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ASSESSING THE USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES BY ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACADEMIC HIERARCHY: A CASE STUDY OF UIET, KURUKSHETRA

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Abstract

The present study tries to know the utilization process of library resources by Engineering Students of UIET, Kurukshetra in reference to their academic hierarchy. On the basis of the academic hierarchy, 141 students were selected with the help of Stratified Sampling. The study highlights that the junior most and senior most students visit the library weekly and fortnightly but 2nd year and 3rd year go to the library daily or twice a week. Comparatively 3rd and 4th year students used indexing services very frequently, frequently. B. Tech. 1st year students used periodicals to prepare their examination notes, 2nd and 4th year students used it for updating their knowledge & enhancing general awareness. Opening hours and resources of the library were found satisfactory among all the students except Ist year. The frequency of using magazines was lower among junior students. There found neither type of significant connection between academic hierarchy of the students and their opinion regarding the use of reference material, reference books, indexing journals and Newspapers & its clipping, use of Library catalogue and Abstracting Services. It was noted from the study that Statistical Tables, pamphlets, Monographs and treatises were never used by the majority of the students.

Keywords: Information Resources, Indexing Services, Information Needs Periodicals

Introduction

A library plays a significant role in making the progress of knowledge especially in the teaching-learning process. It has been considered as a growing organism (Ranganathan-1931; Neelameghan-2007). Library occupies a pivotal position in an Educational Institution. A library can exists and survive anywhere but and an institution cannot survive without a good library. An upto date and well stocked library equipped with a well trained staff adds to the excellence of an institution. In simple term library is place whereby some kind of reading material is stocked for open access. As per Oxford Dictionary, "Library is an organized collection of information resources made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space, or both. Library ... collection of books, public or private; room or building where these are kept; similar collection of films, records, computer routines, etc. or place where they are kept; series of books issued in similar bindings as set."

In the context of user studies, information has been used "to denote factual data or advice or opinion, a physical object, such as a book or journal, or the channel through which a message is conveyed, for example, oral or written communication" (Rohde, 1986). Within library and information science, information has been defined as "any stimulus that reduces uncertainty" (Krikelas, 1983). In legal sense, "information" means any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force (RTI ACT, 2005). The concept of Information Resource is often not defined properly. Library documents are called Information

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Sources as they provide information. They are also called Information Resources. The terms Information Source and Information Resource are not similar. A Source is one that makes something available, but a Resource helps in creating something new. As a library generates all its services on the basis of its information sources, they can also be called information resources.

The present study focuses on Utilization of Library Resources by the Engineering students in Reference to their Academic Hierarchy in UIET, Kurukshetra. Here the academic hierarchy has been construed different classes of students such as . Ist year, 2nd year, 3rd year & 4th year. The available literatures on the use of library resources represent different patterns and problems among the users such as Ammini (1999) observed that the opening hours of the library were not convenient. Majority of respondents used library catalogue as a tool for locating the books. Most of the users prefer text books and consult indexing, abstracting as source of information. Abifarin Shokeen and Kaushik (2003) in their study of information seeking behaviour of Psychologists and Sociologists revealed that qualification, teaching experience and status do not have any effect on the visits to the library by both the groups. Periodicals were an important source of information of both group and browsing was the 1st preferred method of searching the required information. Sharma and Pant (2004) revealed that 10% respondents were using library for referring the journal articles and 40.9% get library instruction. Lack of reading material and deficiency of their knowledge unable them to use library services and access information. The Internet was found most popular among the respondents. Purnima and Vikas (2005) revealed that except for Universities, most of the facilities were not aware of the information Technology, due to lack of infrastructure in their libraries. A study by Ugah (2007) evaluated that major portion of users belongs to students category. The study indicated that 3/4th of users access the shelves to locate materials which were unable to use the library catalogue service. Popoola (2008) in his study found variation among the faculty members regarding the available library resources. Edem and others (2009) examined that, catalogue indexes were used by majority of the users as a source of information. The users did not satisfy the resources of library due to lack of physical materials and the cumbersome library organization. Arua and Chinaka (2011) found the inadequacy of library accommodation (57.14 %) and lack of up-to-date information resources (42.86%) as the main hurdles in the use of library resources. The survey report conducted upon the under graduate students of Boston University(2012) showed that 29% of respondents were very satisfied with the services delivered by University Library, its collection (18%), physical space(12%) and staff(30%). The overall satisfaction level was traced from 19% respondents.

