INFORMATION RETRIEVAL BEHAVIOUR OF STUDENT TEACHERS: A CASE STUDY OF SELECTED B.ED COLLEGES OF TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to determine the usefulness of sources used by student teachers for information retrieval, purpose of retrieving the information and factors affecting the information retrieval in college of education at Tirunelveli district. Questionnaire was used to collect the required data. The sample consists of 150 students randomly selected from 3 colleges. 140 duly filled-in questionnaires were included for analysis. The findings of the study reveal that: The majority of student educators are females, having hailed from urban areas, studying as day scholars, belonging to arts faculty, with the background of under graduation doing B.Ed in aided colleges of Education; Dictionaries are found to be very useful among the student educators (115) followed by Internet (111), discussion with colleagues (94), newspapers (91) and textbooks (90). The information sources which are found to be useful include CAS (85) followed by dissertations (84), reviews (84), conference papers (83) and magazines (81) ; Most of the student educators use the resources for improving their knowledge (102) to a great extent. It is followed by other purposes like general reading (93), seeking opportunities (76), and leisure reading (75) and preparing for competitive exams (72); Availability of resources (81), purpose of information need (68), availability of time (67) and availability of facilities (63) are the factors that govern the information retrieval to a great extent. It is suggested that library orientation programme should be conducted by the library every year and best readers award may be initiated to promote reading among student teachers.

Keywords: *Information Retrieval, student teachers, College of Education, information sources, availability of resources*

1. INTRODUCTION

Rowley (1988) concerns information retrieval with the exploitation of the information and other contents of documents. The establishment of various large databases, which are mounted on computers and made available to anyone who wishes to search them, has a significant impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of the retrieval of information. Students retrieve the information from primary, secondary and tertiary resources. They also retrieve the information from online resources, mails, search engines, websites, document delivery systems, discussion with friends, consulting from the experts and attending the seminars.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Fordjour Badu and Adjei (2010) carried out a survey research to investigate the prospects and challenges of information retrieval among the students of University of Ghana, Legon using a questionnaire. The findings reveal that ; students from all the faculties are highly aware of the information retrieval systems ; the use of information retrieval tools to retrieve relevant information depends on

the information needs of the student. The study recommends that information retrieval skills training programme should be embedded in the curriculum and undertaken at an appropriate time and supported by academic staff of the University. In addition, the University administrators should ensure students

Nirmal Singh and Amarvir Singh Mann (2015) aim at an assessment of the information seeking behavior of lawyers of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh. The questionnaire was used as data collection tool and was distributed randomly among 200 advocates. Total 86 lawyers responded to the questionnaire making response rate of 44%. The study revealed that under influence of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), the majority of

Reza Hakimi1, Mohammad Ali Tabasi1, Gholam Reza Samadzadeh1 and Zohre Sorinezami (2015) evaluated the information-seeking behaviour of students of General Medicine, odontology and post-graduate students of various fields of medicine who has admitted their theses in 2011-2012 based on Kuhlthau information-seeking behaviour. This study is an analytic survey. The studied group includes 210 theses admitted in the Research Committee of the University which were selected by census method. Crocker standardized questionnaire was used to assess the feelings and thoughts of

Blessing Esuru Ahiauzu and OkonEdet Ani (2015) surveyed the patterns of information-seeking behaviour of academic staff in Nigeria in the emerging electronic information environment. Academic staffs in Rivers State University of Science and

studying subjects without an emphasis upon technology receive sufficient information retrieval skills training so that they are not prejudiced against due to subject chosen. Also, ensure that information retrieval skills training are pitched at a level which is appropriate to the individual needs of the student.

respondents are using the Internet and e-resources to access information. At the same time, the significance of print format has not diminished as ¾ of respondents prefer to use both print as well as e-resources to find required information. The study concluded with the need for library professionals to adopt proactive approach to prove their worth to the law professionals by satisfying later's information needs.

the Kuhlthau six-stage information-seeking model using a five-choice Likert scale. The present study shows that the studied students pass the various stages of Kuhlthau model by slight differences in different stages of their theses. Their feelings and ideas are more or less similar to the learned pattern except that the fifth and sixth stages which are inconsistent with the model. The Chi-square test and exact Fisher test showed a significant relationship between male and female students in terms of feelings and ideas during different stages of Kuhlthau information seeking model.

