

Information Needs and Seeking Behaviour of Engineering College Faculty in Digital Era–A Study

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ABSTRACT: *This paper analysis the information needs and information seeking behaviour of the engineering and technology faculty members of selected engineering institution of erode district. Data were collected by using a questionnaire from 3 engineering colleges or institutes of Erode. A structured questionnaire was distributed among 250 faculty members, of whom 150 responded. This study investigates the information needs and Information seeking behaviour of engineering and technology faculty members at Erode. The purpose was to investigate the types of information sources used by the faculty members, their preferred information formats, the importance of and reasons for using certain information sources and the use of various formal, informal and electronic information sources.*

Keywords: Information Need, Seeking Behaviour, Electronic Resources, Users

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1. Introduction

The electronic revolution in the field of science and technology has paved the way for the outcome of Digital Technology. The Digital Technology has spread its outcomes in various dimension and forms, which have made an impact almost in all the fields and all the walks of human life. The modern society has also showed the involvement and a lot of interest in handling and using the modern Information and. Communication Technologies in their day-to-day life. Moreover the mechanical life of the human beings, which expects the quickness and accuracy in their activities requirements, can be achieved ill using these technologies.

2. Review of Literature

Mostofa (2013)⁷ conducted a study and results show that half of the faculty members are consulted with expert as communication channel when they have a question asked. More than 50 % of faculty members depends on the library resources for teaching purpose. Fasola and Olabode (2014)⁸ surveyed among the students of ajayi crowther university, oyo Nigeria, how they seek information and this is what has prompted this study. It was discovered that majority of the students (66%) sought information for academic purposes and the library (62.8%) was their preferred place of searching and using information resources. Ngozi, Uche and Ejiro (2015)¹⁰ investigated information seeking behaviour of faculty members of the

Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE). The research finding show that the respondents use books, as their preferred source of information. They suggested to improve the internet facilities to assist faculties in their research. Muhammad and Kanwal (2009) investigated the information seeking behaviour and satisfaction level of teachers of National Textile University in Pakistan. It was found that the students prefer both electronic and printed formats equally. The users expressed the requirement for increase in library collection to meet their subject as well as leisure needs.

3. Objective

1. To find out the information needs of the faculty members of Engineering and Technology.
2. To identify level of users satisfaction with electronic resources and services.
3. To find out the problems of users trying to use electronic resources

4. Methodology

The survey was chosen as the method most likely to describe accurately the impact of information technology – a user survey of individuals involved staff member in the field of faculty of engineering and technology, Erode District. In order to test the objectives and the formulated hypotheses the researcher used some standard tools such as percentage analysis and chi-square test.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The present study discusses the Impact of Information Technology among the Professor, Reader, Senior lecturer, and Lecture in the disciplines of Engineering and Technology in Erode District. The data collected have been analyzed and interpreted through the several tables and graphs.

S.No.	Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Professor	9	6.00
2	Reader	21	14.00
3	Senior Lecture	48	32.00
4	Lecture	72	48.00

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to category

It is seen form the above table that 6% of the respondents are in professor cadre, 14% of them working as a reader, 32% of them working as a senior lecturer, 48% of them working as a lecture. So majority of them is senior lecture and lecturer.

Chi-square value = 113.8

Degree of freedom = 12

Level of signification =1%

From below table 2, it is inferred that only 4% respondents are in the age group of 22-25 years, 24% of the respondents are in age group of 26-30 years, 27.33 % of the respondents are in the age group of 31-35 years, 22.67% of the respondents are in the age group of 36-40 years, 22% of respondents are in the age group of the 40 years above.

S.No	Age	Respondents on the basis of Designation				Total
		P	R	S.L	L	
1	22-25	-	-	-	6	6(4.00)
2	26-30	-	-	3	33	36(24.00)
3	31-35	-	2	12	27	41(27.33)
4	36-40	-	7	21	6	34(22.67)
5	41 and above	9	12	12	-	33(22.00)
	Total	9	21	48	72	150(100.00)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.

Table 2. Distributions of Respondents According to Age

6. Use of Library

For the present study, the use pattern of library includes frequency of visit to the library, time spent on information gathering, purpose of visit to library and sources of information used.

S.No	Category	Time spend by the Respondent				Total
		30 Min.	One hour	Two Hour	Three hour	
1.	professor	7 (4.67) ^p	2 (1.33)	-	-	9 (6.00)
2.	Reader	17 (11.33)	3 (2.00)	1 (0.67)	-	21 (14.00)
3	Senior Lecture	33 (22.00)	12 (8.00)	3 (2.00)	-	48 (32.00)
4.	Lecturer	47 (31.33)	21 (14.00)	3 (2.00)	1(0.67)	72 (48.00)
	Total	104 (69.33)	38 (25.33)	7 (4.67)	1(0.67)	150 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.

