



Information Seeking Behavior of the Engineering College Students, Gandhinagar

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Abstract:

The paper presents about various attitudes and behavior in seeking information of engineering college students. Analysis shows that majority of engineering students have visited library AlterNet day and they have spend time of 5 – 10 hours during a week. Students have satisfied with the collection of Text books, Reference books, Magazines and Journals facilities in the library. Their purpose of information seeking is for reading. Student has to agree with the Need for Instruction/Guidance for Using Various Information Sources. Students have using internet for downloading programmes and for preparing Research work. Students mostly used the Books circulation and Internet services frequently in the library. The study shows that majority of students have faced Availability of too much information by frequently.

Keywords: *Information seeking behavior; Engineering College Students*

1. Introduction

Everyone needs information to fulfill his duties in a better way. Individuals play different roles in their life. i.e. as professionals, parents, citizens etc. and all their roles need information. A user can approach to any channel to meet his needs. Sometimes he cannot express his needs or expresses them poorly. Satisfaction of these needs is possible in so many ways. One of them is through the libraries but the librarians or information officers cannot read his mind as the need appears in the mind or the enquirer only. It is a challenge for the information providers to assess user needs and provide him the exact information according to his needs.

2. Information

Information is the knowledge of the human in action. It may ideas, facts data and imaginative works of human mind. To discuss and study any concept, we first need to define it. In the process, we may identify and define other ideas that are related to the concept under study. In the case of information, two related concepts include “Knowledge” and “data”. Information behavior,” “information seeking,” “information sources,” and “information use” are among several other, higher- order concepts that build upon the concept of information. (Case, 2012, p. 47). This type of information is in different formats. The increase in availability of information on the Web has affected Information seeking behavior. Abels (2004) mentioned that the frequency of use of the internet in 1998-2000 had greatly increased. At the same time, expenditure on monographs showed steady increase. ‘Information seeking is a natural and necessary mechanism of human existence’ (Marchionini, 1995).

3. Definitions

3.1 Information Seeking

Tom Wilson has said that information seeking is “the purposive seeking for information as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal” (1999) Gary Marchionini’s definition of information seeking is problem oriented: “process in which humans purposefully engage in order to change their state of knowledge” (1995, p. 5-6)

3.2 Information Behavior

Taylor (1991) defines information behavior as the product of certain elements of the information use environment. The elements are:

- The assumptions formally learned or not, made by a defined set of people concerning the nature of their work.
- The kinds and structure of the problems deemed important and typical by this set of people.
- The constraints and opportunities of typical environment within which any group or subgroup of this set of people operate and work.
- The conscious, and perhaps unconscious, assumptions made as to what constitutes a solution, or better said, a resolution of problems, and what makes information useful and valuable in their contexts.

3.3 Information Seeking Behavior

Information Seeking Behavior is the purposive seeking for information as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal in the course of seeking information; the individual may interact with manual information systems (Such as the World Wide Web)

3.4 Psychological Factors in Information Seeking Behavior

Many psychological mechanisms also come to work in a seemingly rational process of information seeking. Wilson’s model of information behavior shows how psychological, demographic, role-related, interpersonal, environmental and source related characteristics influence the information seeking process. The decision to seek information is dependent on motivation which may have a cognitive origin or be emotionally based in the need to reinforce previous values. Before the relevant information is retrieved the searchers must overcome possible barriers, which sometimes are psychological. They must experience the situation as rewarding enough and themselves as competent enough to actually take the final decision to seek information (Wilson, 1981; Wilson & Walsh, 1996)

4. Engineering Colleges: An Over View

4.1 Leelaben Dashrathbai Ramdas Patel Institute of Technology and Research

It is the academic arm of the philanthropic trust - Sarva Vidyalaya Kelavani Mandal. The institute was established in 2005. The institute offers AICTE approved engineering programme with Automobile, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Electronics and Communication, Information Technology and Mechanical Engineering branches.

4.2 Government Engineering College

The college was established in 2004. The institute offers Bio-Medical Engineering, Computer, Electronics and Communications, Instrumentation and Control, Information Technology, Metallurgy engineering.

4.3 Shankersinh Vaghela Bapu Institute of Technology

Shankersinh Vaghela Bapu Institute of Technology (SVBIT) was established in the year 2009. The institute offers Civil, Computer, Electrical, Electronics and Communication, Information Technology and Mechanical, Science & Humanities engineering branches.

5. Research Methodology and Data Collection

The data are collected through well structured questionnaires. Total 210 questionnaires were distributed to the students in above mentioned engineering colleges, Gandhinagar. Out of them 170 (80.95%) questionnaires were returned. Obtained data were analyzed with the help of Ms. Excel. Analyzed data were presented in bellow tables.

