



A REVIEW STUDY ON INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS OF PURBA BARDHAMAN DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

Information-seeking behaviour is an essential component of academic development, particularly for college students who rely on various sources to meet their educational and informational needs. This research examines the trends, inclinations, and obstacles of information-seeking behaviour among college students in the Purba Bardhaman area of West Bengal. It combines information from many scientific articles, studies, and previous study to learn how students find, judge, and use knowledge in both digital and conventional settings. The review shows that students are using more and more digital resources including online databases, search engines, and e-journals, but they still value traditional sources like textbooks and library materials. Things like access to the internet, digital literacy, academic discipline, and institutional support have a big impact on how they look for information. The survey also finds that a lack of effective training in information literacy, limited access to quality resources, and poor library facilities in some schools are all typical problems. The report also shows how college libraries and librarians' roles are changing as they help students learn how to use information effectively. It stresses the importance of improving digital skills and making library services better to help pupils do better in school. The results give educators, legislators, and library professionals useful information that can help them improve information access systems and encourage college students in the area to look for information more effectively. Even while technology has made it easier for people to get information, there is still a big need for organised help and resource development to make sure that students can find their way around the huge amount of information available.

KEYWORDS : Purba Bardhaman , educators , college , students , libraries

INTRODUCTION

In today's world, which is dependent on knowledge, it's important to have access to relevant and correct information in order to do well in school and grow intellectually. People's information-seeking conduct is how they hunt for, find, judge, and use information to meet their own needs. This habit is particularly essential for college students since it affects how they study, how well they do in school, and how well they do in research. The previous techniques of getting information have changed a lot since information and communication technologies (ICT) have expanded so swiftly. Students are no longer just reading books and journals. Instead, they are employing more and more digital platforms, such as e-books, internet databases, academic search engines, and institutional archives. This development has made more information available, but it has also made it tougher to deal with too much information, make sure it's real, and learn how to use digital tools.

In the Purba Bardhaman area of West Bengal, college students come from a wide range of social, economic, and educational backgrounds, which affects how they can get and use information resources. Some students benefit from libraries with a lot of resources and stable internet access, but others may have problems like insufficient digital infrastructure, not knowing about scholarly resources, and not getting enough instruction in how to find information quickly. These differences make it important to look at the patterns and reasons behind how people in this area look for information. This review study seeks to examine the current literature regarding information-seeking behaviour among college students, specifically concentrating on the Purba Bardhaman district. It aims to pinpoint the information sources frequently utilised by students, the tactics they adopt in their information-seeking endeavours, and the obstacles they face throughout this process. The study also looks at how schools and libraries can help people get to information and improve their information literacy abilities.

The goal of this study is to give a whole picture of how college students in Purba Bardhaman interact with knowledge in a changing digital world by combining the results of earlier studies. Educators, librarians, and legislators can use the information from this review to come up with good ways to make it easier for students to get information, improve their learning outcomes, and encourage a culture of informed and independent learning.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Tayappa B. Adin (2025). A total of 612 respondents were surveyed out of 650 for this study on the impact of digital resources on patrons' information-seeking habits in public libraries. Several

important discoveries were produced by statistical analysis that was carried out using Microsoft Excel. Sixty-0.62% of users have a bachelor's degree, 64.49 percent use the internet regularly, and 86.77 percent use Google as their search engine. Students are the most common users, according to the results, since they see libraries as places where they can learn and make good use of their time by using the many electronic resources available to them. Users of public libraries have nothing but praise for the library's digital resources and books, making it their go-to spot for information gathering and leisure activities.

Dayanandappa Kori (2024). A comparative study of academic information-seeking behavior and library use by visually impaired students in Karnataka gathered data through quantitative and qualitative methods. The study interviewed 1027 visually impaired students in Karnataka, used survey methods, and held focus groups. Students with visual impairments engage in information-seeking behaviors comparable to those of typically developing children, according to the study. Nonetheless, adolescents encounter unique obstacles that impede their information-seeking process as a consequence of the outdated educational facilities and support systems. Their academic progress is hindered since this obstacle makes them spend more time seeking knowledge. This research delves into the challenges faced by visually impaired students in Karnataka and offers solutions to enhance their academic information-seeking habits and library utilization. This research has important implications for educators, librarians, and lawmakers who are working to help students who are visually impaired succeed in school. When we know why some children are more disadvantaged than others, we can work to eliminate those gaps and give every student a fair shot.

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some children are more disadvantaged than others, we can work to eliminate those gaps and give every student a fair shot.

Tayappa B. Adin (2024). People in the Belagavi District who use public libraries to get information are the focus of this study. A random distribution of 150 surveys was made to users. Along with them, 126 surveys were filled out. A statistical analysis of the questionnaire's replies was conducted using the chi-square test. In accordance with the findings, the vast majority of library users read daily. Among those who participated in the study, 41.27 percent hold a bachelor's degree or above, and there are more men than women among the 73.80% of users. Visiting the library on a regular basis is a great way to update your knowledge. One important takeaway is that the majority of respondents are content with the library's arrangement of periodicals and newspapers. Another interesting conclusion from the survey is that most users are college students. After perusing the reference materials, patrons have come to the conclusion that the public library is the best spot to gain knowledge and pass the time productively.

