

A Study of Reading Habits of Library Professionals in aided Colleges affiliated to R.T.M. Nagpur University Nagpur

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Abstract

Keywords:

Reading ;
Reading habits ;
Library Professionals

- *The paper describes Reading Habits of Library Professionals in aided Colleges affiliated to R.T.M. Nagpur University Nagpur. The reading habits of librarians are studied with variables :Purpose, frequency, timing, place of reading and format of reading material. Also studied trends of reading of Library professionals. It found that although trend of reading is changed from print to non-print media but librarians are preferred to read printed reading materials.*

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1. Introduction

Reading has been the passion of the greatest personalities of all times. Humans have been reading since ages and thus words of knowledge have been passed on through generations. The reading habit influences in the promotion of one's personal development in particular and social progress in general. Regular and systematic reading sharpens the intellect, refines the emotions, elevates tastes and provides perspectives for one's living; and thereby prepares a person for an effective participation in the social, religious, cultural and political life. Reading fires the imagination of the person. It adds new sight to eyes and new wisdom to mind. "A dumb person becomes a communicator and a lame climbs mountains of knowledge through reading" is an old saying. Reading loads the mind with new software (Satija, 2002). The individual who reads well has at his command a means for widening his mental horizons and for multiplying his opportunities of success. Reading is a vital factor affecting intellectual and emotional growth. Sir Richard Steele has logically quoted, "Reading is to mind what exercise is to body".

Reading is the most important way to enriching the treasure of one's knowledge. Reading broadens the horizon of the knowledge of a person and increases thinking power. We interpret the happenings and events around us mainly on the strength of our reading habits. It is for this reason that reading has got paramount significance in our life Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has rightly said "Books are my Gurus. He had realized the significance of reading and he therefore had built up the treasure of a large variety of books of his own.

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2. Review of Relevant Literature

(Moreover & Laite, 2000) surveyed 406 graduate and undergraduate students from Shippensburg University. The survey showed that 57.6% of the undergraduate students used the Internet 1-2 times per week and another 37.1% used it 1-2 times daily. More than 50% of the graduate students used Internet 1-2 times per week and 37.7% used it 1-2 times daily. The survey showed that the most used Internet services was e-mail. A hundred percent of the graduate and undergraduate students used e-mail services.

(Bodomo A. B., 2000) investigated and recognized the problem in the traditional notion of literacy and redefines literacy as 'the ability to code and decode linguistic and other symbolic systems for communication and information processing'. Bodomo and Lee further proposed a 'technology-sensitive' approach to literacy in their study of changing forms of language in the information age, which is an instantiation of context-sensitive approaches to literacy studies. It was argued that the concept of context-sensitivity may be rather broad, and to really understand the impact of ICTs on literacy, the specification of a technology-sensitive approach is necessary. (Lee, 2002) provided an in-depth study of digital literacy practices in Hong Kong, especially the way Hong Kong youth use email and ICQ, an instant messaging programme which allowed users to 'chat' online.

(Bodomo & Mei-ling Lam, 2003) investigated with a rise in the technology for the production of electronic or digital materials, funders and administrators of libraries are increasingly leaning towards providing digital reading materials to users. The data for this paper come mainly from a survey of user preferences among students of the University of Hong Kong, which shows that an overwhelming majority (77%) of the respondents prefers print to digital materials. We conclude that the success or otherwise of the paradigm shift from print to digital libraries would depend on measures taken to encourage a positive attitude of users for digital library resources.

(Shafi, 2012) This study investigated the reading habits of rural and urban college students of the 21st century showed that the reading culture is more developed in urban students than rural counterparts. The need is to bridge the gaps in reading culture between regions for developing a great reading nation. The goal can only be achieved through different means; however, the Education for all and Information for all are the two main pillars of reading society that need more emphasis.

(Magan, 2014) attempted an analytical study of reading habits of Ph. D. holder college teachers in the Social Science Faculty in North Maharashtra University Jalgaon. In order to make his research work specific, the researcher has selected only the Ph.D. holder college teachers in the Social Science Faculty in the jurisdiction of North Maharashtra University Jalgaon. With the changing concept of Education, the idea of the development of skills of a person in this all-round-development has come forward with the changes in Information Communication Technology. Therefore, reading, one of the four skills, has got significance in the academic career of Ph.D. holder college teachers. The researcher has selected the Ph.D. holder college teachers in the Social Science Faculty to do his research.