Technology (RSUST), Port Harcourt, Nigeria were used as respondents in the survey. Questionnaire survey was used as research method for data collection. The findings of the study have shown that, the information-seeking behavior of academic staff in RSUST is in favour of electronic

information sources on the Internet, as the Internet was the most frequently used information source (31.59%), closely followed by personal contacts/collections 23.98%, workshop/conferences/seminars (23.72%) than the traditional library (20.71%). The paper recommends that, the librarians, university managements, the

Manoj Kumar Sinha (2015) carried out a study to identify the information Needs and Information Seeking Pattern of Public Library Users of Barak Valley in South Assam, where the majority of the people are comparatively having lower level of educational background and they are generally less educated. The respondents comprise of varieties of public library users viz. students, teachers, farmers, business class people , women and elderly people etc. mainly drawn from the rural areas of three districts of Barak Valley. Survey method has been adopted by the investigators using mainly schedule which is supplemented by observation and interviews in some cases. The self-designed schedule comprising of 22 questions has been distributed amongst the randomly selected samples. The schedules were distributed amongst the 300 samples, out of which 215 respondents have responded. During data analysis, it has been found that only 139 users are valid respondents and participated mainly in the survey. So the major part of study reveals result of 139 respondents. The filled up schedules were collected from the respondents for data analysis and interpretations. On the basis of filled up schedule the data has been analysed and tabulated using MS-Excel Software. For data analysis percentage technique has

governments etc. must respond proactively to meet the changing information-seeking behavior of academic staff through effective development of electronic information sources – the Internet and virtual libraries in Nigerian universities for efficiency in research and sustainable national development.

been adopted. The survey finding reveals that majority of the respondents (47.0 %) belong to the age group of 16-25 years. The awareness about the rural/public library was more among the respondents and the highest numbers (34.53%) of the respondents visit public library once a week. Most of the respondents (40.29%) prefer to spend at least one hour in the rural public library. The fact that the maximum demand for information from the respondents (88.44 %) were from employment related information. The Television channels (100.0 %) and Newspapers (98.56 %) are two important sources from where the majority of public library users (67.44%) get their desired information needs. Majority of the respondents (86.33 %) say that the information given by various sources are moderate. The majority of the respondents (82.73%) are very much satisfied with the information which are provided by the rural / public libraries available in their locality; and a substantial number of respondents (64.74 %) do not face any difficulties to access right information whereas very few respondents (32.25 %) are getting problems to access right information. It is suggested to make rural public library in every rural village and make the rural people aware about the need and importance of the rural public library. The Assam Government should

take steps for the proper growth and development of Rural Public Libraries located in under developed areas. Therefore an effort should be taken from the Govt. of Assam for the overall

Singh, Moveen Kumar and VanitaKhanchandani (2015) examined the information needs and information seeking behaviour of foreign students in the University of Delhi. A survey method was used for the undertaken study. The data were collected using a structured questionnaire, self-administered to 120 foreign students (60 males & 60 females) with 88 (47 males & 41 females) returns. The research is limited to post-graduate, M.Phil. and Ph.D. foreign students in University of Delhi. It was found that post-graduate students need information regarding their program of study while

Nurhafizah Azizan1, Suhaila Osman, Noor Faraliza Samsudin, SitiHajar Baharin, Razifah Othman and Aflah Isa (2015) attempted to determine the awareness and identity problem face by the undergraduate's students of UiTM Johor, in their behaviour of seeking information during their learning process. This quantitative study used questionnaire to collect data randomly from 200 undergraduate students across four faculties. 150 filled in questionnaires were analyzed. Study shows that students visit library for the purpose of getting a

development of public libraries in Assam state especially in underdeveloped areas for creating more jobs and extending more library services to the society.

research scholars need information for writing research articles and for doing their research work. Most of them seek information through the internet. Research scholars used electronic resources such as databases, e-journals and e-theses and dissertations. 88.6% of the respondents also use books for seeking information. Their use of the library is limited with complaints about library staff and too few computer terminals. The findings of the study indicate that how the library professionals should assist foreign students to accomplish their information needs.

conducive place for reading/study. Majority of undergraduate's students have problem on information scattering in too many sources and do not know how to perform library searching skill. They also seem highly rely on lecturer notes and textbook while article journal rank as third place for source of information. It is suggested that the library can improve their planning and strategies to develop the collection and services to satisfy the undergraduate's student's information need.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
3.1 Sample of the Study

The data is collected from three B.Ed colleges of education in Tirunelveli district. The sample includes two

The researcher had distributed 150 questionnaires to the student teachers.

Government aided colleges and one self-financing college.

Among the returned questionnaires, the researcher had selected duly completed

and filled-in 140 questionnaires for analysis and interpretation.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was undertaken with the following prime objectives.