Sarah P.C. Dahlen and Kathlene Hanson (2023). Both of them work to make it easier for students to find information by offering tutorials and guides, choosing and adjusting search tools based on the needs and preferences of the students, and delivering training in the classroom. These initiatives are frequently guided by conversations with students, and they can be further refined by examining how students describe how they search. In this case study, fifty upper-division Social and Behavioural Sciences major students conducted searching tasks using various library search tools. Following their completion of the tasks, they were interviewed regarding their search behaviours in the experimental context as well as in general. Their answers reveal some of their habits, such as factors to take into account when selecting sources, tactics to use in the event that searches are unsuccessful, and acceptance of their teachers' priorities.

Mardhi Alazemi (2023). When looking for information, one must first search, then identify a need, display, extract, filter, and finally choose relevant data. To effectively obtain knowledge, users must adhere to this technique of easily accessible resources and sources of understanding, precisely discern relevant data, extract necessary data, and display suitable data. A crucial step in assisting undergraduates in meeting their information demands is conducting evaluations of their information-seeking behavior. Methods used by undergraduates to search the academic library database in Kuwait for information resources are the subject of this research. This study's overarching goal is to provide undergraduates at Kuwait University with the tools they need to become more effective information seekers and to make better use of the library's database.

Choudhury (Biswas) S. (2022). Since most library patrons are college professors, it is the library's principal duty to satisfy their information needs and, consequently, to gather materials that can endure the rigorous conditions of academic research. This study intends to address a knowledge vacuum by investigating the information needs of college faculty at Assam University and the overall pattern of faculty engagement with the library and information science resources available to them. We have used both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to collect data that is pertinent to the topic. The current investigation's data collection method has started with administering a survey to the participants. College teachers have diverse information demands, and libraries play a multifaceted role in satisfying those needs. The study's findings have shed light on information seeking behavior and offered reasonable recommendations for college library improvement. Researchers are interested in this topic because they believe that by understanding the needs of educators and students, they may better tailor library services to match those needs. If this works, library users will have access to up-to-date material, which is good for everyone.

Parismita Bora and Rahul Borah (2022), explored that each person has unique information needs and methods for gathering knowledge. Depending on their age, occupation, subject of study, culture, and region, they have different information demands. In this sense, libraries of all kinds are essential in providing users with guidance on how to get to their intended information search destination. The primary focus of this study is how university library users seek out information. The research is being done at six Assamese universities. Users were given the questioner at random, and their answers were gathered, collated, and analysed as necessary.

Hazarika Rima (2022) .This research set out to better understand how people utilize the Assam Kaziranga University library to get the information they need. Students, research scholars, instructors, and staff have all been given a standardized questionnaire to fill out in order to gather data. In light of examined information We found that most users are happy with the library's collection, how often they come, why they go, and the challenges they have when trying to find information.

Kumari, K. and Sharma, S. (2021), explored this study, which provides a critical review of a few chosen studies. The methodology used and the related question of whether the procedures used support the conclusions reached serve as a starting point. Therefore, this is intended to be potentially helpful for academics studying users' information-seeking behaviours in digital environments. Eleven studies were chosen to provide insights into the information needs and information-seeking behaviours of their users as well as recommendations for improving the efficiency and efficacy of library services. A variety of libraries, including public, university, college, and government department libraries, were

chosen for the current study. Our review is predicated on findings from a critical analysis and inspection of the literature, with an emphasis on user information-seeking behaviour. These studies include a wide variety of libraries and users, and statistical validation could support a number of intriguing possibilities. The conclusions are not robust if the hypotheses are not supported by statistics. One glaring flaw in the body of existing literature—including the sample under consideration—is this. Nonetheless, some helpful recommendations are offered. These include expanding the scope of the hypotheses and validating inferences, focusing on unique libraries, and improving and refining the methodology. We think our review closes a significant gap since analytical rigor isn't given enough credit.

CONCLUSION

The current analysis examines information-seeking behaviour among college students in the Purba Bardhaman region of West Bengal, emphasising the dynamic evolution of students' interactions with information sources in the contemporary academic landscape. The examination of existing literature reveals that students are progressively favouring digital and online resources owing to their accessibility, convenience, and the extensive array of information provided. Nonetheless, conventional resources such as textbooks, reference works, and library materials persist in their substantial contribution to academic learning. The research indicates that information-seeking behaviour is affected by various characteristics, such as digital literacy, internet accessibility, academic discipline, and institutional support systems. A lot of students are starting to use search engines, e-journals, and online databases, but a lot of them still don't know how to find and use information well. This typically leads to relying on non-scholarly sources, having trouble finding reliable information, and having trouble dealing with too much information.

The review also stresses the importance of college libraries and librarians in helping students learn to find and use information correctly. Libraries are no longer just places to store books; they are instead centers of knowledge that make it easy to find both print and digital materials. To close the gap between having access to information and using it effectively, it has been strongly suggested that we need user education programs, information literacy training, and better infrastructure. In conclusion, even though technology has made it easier for people to access information, there remains a strong need to improve students' information literacy and strengthen institutional support. By addressing these difficulties, educational institutions in Purba Bardhaman district can cultivate more effective, analytical, and

autonomous information-seeking behaviours among college students, thereby enhancing their academic achievement and promoting lifelong learning.

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