(Khairakpam, 2014) for a study collected from which the investigator the required data for the sizeable group of respondents constituted the sample. The geographical area of the study has been restricted to the state of Manipur only. Persons who are engaged in various institutions, organizations, departments and agencies, have been included in this study. Around 3500 respondents have been identified for the present study in the first phase and 3200 in the next phase. With the advent of globalization life has become more mechanical and reading habit among the people has also declined to some extent. To overcome the declination of reading habit and to give measures for the overall improvement on the reading habit in the present ICT driven knowledge society, measures need to be taken up, keeping in view what the readership community of our society is expected.

3. Statement of the Problem

Reading Habits of LIS Professionals of Granted Colleges affiliated to Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University.

3.1 Definitions of Important Terms

(i) Reading Habit:

The term "reading habit" refers to the behaviour which expresses the likeness of reading of individual, types of reading and tastes of reading (Sangkao, 1999). It is a pattern with which an

individual organizes his or her reading. Reading is important for everybody in order to cope with new knowledge in a changing world – that of the technological age.

(ii) **Library and Information Science (LIS)**

Library and information science is a merging of the two fields; library science and information science. The phrase "library and information science" is associated with schools of library and information science, which generally developed from professional training programs (not academic disciplines) to university institutions during the second half of the twentieth century.

(iii) **LIS Professionals**

A person of relating to or engaged in Library and Information Science profession.

3.2. Objectives of the Research:

The main purpose of this paper is to study of Reading Habits of LIS Professionals of Aided Colleges affiliated to Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University.

The objectives of this study were

- To study the reading habits of library professionals in relation to purpose, frequency, timing, place of reading and format of reading material.
- To know the reading trends of library professionals in academic and nonacademic books.

3.3. Hypotheses of the Research:

The present study was undertaken with hypothesis : The reading habits of library professionals help them in improving collection development in their respective libraries.

3.4 Scope and limitations:

The scope and limitations of research is as follows:

- The study was delimited to the library professionals working in the Aided colleges (Arts, Commerce, Science, Law, and Education, Home science, Social Work, and Engineering & Technology, colleges) affiliated to Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur.
- Study was covered the library professionals working colleges in rural as well as urban area affiliated to Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur.

3.5. Research methodology

The study adapted a survey research methodology (data will be collected by using A structured questionnaire designed for the purpose to collect the required data from the library professionals working in the aided colleges affiliated to Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur. The selected aided colleges were colleges offering the courses in Arts, Commerce, Science, Law, Education, Physical Education, Agriculture, Engineering and Technology, Home science and Medical Education. The questionnaire were shared online via email and library professionals were asked to respond link and send back to researcher. From the collected data, the conclusions were drawn.

4. Findings and Interpretations

In this study of reading habits of the library professionals, the variables which in relation with the study were purpose of reading, frequency of reading, timing of reading, place of reading, format of reading material and trends in reading of academic/nonacademic books. These variables were analyzed from the collected data.

