

# Information Use Pattern of Library Resources among Under Graduate Students of Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu: A Case Study

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**Abstract** - In this study, the purpose is to investigate the information use pattern of library resources and related issues among undergraduate (U.G) students of Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology (RIT) at Chennai. A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed but 120 were returned duly filled in. A structured questionnaire was designed for collecting data from the chosen sample group. The study covers the students undergoing their first year of engineering education from four departments and the study was limited to students from Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology (RIT), in Chennai. We examined and found that 97.5% of students were using library for study activities while 2.5% do not feel so. 65.83 % of students were using the text books as the most consulted source whereas 34.17 % were using Lecture Notes, Central Library and other sources. Majority (95.0%) of students were aware of search engines, while only 5.0% do not know what it means. 91.67% of students have opined that 'Google & Yahoo' are the most sought after search engines they have used. Also, the results indicated that the library and its resources can be expected to be used by the coming day generations and they are eager to learn everything. The study was aimed at identifying the needs and the level of awareness of the student community on networks such as internet and the like. A study based on the same topic among various colleges and universities and comparative study can be carried out. The data obtained were analyzed using Simple Percentile analysis to generate tables and to arrive at conclusion.

**Keywords:** Library Resources, Academic library, User survey, Search engines, Digital library, Web resources

## I. INTRODUCTION

Information seeking behaviour is a broad phrase which involves a set of actions that an individual initiates to express information needs, search for information, estimate and

select information, and finally make uses of the information to satisfy his/her information requirements. It is therefore, desirable to correlate the reason for which information is required, the environment wherein the user operates user's skills in categorizing the needed information, channels and sources preferred for acquiring information, and barriers in accessing information.

Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology (RIT) college is ideally located at Kuthampakam, near Sriperumbudur, Chennai in Tamil Nadu, India. It is affiliated with Anna University, Chennai, and affiliated by AICTE. The college started in 2008 with four U.G. departments: Computer Science Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Information Technology and One P.G. department. The present strength of the students at RIT is about 1500. At this juncture the students ought to learn the various resources and services and need to be aware of on how to utilize the information in right manner.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The study was an attempt to find out the awareness and usage pattern of library resources and services by the students of Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology College. The study was designed and conducted to achieve the following objectives.

1. To observe the awareness and use of library resources by student community;
2. To find out the type of information sources accessed by the students;

3. To study the purpose of information seeking by the students;
4. To explore the use of information technology;
5. To find out the problems faced by the respondents while using resources;
6. To suggest improvement measures based on the inferences drawn from the study.

### III. RELATED STUDIES

Various definitions of information behaviour have been given by researchers. Some defined the term based on the general model of information behaviour developed by Wilson where he posited that a general model of information behaviour needs to include at least three elements: (i) an information need and its drives, i.e. the factors that give rise to an individual perception of need; (ii) the factors that affect the individuals response to the perception of need; and, (iii) the processes or actions involved in that response.

Information seeking behaviour means individual's way and manner of gathering and sourcing for information for personal use, knowledge updating and development. Faire-Wessels referred to it as the way people search for and utilize information. Kakai, *et al*, observed that often students' information seeking behaviour involves active or purposeful information as a result of the need to complete course assignment, prepare for class discussions, seminars, workshops, conferences or write final year research papers. Austerd defined Information seeking behaviour as " the field composed of studies that are concerned with who needs what kind of information and for what reason, how information is found, evaluated and used and how these needs can be identified and satisfied". Kubar Mallinath and Lohar M S focused the student's attitudes to use the digital resources and services. It revealed that the majority of the students are using the digital resources frequently. Carlson, Bethany and Reidy, Sharson have carried out the study about Effective access: teacher's use of digital resources (research in progress). The purpose and objectives of this research were to initiate an examination of the cognitive frame works used by teachers in order to understand how they search for digital resources and how they conceptualize the integrative of digital resources into their teaching and also to uniform the future of how digital materials are developed and distributed to educators.

The surveys were created on line using web – based survey tool. The finding of the research recommended that they should create a bridge between the needs of teachers and the work of developers and also they should discuss how their outcomes will influence how digital resources one developed for educators across all disciplines in the future. A major survey of literature was carried out by Tenopir (2003). He analysed the results of over 200 studies of the use of electronic resources in libraries published between 1995 and 2003.

The survey of literature helped the investigator to develop the methodology, objectives etc., for the present study. Some of the conceptual framework and the review of several variables that previous researchers have done relevant to undergraduate students information seeking behaviour and review of some model form the theoretical foundation of this study.

This study tries to investigate the sources of information used by students of central library at Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology (RIT) for their academic purpose and extent to which they are aware and use of the library resources.

### IV. METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the above objectives, descriptive method was used to perform the research. This study of the research used questionnaire - based survey method. A detailed and well structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the selected 150 students from four departments of RIT College. Out of 150 respondents, hundred and twenty questionnaires were returned dully filled in by the users community and the over all response rate was 80 per cent. The questionnaire contained both open ended and close-ended questions. The collected data were classified, analyzed and tabulated by using statistical methods.

### V. ANALYSIS OF DATA

The girl students of the college are more in numbers than boys. Therefore, data received from all students are taken together for study. The study was conducted at RIT College campus in Chennai during the year 2012. 150 Students were selected from first year in four departments in the college in Chennai for the purpose of this study and they were requested to fill up the questionnaire. 150 questionnaires had been distributed but 120 questionnaires were returned duly filled in.

TABLE I GENDER-WISE CLASSIFICATION

Sl. No	Gender	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Male	50	41.67
2	Female	70	58.33
Total		120	100

This table indicates that 70 (58.33 %) of the respondents are female and the remaining are male.