6. Analysis

Number of respondents from different engineering colleges

College Name	Students (%)
Leelaben Dashratbhai Ramdas Patel Institute of Technology and Research	50
Shankersinh Vaghela Bapu Institute of Technology	38
Government Engineering College	12
Total respondents	100

Above table indicates that majority of 50% respondents are from Leelaben Dashratbhai Ramdas Patel Institute of Technology and Research, 38% respondents are form Shankersinh Vaghela Bapu Institute of Technology and 12% respondents are from Government Engineering College.

Frequency of library visiting

Frequency of library visit	Respondents (%)
Daily	32
AlterNet Day	40
Once in a week	18
Occasionally	10
Do not use library	0
Total respondents	100

Table 8 shows that majority of 40 % respondents visited library “AlterNet Day” followed by 32 % respondents visited library “Daily”. 18% students visited library “Once in a week”, 10 % students visited library “Occasionally”. Every students visited library it means that all students used library.

Time spent per week in the library

Time	Respondents (%)
Less than 5 hours	8
5 – 10 hours	70
10 – 20 hours	17
More than 20 hours	5
Total respondents	100

Table 9 indicates that majority of 70% respondents’ spend 5 -10 hours per week in the library. 17% respondents spend 10 -20 hours, 8% respondents spend less than 5 hours and only 5 respondents spend more than 20 hours per week in the library.

Satisfaction with library collection

Library Collection	Very Poor (%)	Poor (%)	Fair (%)	Good(%)	Very Good (%)
Journals	0	0	36	12	52
Magazines	2	2	18	39	39
News papers	4	16	40	20	20
Reference books	0	12	28	28	32
Text books	5	3	8	12	72
Project reports	2	8	22	68	0

Table 10 indicates satisfaction with library collection. It shows that majority of 72% respondents satisfied with Text Book, 52% respondents satisfied with Journals, 39 % respondents satisfied with Magazine and 32 % respondents satisfied with Reference books collection and gave “Very Good” rank. 68 % respondents gave “Good” rank to the Project Reports. 40% respondents indicate “Fair” collection about the Reference Books. The collection of News Papers rated “Fair” by 40%.

Purpose of information seeking

Purpose	Respondents (%)
General awareness	20
Preparing examinations	15
Preparing notes	25
Reading	28
Research work	12
Total respondents	100

Table 11 indicates that majority of 28% respondents seek information for “Reading”. Followed by 25% respondents seek information for “Preparing notes”, 20% respondents seek information for “General Knowledge”.

Need for Instruction/Guidance for Using Various Information Sources

Instructions / Guidance	Respondents (%)
Strongly agree	18
Agree	35
Natural	28
Disagree	13
Strongly disagree	6

Table 12 indicates that majority of 35 respondents and nearer respondents have reported that they gave to need for instruction / Guide for using various information sources.

Purpose of Using Internet Technology

Purpose of Using Internet Technology	Respondents (%)
Downloading programmes	23
Entertainment	9
E-journals	17
E-books	17
Means of communications	13
Research work	22
Not use the internet	0
Total Respondents	100

Table 13 indicates that every student used the internet. Majority of respondents used internet for Downloading Programmes, Research works, E-Journals, E-Books.

Frequency of Using Library Services

Library Services	Never (%)	Sometimes (%)	Frequently (%)
Book circulation	0	18	82
Inter library loan	15	59	26
Reference service	12	76	12
Internet	2	18	80

Table 14 indicates that majority of 80% respondents have using Internet service and 82% respondents have using Book circulation services frequently. 76% respondents have using Reference service followed by 59% respondents have using Inter library loan service sometimes.

Problems encountered by respondents while seeking information

Problems	Never (%)	Sometimes (%)	Frequently (%)
Availability of too much information	25	28	47
Information resources are very expensive	42	36	22
Lake of information about available sources	15	45	40
Lake of technical information	82	10	8
Non availability of useful literature	50	39	11
Non availability of e- resources	23	47	30

Table 15 shows that majority of 47 respondents have faced availability of too much information frequently. Majority of 36% respondents have faced Information resources are very expensive, 45% respondents have faced Lake of information about available sources and 47% respondents have faced Non availability of e-resources.

7. Conclusion

Present study shows that majority of engineering students have visited library AlterNet day and spend time of 5 – 10 hours during a week. Majority of students have satisfied with the collection of Text books, Reference books, Magazines and Journals facilities in the library. Majority of respondent's purpose of information seeking is for reading and it's a very good. Regarding Need for Instruction/Guidance for Using Various Information Sources, majority of respondents have agreed with them. Majority of respondents have using internet for downloading programmes and for preparing Research work. Majority of respondents used Books circulation and Internet services frequently. Majority of respondents have faced Availability of too much information by frequently.

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