

## USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES BY MARINE SCIENCE FACULTY IN SOUTH INDIA: A STUDY

Maranna O\*

### Abstract

This paper presents survey on use of information resources and services in the field of marine science faculties of universities and fishery colleges in south India, show that a majority of faculties accessed information resources in institutional libraries for the purpose of academic and research development. Most frequently accessed and used information resources are journals, books, research reports, online resources, journals abstracts, CD-ROMs and conference proceedings to satisfy their needs. Marine science libraries need to take proactive approach in motivating faculties to use what are the information resources and services available in the institutional libraries to enhance their competence level.

**Keywords:** Information Resources, University, Fishery colleges, faculties, South India.

\* Assistant Professor, DLIS, Rani Channamma University, Vidhyasangama, Belagavi-591156.

## 1. Introduction

The Six graduate University Centers of the State University of South India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala) have embarked on an ambitious initiative in cooperation and planned collection interdependence to provide faculty and students of the six separate institutions with the widest range of Information resources materials for their teaching and research. Because marine science academic and research libraries have witnessed a decade of declining purchasing power of the acquisitions budget and a loss of staff as well as the burgeoning development of information resources, the six institutions have developed both local and cooperative strategies for sustaining key programs, expanding and networking electronic information resources, and maintaining access to key research publications.

## 2. Scope and limitations of the study

This research study is confined to the use of information resources and services with special reference to Marine science faculties. Geographically it is bounded to the departments of Marine Science and Fisheries Colleges affiliated to Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute (ICARI) Mumbai, India with special reference to South India. The study covers four states that include Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

## 3. Objectives of the study

The following are the major objectives of the present study:

1. To find out the frequently visit to library by faculty members.
2. To explore the reasons and purpose of visiting the library
3. To understand the information channels used to gather information.
4. To know about the information resources most frequently consulted.

## 4. Methodology

A survey of Marine science faculty community in south India was undertaken with the help of questionnaire, The questionnaire covered five basic areas namely, users characteristics such as

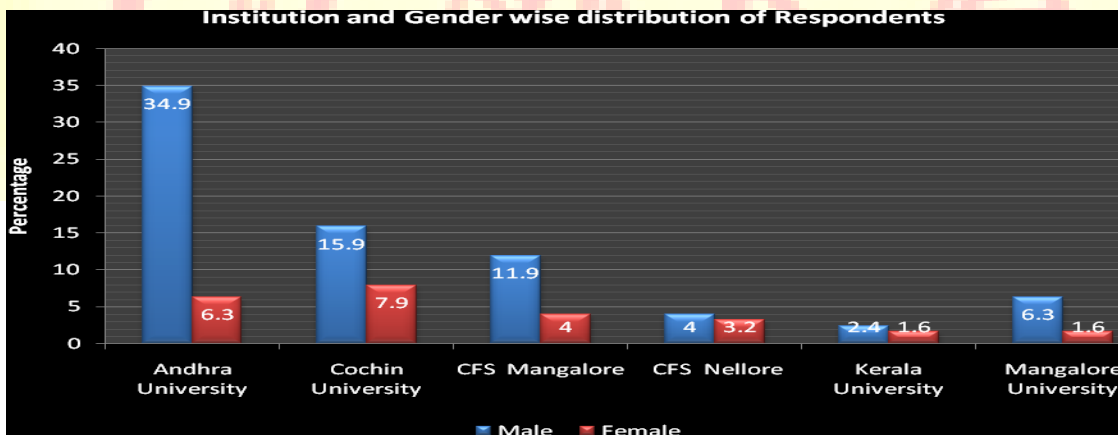
age, levels of education, field of specialization, institution affiliation and purpose of current research, and suggestions for the improvement of the existing information systems. The research schedule was designed in two phases; the first schedule meant for users comprising, faculty, and the second schedule for librarians of marine science research institutes/universities/fisheries colleges in south India. 197 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 126 questionnaires were received back with the response rate being 64%.

### 5. Analysis and Interpretation of Results

**Table 5.1. Institution and Gender wise distribution of Respondents: Faculty members**

Sl No	Institutions	Total=126		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Andhra University	44 (34.9)	08 (6.3)	52 (41.3)
2	Cochin University	20 (15.9)	10 (7.9)	30 (23.8)
3	CFS Mangalore	15 (11.9)	05 (4.0)	20 (15.9)
4	CFS Nellore	05 (4.0)	04 (3.2)	09 (7.1)
5	Kerala University	03 (2.4)	02 (1.6)	05 (4.0)
6	Mangalore University	08 (6.3)	02 (1.6)	10 (7.9)
	Total	95 (75.4)	31 (24.6)	126 (100.0)

**Note 1:** 1 - AU-Andhra University, 2 - CU- Cochin University, 3 - CFSM- College of Fisheries Science Mangalore, 4 - CFSN- College of Fisheries Science Nellore, 5 - K.U-Kerala University, 6 - M.U-Mangalore University.