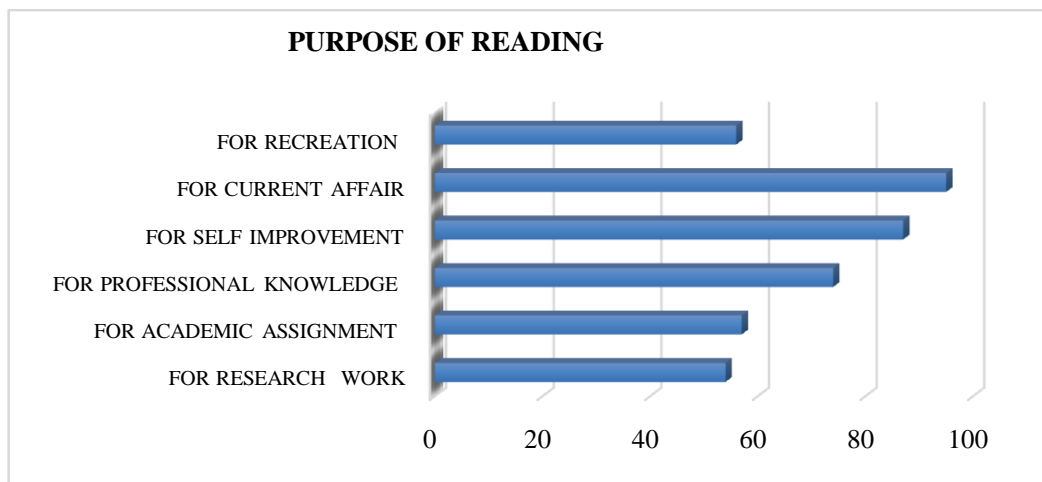
4.1 Purpose of reading

The study revealed that the respondents spent their time by reading books for research work, for academic assignment, for professional knowledge, for self-improvement, for current affair and for recreation. Most of librarians read the books for viewing current affairs and next to them read for self-improvement and personal improvement.

Table 1. Purpose of reading of LIS Professionals

S	Purpose of Reading	Response
1	Recreation	56
2	Current affairs	95
3	Self-improvement	87
4	Professional knowledge	74
5	Academic Assignment	57
6	Research work	54

1. Graphically presentation of Respondents by purpose of reading



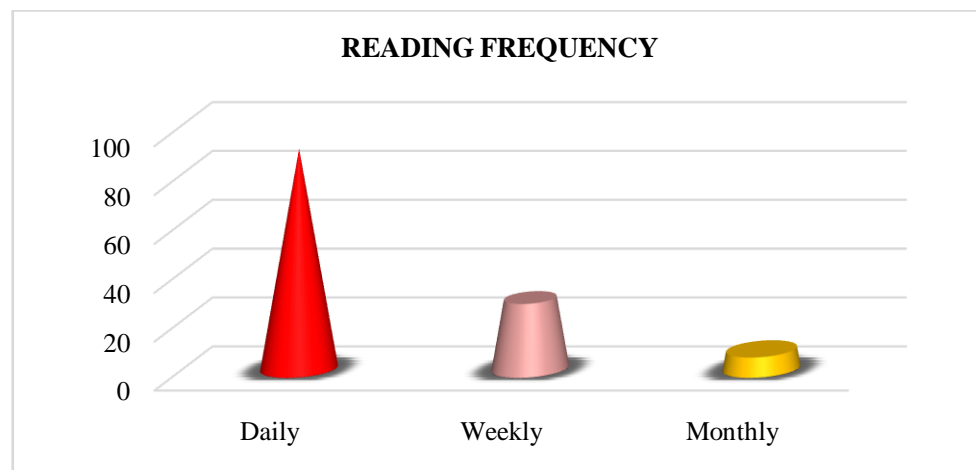
4.2 Frequency of reading

It is observed from table that out of the total respondents, 71 % of the librarians were reading books daily, 23 % of the librarians were reading books weekly and 6 % of the librarians were reading books monthly.

Table 2: Frequency of reading of LIS Professionals

Responses	No	Percentage
Daily	90	71 %
Weekly	29	23 %
Monthly	8	6 %
Total	127	100%

