INFORMATION NEEDS AND SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF FACULTY MEMBERS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE OF AFFILIATED COLLEGES OF GONDWANA UNIVERSITY, GADCHIROLI – A LITERATURE REVIEW

Sanjay D. Fulzele*

Dr. S. N. Sable**

Keywords:

Information seeking behavior, Social Science, Literature Review

Abstract

Social Science is a dynamic field encompassing a variety of streams under its belt. Information requirements obviously for such a field are vast. They demand both length and breadth. With added dynamics of internet information availability Different sources are available but they have pros and cons. Conventional ones like the printed material is still to find favor but is rapidly losing out to electronic sources. This study probes into the information needs and seeking behaviour of faculty members in Social Sciences of affiliated Colleges of Gondwana it is a challenge for the faculty members of social science stream to acquire the right information at the right time in a reasonable quantity from authentic sources. University, GadchiroliBefore the study was carried out a review of literature was done and this article presents its results.

*Ph. D Scholar, DLISC, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra-India.

**Librarian, Anand Niketan College, Warora, Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra-India.

Introduction

Seeking information is a skill as a choice is involved. A wrong decision at the initial stage can mean a lot of waste for the information seeker. On the other hand a professional approach to seeking information can lead to efficiency and effectiveness. Social science is a dynamic field and faculty members require substantial information inputs for various purposes. The orthodox, crude, random and ad-hoc approach of seeking information is being replaced by a more systematic one. Faculty members today have no choice but to be rational in their information seeking behavior. A study under the title "Information Needs and Seeking Behaviour of faculty Members in Social Sciences of Affiliated Colleges of Gondwana University, Gadchiroli" was undertaken to understand this behavior of the researcher. Before the full study was undertaken a literature review was done. This article presents the same. Information seeking behavior can be defined as the application of attitudes through a set of actions in order to achieve desired information need. In the coming together of attitudes and actions, what emerges is behavior.

Review of Literature

1.   K. Kumar and S. Tholkappian (2013) opined that information seeking behaviour is a human activity with respect to searching various sources, channels including use of that information. A survey was carried to find out information seeking behaviour of women's educational institutions library users in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu. Researchers have said that the terms, information seeking behaviour, information searching behaviour and information using behaviour are synonymous terms.

2.   Priyanka Nagar and ShamimAktarMunshi (2014) investigated the Information Seeking Behaviour of female research scholars of Faculties of Social Science and Arts in Aligarh Muslim University. Result showed that the Information Seeking activity is an essential activity for researches. Most of the research scholars were satisfied with the sources and collection, web-services, and behaviour of Library staff of the University Library while a few were not so satisfied.

3.   Mercy MlayKomba and EddaTandiLwoga (2015) measured the information needs and information seeking patterns of citizens in Tanzania with a particular focus to three districts:

Morogoro town, Njombe and Kinondoni districts. Findings showed that citizens mainly required information on national examination results, which was followed by information on birth, death and marriage certificates, land, and health. Citizens placed more reliance on electronic sources and interpersonal communication with neighbors and friends than explicit sources of information.

4.   Meyer et. al (2016) studied the value of utilizing a holistic ergonomic approach, covering engineering, cognitive and social perspectives, to cultivate beneficial and productive collaborative information seeking (CIS) systems and environments, particularly with reference to three main CIS dimensions (control, communication and awareness).

5.   Orlu, Aondoana Daniel (2016) in their study found that that the information seeking behaviour among masters students is organized, and in some cases, random. The randomness of the searching behaviour was seen during the planning stage. The finding confirmed that most of the students follows Kuhlthau's model wherein at the planning stage the search lacks a clear focus. The findings also indicated that emotional reaction to search causes anxiety, apprehension and confusion.

6.   Kaur and Mahajan (2012) carried a survey which showed that about 50% of users were not aware of the aspects of quality check of the research. Moreover most of them were unaware of the terms like Citations, h-Index and Impact factors.