Methodology, Sample Procedure & Techniques of Data Collection: -

The present study is descriptive and exploratory in nature. The stratified random sampling method is used and 141 students (i.e. 10% of universe) were selected from the Institute (1413 B.Tech students) according to their strength randomly (Viz. Civil Engg. =21, Electrical Engg. =27, Mechanical Engg. =34, Electronics & Comm.Engg. = 31, Computer Engg. = 16, Information Tech. Engg. = 6, Industrial Engg. & Mgt. = 6). In the present study, interview-schedule, non-participant observation method, research articles and other relevant literature pertaining to the study have been consulted as sources of data. The present study is carried out in UIET, Kurukshetra of Haryana to know about the following objectives:

1 To identify the library Resources and its utilization among the U.G. Students.

2 To know the difference, if any, between class of the students and their utilization process of Library Information Resources.

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1. 3. To find out the problems that Engineering students encounter in information seeking in their library.

Results and Discussions

Table no.1 shows that table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (45.774) is higher than the table value of Chi-square (21.03). The table shows that 1st Year students visit to the library weekly, 2nd &. 3rd years students go to the library daily, twice in a week, monthly and 4th Year students go to the library weekly and fortnightly. In Table no.2 it was found that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is = 21.026. The calculated value of Chi-square (16.581) is lower than the table value of Chi-square (21.026). Thus the null hypothesis is accepted hence, there is no significant relationship between class of the students and their view about using reference material as a source of information. It is also found in the study that there is no significant relationship between class of the students and their views to use Indexing journals, Newspapers & its clipping as a source of information. Table no.3 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (34.000) is higher than the table value (21.03). It was noted from the study that Statistical Tables were not used by the under-graduate students. Class of the students and use general magazines as a source of information is significant. B.Tech.1ST Year students never use general magazines as a source of information but 2nd Year(near about 31%), 3rd Year and 4th Year students used general magazines as a source of information very frequently, frequently, sometimes and rarely. Table no.4 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (23.265) is higher than the table (21.03). The study found that class of the students and use of abstracting journals as a source of information is significant. Students of 1st Year used abstracting journals as a source of information sometimes and 2nd Year students used this facilities rarely. 3rd Year and 4th year students used abstracting journals very frequently, frequently and sometimes as a source of information. The study found that class of the students and use of survey articles as a source of information is significant. Students of 1st Year used survey articles as a source of information frequent and sometimes and 2nd Year students used this facilities rarely and maximum of them never used it. B.Tech.3rd Year students used this facilities very frequently but it is also observed in the survey that maximum of them never used it. 4th year students used survey articles very frequently and frequently as a source of information. Table no.5 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (22.004) is higher than the table value of Chi-square (21.03). The study shows that the pamphlets as a source of information were never used by the respondents. Table no.6 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (28.578) is higher than the table value of (21.03). The study shows monographs and treatises were used as a source of information but Monographs and treatises never used by the majority of the students. Table no.7 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is = 21.026. The calculated value of Chi-square (11.815) is lower than the table value of (21.026). Thus, there is no significant relationship between class of the students and their view to use Library catalogue as a source of information. The same results were drawn from the Abstracting Services as a source of information used by the respondents. Table no.8 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (25.435) is higher than the table value (21.03). The study indicates that near about 30% respondents from B. Tech. 1st year, B. Tech. 2nd year and B.

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Tech. 3rd year never used periodicals as a source of information. 1st year students used it to prepare their examination notes and B. Tech. 2nd year students used periodicals to updating their knowledge, to enhance general awareness and Research purposes. It is noted in the study that 4th year students used this service to increase general awareness, to updating their knowledge, to prepare their examination notes and research purposes. Table no.9 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (21.205) is higher than the table value (21.03). Maximum students of 1st year and 4th year students never used indexing service as a source of information but 2nd year students used it sometimes and 3rd year students used this service very frequently and frequently. Table no.10 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (23.299) is higher than the table value (21.03). The study depicts that 1st year students considered library collection adequate and fair but 2nd year students looked it inadequate. 3rd and 4th year students considered it excellent and adequate. Table no.11 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is= 21.03. The calculated value of Chi-square (28.964) is higher than the table value (21.03). Thus the null hypothesis is rejected and difference between class of the students and Library opening hours is significant. 1st year students considered it convenient, 3rd year students recognized it fairly convenient and 4th year students considered it very convenient but a small portion of students considered it inconvenient. Table no.12 shows that the table value of Chi-square at 5% probability level for 12 degree of freedom is = 21.026. The calculated value of Chi-square (10.548) is lower than the table value of Chi-square (21.026). Thus the null hypothesis is accepted and the difference between the theory and observation is non-significant and there is no significant relationship between class of the students and difficulties face by the students to acquire information in the field.