Graphically presentation of Respondents by Frequency of reading



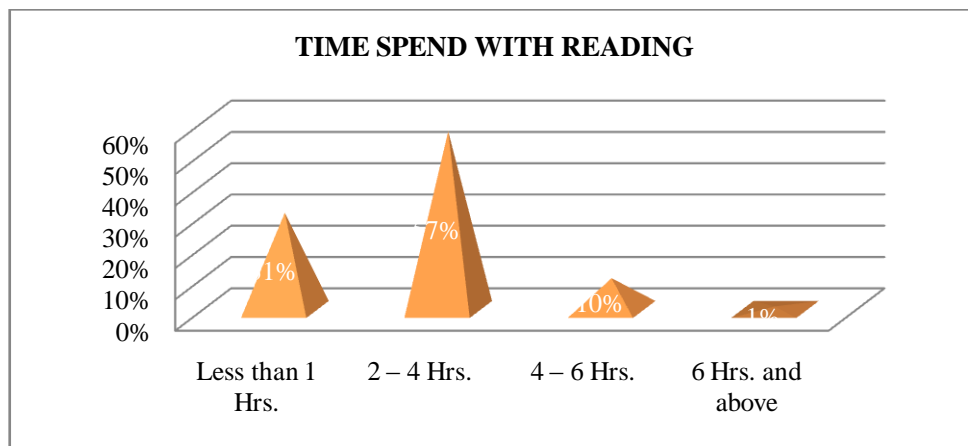
4.3 Timing of reading

It is observed from table- 4.11 that out of the total respondents, 31 % of the librarians were reading books daily less than 1 Hrs., 57 % of the librarians are reading books daily 2 – 4 Hrs. 10 % of the librarians were reading books daily 4 – 6 Hrs. and 1 % of the librarians were reading books daily 6 Hrs. and above.

Table 3: Timing of reading of LIS Professionals

Responses	No	Percentage
Less than 1 Hrs.	40	31 %
2 – 4 Hrs.	73	57 %
4 – 6 Hrs.	13	10 %
6 Hrs. and above	1	1 %
Total	127	100%

3. Graphically presentation of Timing of reading of LIS Professionals



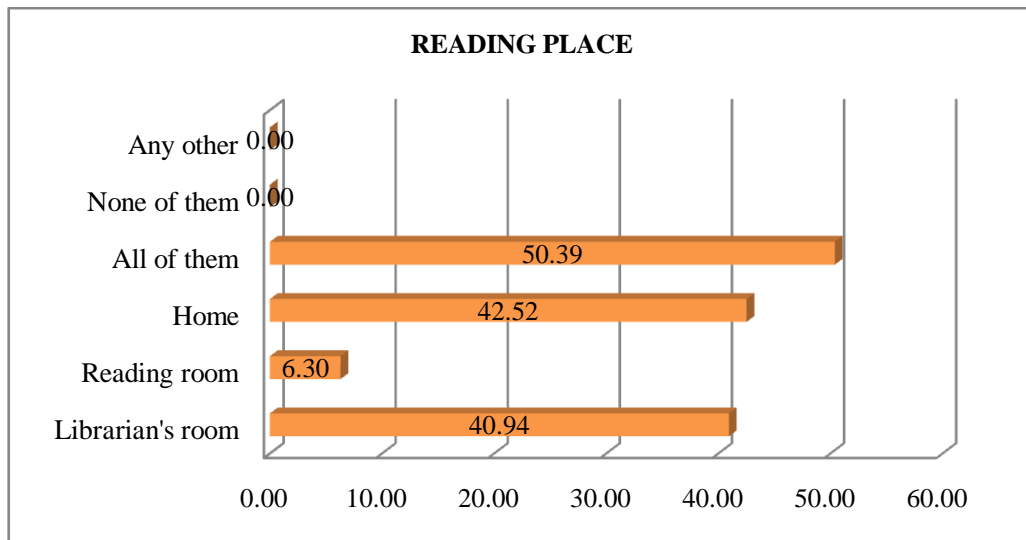
4.4 Place of reading

It is observed from table- 4.41 that out of the total respondents, 41 % of the librarians were preferred for reading in librarian's room. 6 % of the librarians were preferred for reading in reading room. 43 % of the librarians were preferred for reading in home. 50 % of the librarians were preferred for reading in all of area.

Table 4: Place of reading of LIS Professionals

Responses	No	Percentage
Librarian's room	52	41%
Reading room	8	6%
Home	54	43%
All of them	64	50%
None of them	0	0%

