

Information Seeking Behaviour of Students at Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology (Deemed University), Longowal (Punjab)

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ABSTRACT: The present study explores information seeking habits of students of Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology (Deemed University) [Estab. By Government of India], Longowal, Punjab. 150 questionnaires were distributed among students who are using the library of the Institute. 100% response was received from Library users.

Keywords: Library use; Readers' services; SLIET; Information search

1. Introduction:

Now a days libraries are playing a significant role by meeting the information needs of information seekers. Information seeking habits play an important role in accomplishing academic pursuit of students, teachers and other staff. On the part of the library professionals, it becomes essential to attract information seekers towards library to exploit its resources and services. From time to time libraries organise information literary programme to acquaint the users with library resources and services in order to fulfil the needs of library users effectively and efficiently.

2. Central Library of Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology (SLIET) : A Profile

Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology (SLIET) (Deemed University) spread over 451 acres of land was established by Government of India in 1989 to provide technical education in emerging areas of engineering and technology. It caters to technical manpower requirements at various levels by adopting a new concept of modular system in imparting technical education with emphasis on practical training in industry. The educational programmes of the Institute are non-conventional, innovative, practical oriented and contain all aspects of new education policy 1986 of Government of India. The Institute offers following programmes of study :

1. ICD programmes
2. Degree Programmes
3. M.Tech.,M.Sc and M.B.A. Courses
4. Ph.D. Programmes

The Institute is an autonomous body fully funded and controlled by Government of India. It has been registered as a society under Society Registration Act 1860 and is managed by Board of Management which is responsible for its general administration, direction and control.

Central Library is one of the rapidly growing libraries in Punjab. Central Library as a central facility, it supports the teaching and research programmes of the institute and caters to the informational requirements of students, teachers, researchers and all other staff members of the Institute. It aims at bringing the reading materials, the students and the scholars together under the conditions conducive for reading for pleasure, self discovery, personal growth and sharpening of intellectual curiosity. Central Library and departmental libraries form Institute library system. Central library is housed in a two storey modern building having 2108.36 sq.meter carpet area. It has a spacious reading hall at first floor having good sitting arrangement for readers.

2.1. Collection

Central library has a collection of following reading materials

a)	Books	:	70312
b)	Periodicals		
-	Bound volumes	:	2500
-	Periodical subscribed	:	68
c)	Magazines subscribed:		31
d)	Newspaper Subscribed:		16
e)	Video Cassettes:		689
f)	CDs:		2500
g)	Dissertation :		451

2.2 Timings

-	Monday to Friday	:	8.30 AM to 9.00 PM
-	Saturday & Sunday	:	8.30 AM to 5.00 PM
-	Holidays	:	Closed
-	Reading Hall	:	24 hours

2.3. Organization of Library : Central Library has been functionally organized as under :-

1. Acquisition Section
2. Circulation Section
3. Periodical Section
4. Technical Section
5. Book Bank Section
6. Departmental Libraries
7. Reference Section
8. Binding Section

3. Objectives of the Study

Following are objectives of the study:-

- i) To find out frequency of visit to library
- ii) To identify purpose of visit to library

- iii) To evaluate purpose of information seeking
- iv) To explore satisfaction level of users with library facilities and services

4. Scope and Limitation of the study:

The study is limited to students of engineering discipline of Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology (SLIET), Longowal.

5. Research Methodology:

Survey method was used to conduct the study . Data was collected by employing questionnaires. 150 questionnaires were distributed among the students. All the students responded. Data was analyzed and interpreted through statistical method using tables.

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Data collected has been analyzed and interpreted through tables shown below:-

Table 1: Population sample and number of respondents

Sr. No.	Category of Respondents	Population samples	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Diploma students	30	30	100%
2.	Degree students	100	100	100%
3.	PG students	20	20	100%
	Total	150	150	100%

Table 1 shows that 150 students were chosen as sample for carrying out the study. All students responded. All responses were found valid for study.

Table 2: Frequency of Visit to Library

Sr. No.	Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Daily	90	60%
2.	Twice a week	30	20%
3.	Weekly	15	10%
4.	Fortnightly	10	6.66%
5.	Monthly	05	3.34%
	Total	150	100%

Table 2 depicts that 90 (60%) students visit library daily followed by 30 (20%) twice a week, 15(10%) weekly, 10(6.6%), fortnightly and 5 (3.34%) monthly.

Table 3 : Purpose of visit to Library

Sr. No.	Purpose	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	To collect reading material	135	90%
2.	To consult reading material	05	3.34%

3.	To use internet services	10	6.66%
4.	Any other	0	0
	Total	150	100%

Table 3 shows that 90% students visit library for collecting reading material, followed by 6.66% for using internet services and 3.34% for consulting reading material.

Table 4 : Purpose for seeking information

Sr. No.	Purpose	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	For Career Development and higher study	150	100%
2.	To Write articles	20	13.33%
3.	To solve practical problems	15	10%
4.	To keep updated	20	13.33%
	Total	150	

(Note: Multiple choices were permitted)
Table 4 highlights that maximum number of students seeks information for their career development followed by writing an article.

Table 5 : Satisfaction with Library Facilities

Sr. No.	Facilities	No. of respondents		Total %age
		Satisfied	Un-satisfied	
1.	Opening hours	145	5	150
2.	Study environment	125	25	150
3.	Collection of Books and journals	135	15	150
4.	Issue and Return system	115	35	150
5.	Arrangement of reading materials	15	135	150
6.	Internet Access	95	55	150

Table 5 depicts that most of the students are satisfied with opening hours, collection and study environment of library. 135 students are satisfied with arrangement of reading material in library. Majority of students are unsatisfied with arrangement of reading materials.

Table 6 : Satisfaction level of Respondents with Library Services

Sr. No.	Service	No. of respondents			Total %age
		Satisfied	Partially satisfied	Un-satisfied	
1.	Lending services	125	15	10	100
2.	Reference Service	20	45	85	100
3.	ILL	10	25	115	100
4.	Online service	145	5	0	100
5.	Document tracing service	15	20	115	100
6.	Book Bank	25	35	90	100
7.	Photocopy service	115	15	20	100
8.	Current Awareness service	5	25	120	100

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9.	OPAC	0	35	115	100
10.	EDUSA T Service	45	55	50	100
11.	Video Lecture Viewing service	35	45	70	100
12.	Book Exhibition	105	20	25	100

Table 6 evaluates the library services. It shows that maximum number of students are satisfied with lending service, online service and photocopy service. Majority of users are

unsatisfied with reference, ILL,document tracing,book bank,CAS, and OPAC services

7. Findings and Conclusion:

Findings of the study are as under:

- i) Maximum (i.e.90%) users visits library daily
- ii) Majority of users visits library for collecting the material
- iii) Most of the users seeks information for their career development
- iv) Maximum users are satisfied with opening hours and study environment of library
- v) Most of the users are satisfied with lending, Online access and photocopy services.
- vi) Majority of users are unsatisfied with reference,document tracing,CAS, and OPAC services

Conclusion:

To conclude, it has been observed that most of the users are satisfied with resources, services and study environment of library. ICT based services and product are underutilized. Library should popularize these ICT product and services by launching information literacy programme to enhance their usage.

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