Conclusion

In the present study, the academic hierarchy of a student represents his/her class which accounts him as senior, junior and colleague in the institute. The study highlights that their visit to the Institute library is significant. As Ist Year students visit the library weekly, 2nd &. 3rd years students visit daily and twice in a week and 4th Year students go to the library weekly and fortnightly. There is no significant relationship between class of the students and their views regarding the use of reference material, reference books, indexing journals and Newspapers & its clipping as a source of information. It was noted from the study that Statistical Tables were not used by students as a whole as a source of information. 1st year students never used general magazines but 2nd year (near about 31%), 3rd year and 4th year students used it very frequently and frequently. It was also found in the study that 1st year students used abstracting journals sometimes and 2nd year students used this facilities rarely, 3rd Year and 4th year students used it very frequently and frequently. The study found that the students of 1st year used survey articles frequently and sometimes but maximum students of 2nd and 3rd Year never used it while 4th year students used it very frequently and frequently. Majority of the respondents never used pamphlets as a source of information. Monographs and treatises never used by the majority of the students. There is no significant relationship between class of the students and their views to use Library catalogue and Abstracting Services as a source of information. Near about 30% respondents from 1st, 2nd, 3rd year never used periodicals as a source of information. But 1st year students used it to prepare their examination notes, 2nd year students used it for updating their knowledge & enhancing general awareness purposes. It was noted in the study that 4th year students used this service to increase general awareness, for updating their knowledge and to prepare their

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examination notes. Indexing Service was never used by 1st year and 4th year students but 2nd year students used it sometimes, 3rd year students used this service very frequently and frequently. B. Tech. 1st year students considered library collection adequate and fair but 2nd year students considered it reversely whereas 3rd and 4th year students considered it excellent and adequate. The 1st year students considered the opening hours of the library as convenient, 3rd year students recognized it fairly convenient and 4th year students considered it very convenient but a small portion of 2nd year students considered it inconvenient. There is no significant relationship between class of the students and difficulties faced by the students to acquire information in the field. Thus, it is concluded from the study that senior students have more frequency of their visit and inclination to the institute library.

Table No. 1-Class of the students & their frequency of visit to the Library

Class of the students	How often do you visit the Institute Library?					Total
	Daily	Twice a week	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	0 (6.2)	9(11.7)	18(7.7)	1(1.5)	2(3.0)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	14(13.4)	28(25.4)	12(16.6)	1(3.2)	10(6.5)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	14(7.8)	16(14.8)	3(9.7)	3(1.9)	2(3.8)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	1(1.6)	2(3.1)	3(2.0)	2(.4)	0(.8)	8(8.0)
Total	29(29.0)	55(55.0)	36(36.0)	7(7.0)	14(14.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 2 -Class of the students & use by them of Library Reference material

Class of the students	To use reference material					Total
	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	5(3.2)	2(4.3)	8(8.5)	3(4.7)	12(9.40	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	6(6.9)	8(9.2)	16(18.4)	13(10.1)	22(20.3)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	3 (4.0)	6(5.4)	14(10.8)	6(5.9)	9(11.9)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	1(.9)	4(1.1)	2(2.3)	0(2.3)	1(2.5)	8(8.0)
Total	15(15.0)	20(20.0)	40(40.0)	22(22.0)	44(44.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 3- Class of the students & their frequency to use statistical Tables

Class of the students	To use Statistical Tables					Total
	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	2 (1.1)	0(1.1)	3(4.7)	3(3.4)	22(19.8)	30(30)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	1(2.3)	1(2.3)	12(10.1)	8(7.4)	43(42.9)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	2(1.3)	1(1.3)	7(5.9)	5(4.3)	23(25.1)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	0(.3)	3(.3)	0(1.2)	0(.9)	5(5.3)	8(8.0)
Total	5(5.0)	5(5.0)	22(22.0)	16(16.0)	93(93.0)	141(141.0)

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Table No. 4 - Class of the students & their frequency of Utilisation of Abstracting Journals

Class of the students	How often do you utilise Abstracting Journals					Total
	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	0(.6)	1(1.7)	6(4.3)	3(6.2)	20(17.2)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	1(1.4)	1(3.7)	6(9.2)	20(13.4)	37(37.3)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	1(.8)	5(2.2)	8(5.4)	4(7.8)	20(21.8)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	1(.2)	1(.5)	0(1.1)	2(1.6)	4(4.6)	8(8.0)
Total	3(3.0)	8(8.0)	20(20.0)	29(29.0)	81(81.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 5- Class of the students & their frequency of utilisation of Pamphlets

Class of the students	How often do you Utilise Pamphlets as Library Resources ?					Total
	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	1(.6)	0(1.5)	6(4.3)	3(4.7)	20(18.9)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	1(1.4)	2(3.2)	7(9.2)	15(10.1)	40(41.0)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	0(.8)	3(1.9)	7(5.4)	4(5.9)	24(24.0)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	1(.2)	2(.4)	0(1.1)	0(1.2)	5(5.0)	8(8.0)
Total	3(3.0)	7(7.0)	20(20.0)	22(22.0)	89(89.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 6- Class of the students & their frequency of Utilisation of Monographs and Treatise