4. Graphically presentation of Reading place



4.5 Preference to reading media format

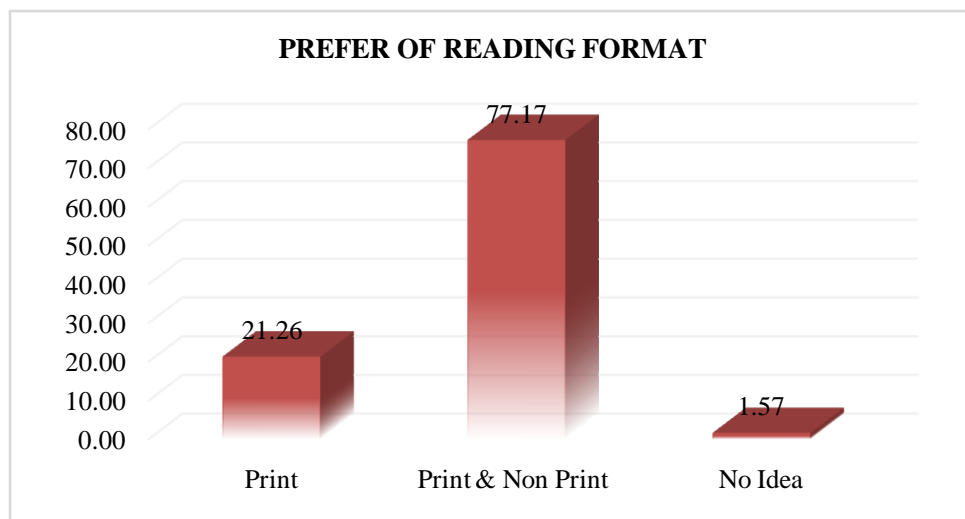
It is observed from table- 4.23 that out of the total respondents, 21 % of the librarians were preferred to printed material for reading. 77 % of the librarians were preferred to printed and non-printed material for reading. 2 % of the librarians had no idea about printed and non-printed material for reading.

Table 5: Reading media of LIS Professionals

5.

Responses	No	Percentage
Print	27	21%
Print & Non Print	98	77%
No Idea	2	2%
Total	127	100%

5. Graphically presentations the Reading media of LIS Professionals



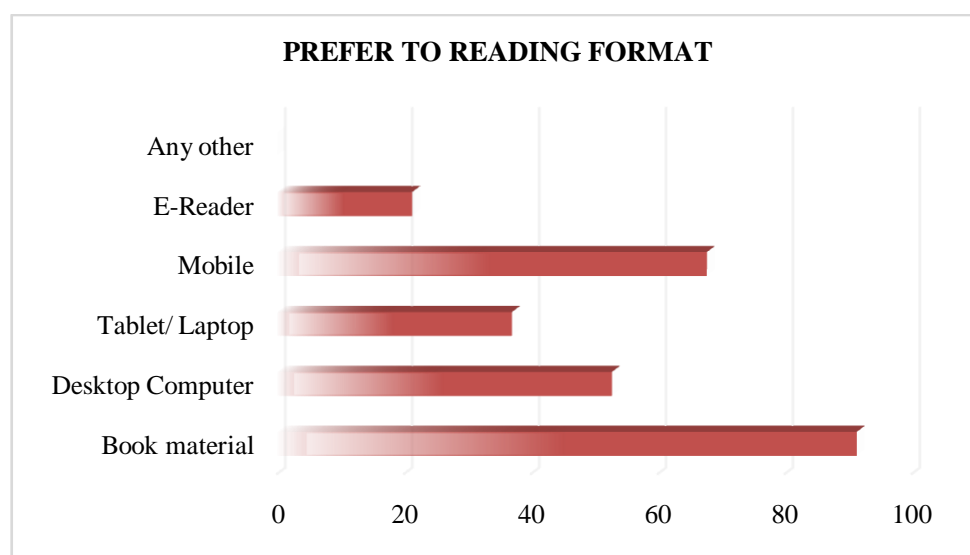
4.5 Preference to Reading Gadget

It is observed from table- 4.24 that out of the total respondents, 91 % of the librarian's preferred books material for reading. 53 % of the librarians preferred desktop computer material for reading. 37 % of the librarians preferred Tablet or Laptop material for reading. 68 % of the librarians preferred Mobile material for reading. 21 % of the librarians preferred E-Reader material for reading.

Table 6: Reader used by LIS Professionals

Responses	No	Percentage
Printed Book material	116	91%
Desktop Computer	67	53%
Tablet/ Laptop	47	37%
Mobile	86	68%
E-Reader	27	21%
Any other	0	0%

6. Graphically presentations the Reader used by LIS Professionals



7.