Table 3. Quantum of Time Spend by the Respondent

The table shows the quantum of time spend in the library for various categories of staffs. 4.67% of professors spend 30 minutes, 1.33% spend on hour. In case of reader 11.33% of them spend 30 minutes, 2% of them spend one hour and 0.67% of them spend two hours. Among the senior lectures, 22% of them spend two hours and 0.67% of them spend three hours. Therefore among the various groups more number of lectures spends 30 minutes in the library.

S. No	Purpose of gathering information	Respondent (A)	Non-Respondent (B)	Total (A+B)
1	For writing seminar/conference paper	119 (79.33)	31 (20.67)	150
2	For doing Research	117 (78.00)	33 (22.00)	150
3	For writing journal articles	58 (38.67)	92 (61.33)	150
4	For writing Books	18 (12.00)	132 (88.00)	150
5	For taking classes	36 (24.00)	144 (76.00)	150
6	For Examination	10(6.67)	140(93.33)	150

Table 4. Purpose of gathering information on the basis of category

The table shows the details of purpose of gathering information among the staffs. Irrespective of their category 79.33% of them collect information for writing.

S.No	Resources	Yes	No	No opinion	Total
1	Awareness about electronic resources	132 (88.00)	-	18 (12.00)	150 (100.00)

Table 5. Awareness about electronic Resources

The Table shows 88% of the users have awareness about the electronic resources and 12% of them have no awareness about electronic resources.

S. No	Electronic Information service	Fully satisfied	Partially satisfied	Not satisfied	Total
1	E-mail	91(60.67)	51 (34.00)	8 (5.33)	150
2	Internet	85 (56.67)	56 (37.33)	9 (6.00)	150
3	OPAC System	87 (58.00)	41 (27.33)	22 (14.67)	150
4	Online Journal	85 (56.67)	37 (24.67)	28 (18.66)	150

4	Online Journal	85 (56.67)	37 (24.67)	28 (18.66)	150
5	CD - ROM	53 (35.33)	67 (44.67)	30 (20.00)	150
Total		401 (53.47)	252 (33.60)	97 (12.93)	750 (100.00)

Table 6. Level of satisfaction about the Electronic Information Services

Chi square value = 45.47

Degree of freedom = 8

Level of significance = 1%

The Table Shows 53.47% of Electronic resources are fully satisfied 33.60% of Electronic resources are partially satisfied, 12.93% of Electronic resources are Not Satisfied.

S.No	Problem	Yes	Not Respondent	Total
1	Problems with accessing suitable personal computers	55(36.67)	95(63.33)	150 (100.00)
2	Problems with accessing suitable software	65(43.33)	85(56.67)	150 (100.00)
3	Problems with accessing external net work for E- mail or internet	77(51.33)	73(48.67)	150 (100.00)
4	Lack of information about how to use digital resources.	81(54.00)	69(46.00)	150 (100.00)
5	Lack of Time acquire skills needed to use digital resources.	66(44.00)	84(56.00)	150 (100.00)
6	Lack high quality available from digital resources.	59(39.33)	91(60.67)	150 (100.00)
7	Feeling that electric resources are not relevant to your needs	41(27.33)	109(72.67)	150 (100.00)

Table 7. Main Problems when trying to use Electronic Resource by the Respondents

The above table shows the main problem faced by the users while using the electronic resources.

7. Findings and Conclusion

1. Following important finding have been drawn: The results shows that 88 % of the respondent has awareness about the electronic resources.

2 .Irrespective of their category all the faculty members spent less than 4 hours per week(42.67%) followed by 4 to 7 hours per week.(4.33%)

3 .Regarding the electronic information service (53.47%) of these staff members are fully satisfied, E-mail (60.67%),Internet (56.62 %),OPAC System (58.00%)and on line journals (56.67%).

4. The Result found that majority of the respondents are working as senior lecturer(32%) Lecturer(48%).

5. It is found that most of the respondent below to the age group of below 40 years (Nearly 78%).
6. The result showed that majority of the respondent (79.33 %).
7. Collect information taking class, writing seminar / Conference paper followed by research purpose (78 %).

New Information and Communication Technologies, as well as new educational models, require librarians to evaluate the way they develop, manage and deliver resources and services.

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