Class of the students	Use of Monographs and Treaties of the Library					Total
	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	0(.2)	1(.6)	7(4.0)	4(3.8)	18(21.3)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	1(.5)	0(1.4)	8(8.8)	9(8.3)	47(46.1)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	0(.3)	0(.8)	4(5.1)	5(4.9)	29(27.0)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	0(.1)	2(.2)	0(1.1)	0(1.0)	6(5.7)	8(8.0)
Total	1(1.0)	3(3.0)	19(19.0)	18(18.0)	100(100.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 7- Class of the students & their frequency of Utilisation of Library catalogue

	Use of Library catalogue	

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Class of the students	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Total
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	1(.4)	1(1.7)	4(3.6)	3(3.8)	21(20.4)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	1(.9)	5(3.7)	6(7.8)	10(8.3)	43(44.3)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	0(.5)	0(2.2)	6(4.6)	4(4.9)	28(25.9)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	0(.1)	2(.5)	1(1.0)	1(1.0)	4(5.4)	8(8.0)
Total	2(2.0)	8(8.0)	17(17.0)	18(18.0)	96(96.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 8 -Class of the students & their purpose of using periodicals

Class of the students	Purpose of using periodicals						Total
	Updating Knowledge	To prepare Notes	General Awareness	Research	Any other	No use	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	3(6.8)	8(3.2)	7(8.5)	0(1.9)	3(.9)	9(8.7)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	16(14.8)	5(6.9)	20(18.4)	4(4.1)	0(1.8)	20(18.9)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	11(8.6)	1(4.0)	10(10.8)	4(2.4)	1(1.1)	11(11.0)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	2(1.8)	1(.9)	3(2.3)	1(.5)	0(.2)	1(2.3)	8(8.0)
Total	32(32.0)	15(15.0)	40(40.0)	9(9.0)	4(4.0)	41(41.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 9- Class of the students & Utilisation of Indexing Services of the Library

Class of the students	Utilisation of Indexing Services					Total
	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	2(1.7)	3(4.3)	1(6.0)	2(2.8)	22(15.3)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	3(3.7)	7(9.2)	21(12.9)	8(6.0)	26(33.2)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	3(2.2)	8(5.4)	6(7.5)	2(3.5)	19(19.4)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	0(.5)	2(1.1)	0(1.6)	1(.7)	5(4.1)	8(8.0)
Total	8(8.0)	20(20.0)	28(28.0)	13(13.0)	72(72.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 10- Class of the students & their views about library collection

Class of the students	How do you consider library collection?					Total
	Excellent	Adequate	Fair	Inadequate	Poor	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	1(2.6)	11(11.3)	15(12.1)	2(3.6)	1(.4)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	5(5.5)	17(24.4)	31(26.3)	12(7.8)	0(.9)	65(65.0)

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B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	5(3.2)	18(14.8)	11(15.4)	3(4.6)	1(.5)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	1(.7)	7(3.0)	0(3.2)	0(1.0)	0(.1)	8(8.0)
Total	12(12.0)	53(53.0)	57(57.0)	17(17.0)	2(2.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 11- Class of the students & their Views about Library Opening hours

Class of the students	Library opening hours are					Total
	Very convenient	Fairly convenient	Convenient	Inconvenient	Very inconvenient	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	4(7.7)	6(9.1)	17(8.3)	3(4.0)	0(.9)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	19(16.6)	20(19.8)	11(18.0)	11(8.8)	4(1.8)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	8(9.7)	16(11.6)	9(10.5)	5(5.1)	0(1.1)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	5(2.0)	1(2.4)	2(2.2)	0(1.1)	0(.2)	8(8.0)
Total	36(36.0)	43(43.0)	39(39.0)	19(19.0)	4(4.0)	141(141.0)

Table No. 12 -Class of the students & difficulties faced by them in using Library Resources

Class of the students	What are the difficulties you face to acquire information in your field?						Total
	Lack of time	Inadequate Library resources	Information scattered in too many sources	Lack of suitable service	Lack of suitable journals	Any others	
B.Tech. 1st Yr.	13(9.8)	4(6.4)	11(10.2)	1(1.7)	1(1.1)	0(.9)	30(30.0)
B.Tech. 2nd Yr.	20(21.2)	15(13.8)	19(22.1)	5(3.7)	4(2.3)	2(1.8)	65(65.0)
B.Tech. 3rd Yr.	10(12.4)	10(8.1)	14(12.9)	2(2.2)	0(1.3)	2(1.1)	38(38.0)
B.Tech. 4th Yr.	3(2.6)	1(1.7)	4(2.7)	0(.5)	0(.3)	0(.2)	8(8.0)
Total	46(46.0)	30(30.0)	48(48.0)	8(8.0)	5(5.0)	4(4.0)	141(141.0)

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