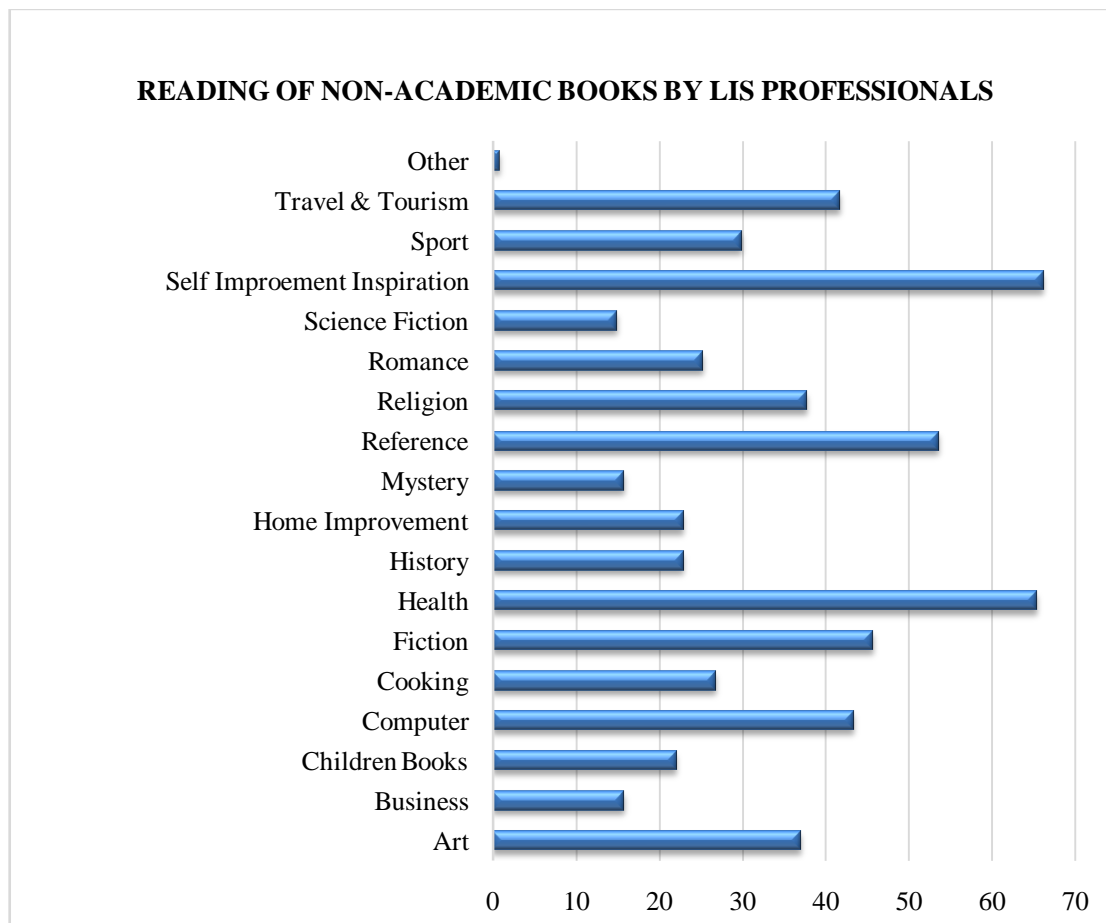
4.6 Reading of Non-academic books

It is observed from table- 4.14 that out of the total respondents, 37 % of the librarians were like to read Arts related books. 16 % of the librarians were like to read business related books. 22 % of the librarians were like to read children's related books. 43 % of the librarians were like to read computer related books. 27 % of the librarians were liked to read cooking related books. 46 % of the librarians were liked to read fiction related books. 65 % of the librarians were liked to read health related books. 23 % of the librarians were liked to read history related books. 23 % of the librarians were liked to read home improvement related books. 16 % of the librarians were liked to read mystery related books. 54 % of the librarians were liked to read reference related books. 38 % of the librarians were liked to read religion's related books. 25 % of the librarians were liked to read romance related books. 15 % of the librarians were liked to read science fiction related books. 66 % of the librarians were liked to read self-improvement inspiration related books. 30 % of the librarians were liked to read sports related books. 42 % of the librarians were liked to read travel-tourism related books. 1 % of the librarians were like to read other books.