- To understand the socio-demographic characteristics of student educators
- To know the sources used by the respondent to get required information and the level of usefulness of such resources in information retrieval process
- To find out the purposes of information retrieval and
- To analyze the factors that govern the information retrieval process of the respondents

5. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- Null Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between various independent variables and the usefulness of tools used for information retrieval.
- Null Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between various independent variables and the purpose of and factors governing information retrieval.

6. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study focuses only on B.Ed students. It is limited to the geographical area of Tirunelveli District.

7. STATISTICAL TOOLS USED

The selected 14 questionnaires were analysed through appropriate tests like percentage analysis and T-Test in SPSS software.

8. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Nativity-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Nativity	Frequency	Percent
Rural	68	48.6
Urban	72	51.4

Table 1 show that, 51.4 % (72) of the students are hailed from urban areas while the remaining 48.6 % (68) of the students are from rural areas.

Table 2: Commutation of the Respondents

Commutation	Frequency	Percent
Day scholar	114	81.4
Hosteller	26	18.6

Table 2 shows that 81.4 % (114) of the student teachers are day scholars while just 18.6 % (26) of them are hostellers.

Table 3: Discipline-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Discipline	Frequency	Percent
Arts	72	51.4
Science	68	48.6

Table 3 shows that 51.4 % (72) of the student teachers belong to arts streams while 48.6 % (68) of them belong to science streams.

Table 4: Qualification-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percent
UG	129	92.1
PG	11	7.9

Table 3 shows that 92.1 % (129) of the respondents are under graduates while just 7.9 % (11) of them are post graduates.

Table 5: College Status-wise Distribution of the Respondents

College Status	Frequency	Percent
Aided	90	64.3
Self-financed	50	35.7

Table 5 shows that 64.3 % (90) of the respondents are from aided college students and 35.7 % (50) of the respondents are from self-financing college.

Table 6: Usefulness of sources used for Information retrieval

Source	Very Useful	Useful	Moderate Useful	Total
Newspapers	91	44	5	140
Magazines	48	81	11	140
Research Reports	50	66	24	140
Conference papers	30	83	27	140
Dissertations	17	84	39	140
Textbooks	90	44	6	140
Handbooks	57	67	16	140
Reference books	88	42	10	140
Encyclopaedias	51	67	22	140
Abstracting and Indexing Periodicals	23	67	30	120
Reviews	28	84	28	140
Tables	46	64	30	140
Yearbooks	52	66	22	140

Dictionaries	115	20	5	140
Bibliographies	58	62	20	140
Online Public Access Catalogue	58	60	22	140
Online Databases	69	50	21	140
Search Engines	37	74	29	140
Websites	74	58	8	140
E-Mails	76	54	10	140
Document Delivery / CAS	31	85	24	140
Reading	111	26	3	140
Discussion with Colleagues	94	41	5	140
Consulting expert / Knowledgeable person	78	54	8	140
Discussion with library staff	48	75	17	140
Attending seminars / conferences	71	54	15	140

Table 6 shows that dictionaries are found to be very useful among the student educators (115) followed by Internet (111), discussion with colleagues (94), newspapers (91) and textbooks (90). The information sources which are found to be useful include CAS (85) followed by dissertations (84), reviews (84), conference papers (83) and magazines (81). The resources which are moderately useful among the student teachers are dissertations (39) followed by abstracting and indexing periodicals (30), tables (30), and search engines (29) and reviews (28).

Table 7: Independent Samples t test: Demographic Variables vs. Usefulness of sources used for information retrieval

Variables	Statistics			
Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Male	13	61.08	5.560	0.966
Female	127	59.50	5.877	
Locality	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Rural	68	58.87	5.701	1.548
Urban	72	60.39	5.926	
Residential Status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Day scholar	114	59.84	5.645	0.729
Hosteller	26	58.81	6.717	
Discipline	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Arts	72	60.51	5.787	1.813
Science	68	58.74	5.812	

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Educational Qualification	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
UG	129	59.50	5.789	0.967
PG	11	61.45	6.502	
College Status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Aided	90	59.68	6.037	0.077
Self-financed	50	59.60	5.548	

To test whether various demographic variables make variations in the usefulness of various tools used for information retrieval, an independent sample t test was conducted. Table 7 shows the result of the test and reveals that there is no significant difference between various independent variables and the usefulness of tools used for information retrieval as the computed value is lower than the table value of 1.96. Thus, null hypothesis is accepted.

