	184	679	63	118
February	330	379	662	360	298
March	259	280	734	274	404
April	389	543	774	7	286
May	550	608	1115	32	0
June	693	470	960	12	0
July	405	551	715	44	0
Total	4512	5163	10041	5351	1106

E. Usage Count of Print Journal

From Figure 3 below, it is revealed that the highest number of monthly visitors (39) visited the print journals section of the library in the months of May and October during the academic year 2017-18 and 2019-20. A total number of 280

users visited the print journals section of the library during the academic year 2016-17, 342 during 2017-18, 356 during 2018-19, 365 during 2019-20 and 109 during 2020-21 respectively. It is further noted that the library remains closed in most of the months during the 2020-21 academic year.

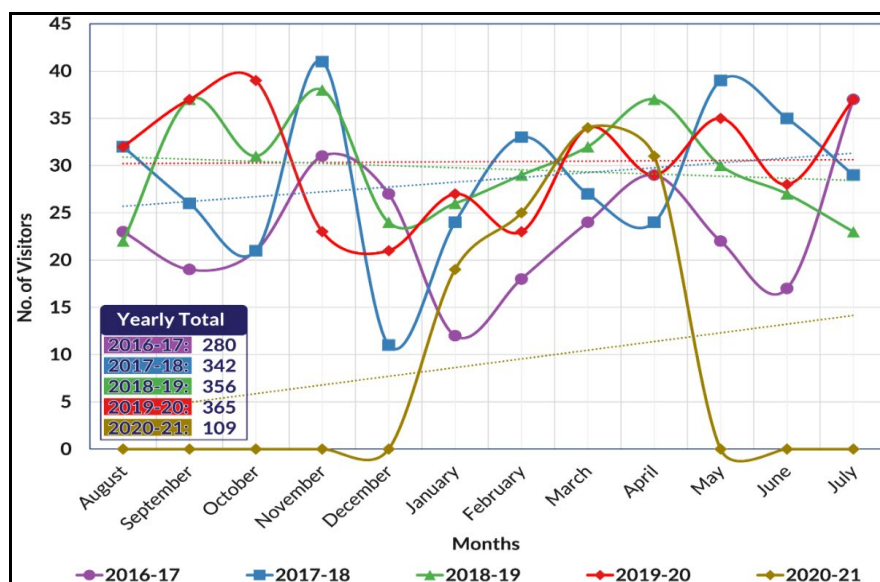


Fig. 3 Usage count of print journals

F. Usage Count of E-Resources

From Figure 4 below, it is revealed that the highest number of visitors (906) who uses E-resources was recorded in the month of September followed by (827) in the month of October during the academic year 2019-20. The least number of visitors (106) were recorded in the month of January during the 2020-21 academic session.

Further, it is found that (4364) visitors visited the E-resources section of the library during the 2016-17 academic session followed by (3972) during 2017-18, (6270) during 2018-19, (4847) during 2019-20 and only (818) during 2020-21 respectively. The highest number of visitors who uses E-resources was during the academic year 2018-19. The lowest number of visitors was recorded in the academic session 2020-21 among the last five academic sessions.

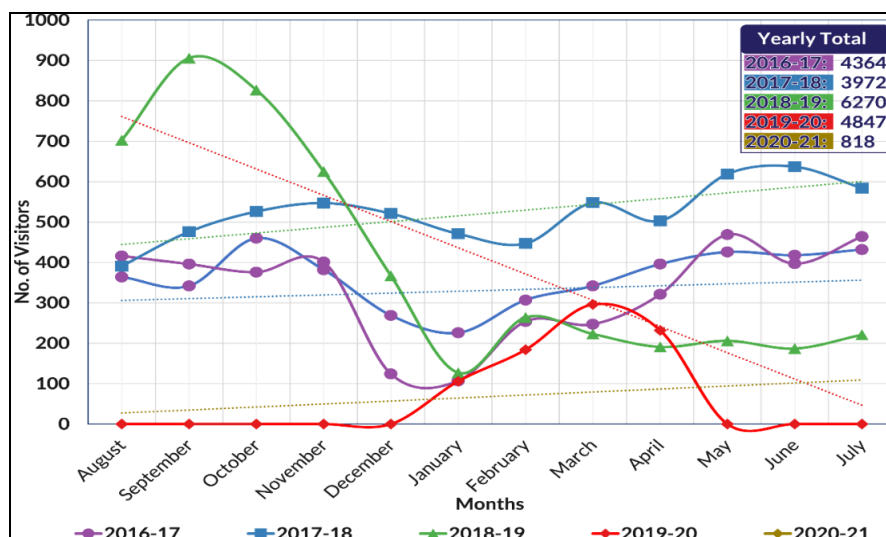


Fig. 4 Usage count of E-resources

V. SUMMARY

Although registration for library membership is not mandatory except for Bachelor of Science in Nursing, only 153 users are registered as library members during the 2016-2017 academic year, followed by (141) in 2017-18, (126) in 2018-19, (124) in 2019-20, and 101 members during 2020-21. The academic year 2016-17 has the highest number of members i.e., 153 and the lowest membership was recorded during the 2020-21 academic year. The Library has 645 members registered during the last five academic sessions. It has been revealed that the membership trend is falling.

The library has a record of 13738 women and 12435 men users who visited the library during the last 2016-2021 academic years. It is determined that female library visitors surpass male library visitors. The library has the highest number of library visitors during the 2018-19 academic year, while the 2020-21 academic year has the lowest number. The library has reported a total number of 2,6173 visitors.

It is revealed that the highest visitor (1179) was recorded in the month of September during the 2019-20 academic year, followed by (1139) in September during the 2018-19 academic year, (1127) in October, (1115) in May during the academic year 2018-19 respectively. The minimum number of (7) visitors was recorded in the month of April followed by June (12) and May (32) during the Academic year 2019-20. It further revealed that during the academic year 2020-21, the library remained closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic except during the month of January to April.

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VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, it turns out that the usage of library resources is remarkably considerable. There are sufficient numbers of users who visited the library. Most of the female users visited the library, which proves that females prefer medical practitioners as their profession. The majority of students prefer to visit the library during the month of September. The usage of E-resources is increasing in normal times except during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is evident that the library plays a significant role in enhancing the modern medical education. An empty library is worthless. Visiting the library by medical students and practitioners determined the value of the library and its available resources.

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