TABLE II USAGE OF LIBRARY FOR STUDY ACTIVITIES

Sl. No.	Category	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	117	97.50
2.	No	3	2.50
Total		120	100

The above table shows that 117 (97.50%) of the respondents are using library for study activities while 3 (2.50%) do not feel so.

TABLE III RESOURCES OF CENTRAL LIBRARY OF RIT

Sl. No.	Sources of Information	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Textbooks	79	65.83
2	Print Journals	3	2.50
3	Newspaper	2	1.67
4	Central Library	11	9.17
5	Lecture Notes	15	12.5
6	Internet	9	7.5
7	Thesis/Dissertations	1	0.83
8	Project	-	0
9	CD-ROMs Database	-	0
10	Electronic Resources	-	0
Total		120	100

The results in Table III above show the ten major sources of obtaining information by the students. The result revealed that 'Textbooks' are the most consulted source by the students. This is confirmed by the great majority of the participants 79 (65.83%). Next to it is the 'Lecture Notes' with 15 (12.50%) students expressing them. Central Library was rated as the third source of information consulted by the students. Other sources indicated are: Internet 9 (7.5%); Print Journal as well Newspaper 3 (2.50%); 2 (1.67%); Thesis/Dissertations 1 (0.83%), while Project, CD-ROMs Database and Electronic Resources are not available.

TABLE IV OPINION ON BORROWING BOOKS FROM LIBRARY

Sl. No.	Borrowing books	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	20	16.67
2	Weekly twice	15	12.50
3	Weekly	60	50.0
4	Monthly	18	15.0
5	Occasionally	7	5.83
Total		120	100.0

The above table shows that 60 (50.0%) of respondents are borrowing books weekly while 7 (5.83%) of them fall under the category 'Occasionally'. 20 (16.67%) of them fall under

daily; 18 (15.0%) of them fall under monthly and 15 (12.50%) of them fall under weekly twice category.

TABLE V FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE

Sl. No.	Frequency	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	25	20.83
2	Weekly twice	15	12.50
3	Weekly	60	50.00
4	Monthly	20	16.67
Total		120	100.0

The above table indicates that 60 (50.0%) of respondents are browsing the Internet weekly while 15 (12.50%) respondents have the habit of browsing weekly twice.

TABLE VI OPINION ON HAVING AN E-MAIL ID

Sl. No.	Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	108	90.0
2	No	12	10.0
Total		120	100.0

The above table describes that 108 (90.0%) of the respondents do possess an e-mail ID of their own, while 12 (10.0%) do not have so.

TABLE VII AWARENESS ON SEARCH ENGINES

Sl. No.	Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	114	95.00
2	No	06	05.00
Total		120	100.00

From the above table, it can be noted that 114 (95.0 %) of the respondents are aware of search engines, but only 6 (5.0%) do not know what it means.

TABLE VIII FREQUENTLY USED SEARCH ENGINES

Sl. No.	Name of the Search Engine	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Google	74	61.67
2	Yahoo Search	36	30.0
3	Infoseek	0	0
4	Alta Vista	2	1.66
5	MSN Search	3	2.50
6	Ask.com	5	4.17
7	Excite	0	0
Total		120	100.0

From the above table it can be observed that 74 (61.67%) respondents have opined that 'Google' is the most sought after search engines they use.

TABLE IX LEVEL OF SATISFACTION OF INFORMATION OBTAINED

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1	Fully Satisfied	20	16.67
2	Satisfied	32	26.67
3	Less Satisfied	13	10.83
4	Dissatisfied	55	45.83
Total		120	100

Table IX shows the results that only 20 students (16.67%) are fully satisfied with all the information they receive from the identified sources. Furthermore, 32(26.67%) indicated they were satisfied while 13 (10.83%) and 55 (45.83 %) indicated less satisfied and dissatisfied respectively.

## VI. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

The major findings of the study are that the text books, lecture notes and other sources available from the library are the most preferred resources of information. The students opinioned that digital infrastructure of the college is not satisfactory. The library does not have electronic resources like e-journals; e-books etc.,. Most of the students are having email ID and few of them are not using the same. The search engines most preferred by the students are Google and Yahoo and they are not much aware of other search engines.

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions are recommended to improve the use of the Internet among the academic community i.e. teachers and students of engineering colleges under study:

- a) It is recommended that the library automation must be maintained properly;
- b) Electronic resources like audio visual materials CD-ROM collections have to be purchased;
- c) More computers with latest specifications and multimedia kit should be installed, so that users can use Internet telephony, video-conferencing, chatting and other useful services of the Internet;
- d) Some printers should be installed in the Internet sections of the colleges, so that the respondents can get print outs of their study material and other important documents at nominal rates;
- e) More efficient technical staff should be appointed and they should be present in the Internet section for expert advice;
- f) All the engineering colleges should have their own website, so that users can easily get the academic news and college's websites should be regularly updated;
- g) The time of Internet service should be increased, if possible the service should be round the clock. So that users get maximum utilization of this service.

## VII. CONCLUSION

The awareness and usage of the RIT Central Library, its resources and services needs to be more increased. The Internet facility has enabled the teachers and students to enhance their academic excellence by providing them the latest information and access to worldwide information. So, it should be extended to all the engineering college libraries. To facilitate the Internet more beneficial, the library staff members who have acquired a good deal of efficiency in the collection, organization and retrieval of information should feel duty-bound to see that users are able to obtain right information at the right time. On the other hand, student oriented information resources such as text books, reference materials, journals, good internet facility, library database etc., should be provided. More over, the library must provide orientation programmes; workshops and seminars for students to train them to utilize the resources and make best use of them.

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