Table 8: Purposes of Information retrieval and Factors governing the information retrieval

Purposes	To a great extent	To some extent	Not at all	Total
General Reading	93	44	3	140
Assignment	50	81	9	140
Competitive Exams	72	52	15	139
Seminar Preparation	67	64	9	140
Improving Knowledge	102	36	2	140
Leisure Reading	75	59	6	140
Seeking Opportunities	76	60	4	140
Research work	52	77	11	140
Factors governing information retrieval	**To a great extent**	**To some extent**	**Not at all**	**Total**
Facility availability	63	64	13	140
Resource Availability	81	55	4	140
Discussion with library staff	41	78	21	140
Time availability	67	58	15	140
Purpose of information need	68	67	5	140
Consulting expert / knowledgeable person	55	67	18	140
Discussion with Colleagues	46	78	16	140
Attending seminars / conferences	62	65	13	140
Other Factors	29	78	33	140

Table 8 shows that most of the student educators use the resources for improving their knowledge (102) to a great extent. It is followed by other purposes like general reading (93), seeking opportunities (76), and leisure reading (75), and preparing for competitive exams (72). As far as the purposes which propel them to seek for information to some extent are concerned, assignment preparation (81) tops the table followed by other purposes like research work (77), seeking opportunities (60) and leisure reading (59).

Table 8 also shows the factors that govern the information retrieval pattern of student educators. It is understood from the table that availability of resources (81), purpose of information need (68), availability of time (67) and availability of facilities (63) are the factors that govern the information retrieval to a great extent. The factors which govern the information retrieval to some extent include discussion with library staff (78), discussion with colleagues (78), other factors (78), purpose of information need (67) and consultation with experts (67).

Table 9: Independent Samples t test: Demographic Variables vs. Purposes of Information retrieval and Factors governing the information retrieval

Variables	Statistics			
Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Male	13	41.54	3.550	1.178
Female	127	40.28	4.589	
Locality	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Rural	68	40.49	4.447	0.217
Urban	72	40.32	4.593	
Residential Status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Day scholar	114	40.42	4.666	0.131
Hosteller	26	40.31	3.813	
Discipline	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Arts	72	40.40	4.490	0.007
Science	68	40.40	4.559	
Educational Qualification	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
UG	129	40.51	4.386	0.788
PG	11	39.09	5.839	
College Status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Aided	90	40.19	4.857	0.795
Self-financed	50	40.78	3.813	

To test whether various demographic variables make variations in the purpose of information retrieval and factors governing it, an independent sample t test was conducted. Table 7 shows the result of the test and reveals that there is no significant difference between various independent variables and the purpose of and factors governing information retrieval, as the computed value is lower than the table value of 1.96. Thus, null hypothesis is accepted.

9. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The major findings of the study include, inter alia:

- The majority of student educators are females, having hailed from urban areas, studying as day scholars, belonging to arts faculty, with the background of under graduation doing B.Ed in aided colleges of Education.
- Dictionaries are found to be very useful among the student educators (115) followed by Internet (111), discussion with colleagues (94), newspapers (91) and textbooks (90). The information sources which are found to be useful include CAS (85) followed by dissertations (84), reviews (84), conference papers (83) and magazines (81).
- Most of the student educators use the resources for improving their knowledge (102) to a great extent. It is followed by other purposes like general reading (93), seeking opportunities (76), and leisure reading (75) and preparing for competitive exams (72).
- Availability of resources (81), purpose of information need (68), availability of time (67) and availability of facilities (63) are the factors that govern the information retrieval to a great extent.

10. TENABILITY OF HYPOTHESES

- There is no significant difference between various independent variables and the usefulness of tools used for information retrieval. Null hypothesis is accepted.
- There is no significant difference between various independent variables and the purpose of and factors governing information retrieval. Null hypothesis is accepted.

11. SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are put forward in the light of findings.

- The library may organize library orientation programme every year.
- Best reader award may be initiated to encourage reading habits.
- More resources suiting the information needs of present young generation need to be procured.
- More dictionaries, newspaper and textbooks should be made available.
- Sufficient number of computers with internet access should be made available in the college libraries.

- More library-linked projects and activities need to be planned to integrate library with the teaching environment.

- The library should be set in a pleasing atmosphere with necessary amenities to attract and retain the users.

12. CONCLUSION

The student educators should become information literate in every sense that they recognize the information need, locate the relevant sources, gather or download the sources, evaluate the sources, use the sources effectively and acknowledge the sources properly. Because, is the student educators of today who will become the teachers of tomorrow to decide the destiny of the world. They should be motivated to use more of library resources and services. Enough resources and effective ICT infrastructure should be made available in the B.Ed college libraries to equip the student teachers with necessary information in desired formats at times of need.

13. REFERENCES

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