7.   Karlsson et al (2012) researched the information seeking competencies, practices and knowledge of university actors. The method of investigation was through interviews and observation study for the Finnish students, researchers and information specialists.

8.   Chopkar and Khaparde (2011) through their survey found out that 120 (89%) research scholars visited the library. Most of the research scholars visited the library twice in a week. The first preferred sources of the information were books followed by news papers and journals.

9.   Shokeen and Kaushik (2002) researched information seeking behaviour of social scientists working in the universities located in Haryana. They found that most of the social scientists visit the library daily. The social scientists were using current journals followed by books.

10.   Suriya, Sangeetha and Nambi (2004) found that most of respondents 61 (38.12%) visited the library several times a week to meet their information needs. Regarding the type of search work by the respondents most of the respondents 91 (56.87%) worked their search by subject.

11.   Sely Costa and Jack Meadows (2000) in a study of Brazilian social sciences researchers discovered that, though print resources are still the most frequently used, electronic resources are becoming increasingly popular. Restricted access to networked computers is the main obstacle to the use of databases and other electronic resources.

12.   Hannah Francis (2005) carried a study that described the information seeking behavior of social sciences faculty at the University of the West Indies (UWI). An important finding was that social scientists preferred journal articles in electronic format over print.

13.   David Ellis and Hanna Oldman's(2005) study investigated the information-seeking behavior of researchers in the field of English literature at British universities. The study concluded with suggestions for deeper study of the use of electronic resources in relation to information literacy and browsing.

14.   Stephen E. et. al (2000) revealed that temporary factors have a significant influence on humanists' adoption of electronic information technology. They recognized four categories of time intervals that influence humanists' behavior. Three of these are types of time spent: anticipated start-up time,actual start-up time, and use time; the fourth is time of life: that is, the stage or trajectory of a scholar's project or career.

15.   Susana Romanos de Tiratel(2000) investigated the information seeking behavior of Argentine humanities and social sciences scholars. They concluded that no substantial differences existed between them and they share similar information-seeking behaviors.

16.   Suriya, Sangeetha and Nambi (2004) did a study on information seeking behavior of faculty members from Government Arts Colleges in Cuddalore District. The aim of their study was to investigate, how faculty members seek information from the library. It was found out that most of the respondents 61 (38.12 percent) used to visit the library several times a week to meet their information needs. As far as the type of search made by the respondents was concerned, most of the respondents (57%) made their search by subject.

17.   Shahzad (2007) conducted a research to find out the information-seeking behavior of faculty members from three faculties, i.e., science and technology, social sciences, and humanities of Government College University, Lahore. The information needs of humanities teachers at the University of the Punjab were studied by Anjum in 1978.

18.   Shokeen and Kushik (2002) conducted a study about information seeking behaviour of social scientists in the universities of Haryana. The study revealed that most of the social scientists visit the library daily. The search tools that were preferred were indexing and abstracting periodicals and citations in articles. Preferred sources of information were in the form of current journals and books.

19.   Reneker (1992) studied the information-seeking activities of 31 faculties at Stanford University. He adopted a naturalistic approach and qualitative techniques for the data collection, mainly personal interviews. His research found a close relationship between knowledge of the information environment and the sources used.

Key findings and observations
a.   Library habits were found to be existing but were reported to be on a decline,
b.   Problems reported were in the terms of lack of focus, lack of clarity and lack of planning,

c.   While some of the information seekers reported satisfaction with the collection in the libraries, others were not too happy about it.

d.   Use of IT resources has been reported to be on a rise.

Conclusion

Information is an important input for knowledge formation. Lot depends on the way information is sought. At times information is available. But the way it is sought decides what we get. A planned, systematic and scientific approach to information seeking is important for faculty members of a stream like social sciences that is vast and rapidly changing. The literature reviewed shows that information seeking behavior is influenced by different factors. Hence this study of Information Needs and Seeking Behaviour of facultyMembers in Social Sciences of Affiliated Colleges of Gondwana University, Gadchiroli will make a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge.

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