**Fig. 5.1. Institution and Genderwise Distribution of Faculty Members**

To ascertain the use of information resources by university faculties of marine sciences departments and fisheries sciences, data has been collected from different categories of scientists and faculties.

Table 5.1, and Figure 5.1 clearly show the institution wise and gender wise distribution of scientists and faculties. The sample population used in the present study contains more number of male faculties (75.4%) than female faculties (24.6%).

**Table 5.2. Mode of Locating Information in the Library / Information Centers: Faculty Members**

Sl No	Mode of locating information	Total=126				W.A	Std. Dev	F. Test	Rank
		Most frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Not at all.				
1	Using the library card catalogue	03 (2.4)	61 (48.4)	51 (40.5)	11 (8.7)	2.56	0.69	63.613 Significant at 1% level	5
2	By the help of online public access catalogue (OPAC)	00 (0.0)	74 (58.7)	29 (23.0)	23 (18.3)	2.60	0.78		6
3	Seeking assistance at the reference and information desk	02 (1.6)	10 (7.9)	75 (59.5)	39 (31.0)	3.20	0.65		10
4	Browsing through the library shelves	06 (4.8)	59 (46.8)	18 (14.3)	43 (34.1)	2.78	0.98		8
5	Consulting and sharing ideas with other users	00 (0.0)	67 (53.2)	11 (8.7)	48 (38.1)	2.85	0.95		9
6	Scanning current periodicals for further directions	05 (4.0)	80 (63.5)	28 (22.2)	13 (10.3)	2.39	0.73		4
7	Consulting library staff	02 (1.6)	55 (43.7)	43 (34.1)	26 (20.6)	2.74	0.80		7
8	Using the Internet facility	98 (77.8)	21 (16.7)	03 (2.4)	04 (3.2)	1.31	0.67		1
9	Searching online databases	60 (47.6)	47 (37.3)	09 (7.1)	10 (7.9)	1.75	0.90		2
10	Referring to e-Journals (CD Rom)	57 (45.2)	45 (35.7)	10 (7.9)	14 (11.1)	1.85	0.98		3

Table 5.2 describes the modes used by faculty members for locating information. The data reveals that most frequently the maximum number of faculty members used Internet facility (77.8%), searching online database (47.6%), and electronic journals (45.2%) as modes for accessing information and these are ranked first, second and third respectively.

Scanning of current periodicals (63.5%), library card catalogues (48.4%), and OPAC (58.7%) are frequently used modes and ranked fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. Unfortunately reference and information desk, the data shows higher ranks for Internet, online, and electronic journals as popular modes used by university community in the online digital library environment.

**Table 5.3. Frequency of Information Sources Accessed by Faculty Members**

SI No	Information sources	Total=126				W.A	Std. Dev	F. Test	Rank
		More often	Often	Occasionally	Not at all				
1	Books	71 (56.3)	45 (35.7)	08 (6.3)	02 (1.6)	1.53	0.69	32.017 Significant at 1% level	2
2	Journals	92 (73.0)	24 (19.0)	08 (6.3)	02 (1.6)	1.34	0.68		1
3	Theses	23 (18.3)	60 (47.6)	27 (21.4)	16 (12.7)	2.29	0.91		9
4	Conference Proceedings	24 (19.0)	68 (54.0)	20 (15.9)	14 (11.1)	2.19	0.87		8
5	Patents / Standards	27 (21.4)	21 (16.7)	41 (32.5)	37 (29.4)	2.70	1.11		12
6	Research Reports	65 (51.6)	25 (19.8)	35 (27.8)	01 (0.8)	1.78	0.88		3
7	Abstracting Journals	14 (11.1)	75 (59.5)	37 (29.4)	00 (0.0)	2.18	0.61		6
8	Bibliographies	23 (18.3)	17 (13.5)	19 (15.1)	67 (53.2)	3.03	1.19		15
9	Encyclopedias	22 (17.5)	16 (12.7)	72 (57.1)	16 (12.7)	2.65	0.91		11
10	Directories	14 (11.1)	23 (18.3)	63 (50.0)	26 (20.6)	2.80	0.89		14
11	Yearbooks	13 (10.3)	56 (44.4)	39 (31.0)	18 (14.3)	2.49	0.86		10

12	CD-ROMs (DVD)	69 (54.8)	04 (3.2)	14 (11.1)	39 (31.0)	2.18	1.37		7
13	Online Resources	73 (57.9)	08 (6.3)	05 (4.0)	40 (31.7)	2.10	1.38		4
14	Internet	58 (46.0)	29 (23.0)	02 (1.6)	37 (29.4)	2.14	1.28		5
15	Subject portals	23 (18.3)	39 (31.0)	10 (7.9)	54 (42.9)	2.75	1.19		13
16	Cassettes	12 (9.5)	23 (18.3)	17 (13.5)	54 (42.9)	3.21	1.06		16

Information is normally obtained from books, journals, theses, conference proceedings, patents/ standards, research reports, etc. With the advancement of ICT, particularly the Internet vast amount of latest marine science literature is available in the form of journals, research reports, Conference proceedings, Online resources etc and also available in CD-ROMs/ DVDs. Hence users' opinions are collected to know the frequency of use of different information sources.