Table 7: Reading of Non-academic Books by LIS Professionals

Responses	No	Percentage
Art	47	37%
Business	20	16%
Children Books	28	22%
Computer	55	43%
Cooking	34	27%
Fiction	58	46%
Health	83	65%
History	29	23%
Home Improvement	29	23%
Mystery	20	16%
Reference	68	54%
Religion	48	38%
Romance	32	25%
Science Fiction	19	15%
Self-Improvement Inspiration	84	66%
Sport	38	30%
Travel & Tourism	53	42%
Other	1	1%

7. Graphically presentations of Reading of Non-academic Books by LIS Professionals



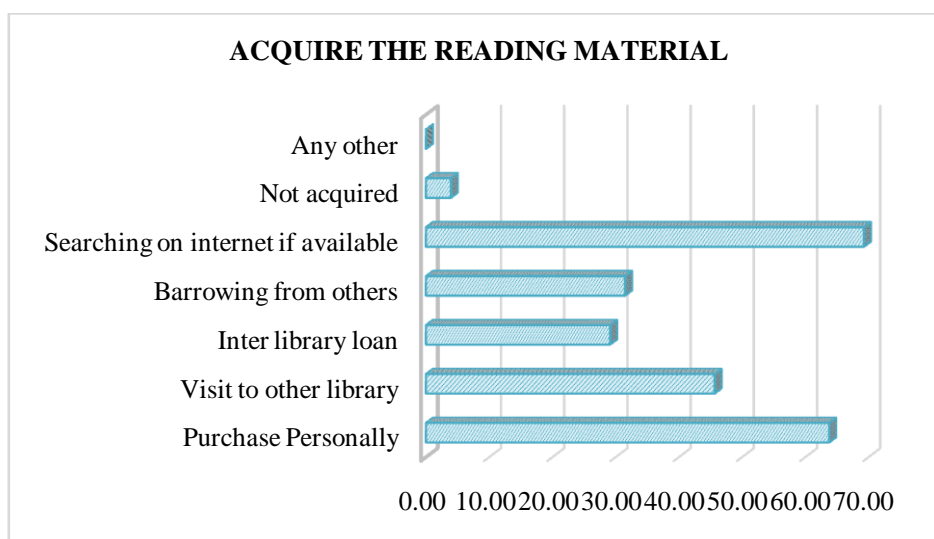
4.7 Acquisition of the Reading books not available in library

It is observed from table- 4.28 that out of the total respondents, 64 % of librarians acquired the reading material by Purchase Personally while the material is not available in the library. 46 % of librarians acquired the reading material by visit to other library while the material was not available in the library. 29 % of librarians acquired the reading material by visit to other library while the material was not available in the library. 31% of librarians acquired the reading material by Inter library loan while the material was not available in the library. 69% of librarians acquired the reading material by searching on internet if available while the material was not available in the library. 4% of librarians not acquired the reading material while the material was not available in the library.

Table 8: Reading Non-available Books in library by LIS Professionals

Responses	No	Percentage
Purchase Personally	81	64%
Visit to other library	58	46%
Inter library loan	37	29%
Barrowing from	40	31%
Searching on internet	88	69%
Not acquired	5	4%
Any other	0	0%

8. Graphically presentation of Reading Non-available Books in library by LIS Professionals



From the analysis of the data obtained from the questionnaire on reading habits of the Librarians.; it is interpreted that Librarians always read the books for viewing current affairs and next to them read for self-improvement, personal improvement. The frequency of reading is upto 2-4 hours. The place of reading is librarians room and their home. They read print and non-print reading materials. While reading they use printed books and mobiles also. They read Health related self-improvement, and reference literature. If the book is not available in Library then they purchase books personally or they like to visit another library for reading purpose.

5. Testing of Hypothesis

The hypothesis of this study is: The reading habits of library professionals help them in improving collection development in their respective libraries. From the section 4.3 and table 8: Acquisition of the Reading books not available in library it is evident that the collection of library is added in the library by the acquiring the required books by librarians and the hypothesis is accepted and valid.

6. Conclusions:

Widespread use of Internet and Technological advancement influences and alter people interest in reading habits from printed to digitized information. Librarians are also no exception to this. LIS professionals prefer reading gadgets to read information every day. It is supported by the length of their time accessing internet which is approximately one up two to four hours a day. They also have had some preference on choosing reading medium such as printed rather than online one. Thus it can be said that they have particular level of reading habits and reading medium based on their preferences.

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