Table 5.3 reveals that majority of the faculty members, more oftenly, used the journals as sources of information (73%) followed by the online resources oftenly (57.9%), books (56.3%), CD-ROMs/DVDs (54.8%) and research reports (51.6%). More number of users used abstracting journals (59.5%), conference proceedings (54%) and theses (47.6%). As per expectation of the researcher occasionally used sources are encyclopedia (57.1%) and directories (50%).

The result of this study is in the line of study conducted by Vajjaramatti and others (2003). It indicates that periodicals and books were the most preferred sources by the researchers.<sup>1</sup>

All the documentary sources of information were subjected to standard deviation test more often than not at all. It was found that journals got the first rank value of 0.68 in this study and cassettes got the last rank value of 1.06. It is significant to note that, the F-value is significant at 1% level.

**Table 5.4. Where do you Access Information**

SI No	Information sources	Total=126			
		Institutional Library	Other R&D Libraries	Academic Libraries	W.A
1	Books	79 (62.7)	31 (24.6)	16 (12.7)	1.5

2	Journals	72 (57.1)	33 (26.2)	21 (16.7)	1.6
3	Theses	98 (77.8)	15 (11.9)	12 (9.5)	1.3
4	Conference Proceedings	102 (81.0)	15 (11.9)	9 (7.1)	1.3
5	Patents / Standards	102 (81.0)	21 (16.7)	9 (7.1)	1.4
6	Research Reports	100 (79.4)	21 (16.7)	5 (4.0)	1.2
7	Abstracting Journals	112 (88.9)	11 (8.7)	3 (2.4)	1.1
8	Bibliographies	126 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1.0
9	Encyclopedias	125 (99.2)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	1.0
10	Directories	126 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1.0
11	Yearbooks	110 (87.3)	7 (5.6)	9 (7.1)	1.2
12	CD-ROMs (DVD)	89 (70.6)	21 (16.9)	16 (12.7)	1.4
13	Online,	84 (66.7)	29 (23.0)	13 (10.3)	1.4
14	Internet	85 (67.5)	24 (19.0)	17 (13.5)	1.5
15	Subject portals	122 (96.8)	4 (3.2)	0 (0.0)	1.0
16	Cassettes	114 (90.5)	7 (5.6)	5 (4.0)	1.1

No library fulfils all the information needs of the users obviously. The user has to depend on other library collection. Therefore an attempt has been made to know what percent of users depend on their institution library and libraries of other institutions.

It is good to know that for all forms of information sources, a large number of users depend on institutional library. In the case of reference sources like encyclopedia, directories, bibliographies, nearly cent percent of users depended on their institutional library

Based on the opinion of the users, one can say that their institutional libraries are meeting their information needs at maximum extent. It is also observed that the weighted average is in the range of 1.0 to 1.6.

In the case of faculty members, working in marine and fisheries department a large number of them depend on their institution library. Cent percent of respondents have

accessibility to bibliographical tools and directories and maximum number of respondents have accessibility to encyclopedia (99.2%), subject portals (96.8%), cassettes (90.5%), abstracting journals (88.9%), yearbooks (87.3%) and conference proceedings, patents & standards (81% each). Like scientists, faculty members depended on other R&D libraries for periodicals (26.2%), books (24.6%), online database (23%) and patents/standards & research reports (16.7% each) (Table 5.4).

## 6. FINDINGS

1. The sample population used in the present study contains more number of male faculties (75.4%) than female faculties (24.6%), (Table 5.1).
2. A maximum number of faculty members used Internet facility (77.8%), searching online database (47.6%), electronic journals (45.2%) as modes for accessing information and which are ranked first, second and third respectively (Table 5.2).
3. The majority of faculty members more often used journals as sources of information (73%) followed by online resources oftenly (57.9%) and books (56.3%), CD-ROMs/DVDs (54.8%) and research reports (51.6%). More number of users used abstracting journals (59.5%), conference proceedings (54%) and theses (47.6%). As per expectations occasionally used sources are encyclopedia (57.1%) and directories (50%), (Table 5.3).
4. All the documentary sources of information were subjected to standard deviation test more often than not at all. It was found that journals got the first rank value of 0.68 in this study and cassettes got the last rank value of 1.06 (Table 5.3).
5. Cent percent of respondents have accessibility to bibliographical tools and directories and a maximum number of respondents also have accessibility to encyclopedia (99.2%), subject portals (96.8%), cassettes (90.5%), abstracting journals (88.9%), yearbooks (87.3%) and conference proceedings, patents and standards (81% each). Like scientists, faculty members opined that they depended on other R&D libraries for periodicals (26.2%), books (24.6%), online database (23%) and patents/standards and research reports (16.7% each), (Table 5.4).



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