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Concept of Digital Library Services in Information Seeking Behaviour of the Faculty and Researchers in Agriculture University of Navsari

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Abstract - This research paper study is about in Agricultural University of Navsari. We are living in the information age. Information is an important national resource. The 21st century of knowledge and hence in information needs knowledge. Due to knowledge explosion and the advancement of ICT, the concept of library shifted from traditional to digital. Information- seeking behaviour differs among user groups. Agricultural University library must under stunt the information needs of faculty in order to address those needs. This study explores the information seeking behaviour of faculty and researchers in the Agricultural Universities of Navsari.

Keywords: *Digital Library, Information, Information Seeking Behaviour, Faculty, Researchers, University, Library Service*

I. Introduction

Information is an important national resource. It is an indispensable raw material for right decision-making from the governmental level to the personal level. It is in fact a vital ingredient for the agricultural, socio-economic and cultural development of any nation especially third world countries like India. It is a well-accepted generalization that a country which is rich in information is rich in the field of agricultural spheres. The backwardness of any country in respect of agricultural condition is mainly due to lack of international co-operation and understanding in the field of information transfer especially in the area of agricultural. However, international agencies such as ICAR, AGRIC etc. are engaged in a number of ambitious programmes as part of bridging the information gap.

This research study about in Navsari Agricultural University of the Navsari. We are living in the information age. It speaks of the importance of information for survival and progress. Any activity that we do today requires input of information. It is true of individuals, institution or even nations. Information is required for decision making, teaching and learning to add to our knowledge base. It implies that it is required by the head of a staff, a principal, teachers (Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor).

Information- seeking behaviour differs among user groups. Agricultural University library must under stunt the information needs of faculty in order to address those needs. This study explores the information seeking behaviour of faculty in the Agricultural Universities of Navsari.

Agricultural university is educative in their nature. This task has become more important with information seeking behaviour. To access the information pin-pointedly, exhaustively and expeditiously organized university library services have become essential. The teaching and research in university a centred on their library. The agricultural university library are not uniform in their level of development, through these library is expected to help the university library in their development and to establish linkages with them through appropriate information seeking behaviour.

Information today is available in plenty. It is all around us. It is available in different forms, formats and through different media, viz., printed, electronic and digital information are some examples. Internet has made a paradigmatic change in the production, transmission, use and generation of information. It has raised the issue of ethical use of information.

Research in Agricultural sciences over the years has witnessed rapid growth both in quality, and quantity, leading to tremendous increase in the literature. The unabated pace of information growth is making near impossible for scholars to keep track of it, moreover it requires a lot of time to scan the whole amount of information available in one' respective field of specialization. Thus, it is an impediment to sustain scholarly pursuit and has brought about newer responsibilities on librarian. Needless to say, solution line in effective management of information resources. This leads to identification of information needs of scholars to redesign need-based information system and to develop more effective reference tools and services.

II. Navsari Agricultural University

Navsari Agricultural University campus is having good infrastructure facilities are education zone is spread over an area selected in 1963-64 has 399.5 hectares and was acquired from 595 small holders. The land of the new site was levelled and laid out in 2 hectare blocks for the better management and development of farm area and residential quarters and other farm structures according to the Master Plan. Each block of the land was provided irrigation and drainage facilities and connecting roads.

Library is the principal resources and knowledge centre in the present era of information technology starting as college library of N. M. College of Agricultural in the year 1965; it was renamed as campus library by newly established Gujarat Agriculture University in the year 1972. Again it renamed as University Central Library in the year 1988 with inclusion of new faculty of Horticulture and Forestry. Library is located in the centre of university campus at easily approachable walking distance from various colleges and students hostels. Library is having good infrastructure facilities spread over an area of 6000 square feet. When the Navsari Agricultural University came into existence on May 1, 2004, is was converted into University Library and Knowledge Centre. The main mandatory function of

the library is to provide all kinds of scientific and technical databases information especially in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, veterinary, biotechnology, agriculture business management, agriculture engineering as well as other basic and allied sciences to the students, scientist, teachers, researcher and extension workers and readers. Following information has been narrated here to throw the light on past, ongoing and future activities of the library.

III. Definition of Research Terms Used

The terms used in the study need elaboration and explanation, as such they are explained as under:

Information:-

Information means the communication of knowledge about an event or given condition or the spread of knowledge derived from observation study, experience or instruction.

1. According to **Fidzani** “Information is an aggregate (Collection or Accumulation) of statements of facts or figures which are conceptually way of reasoning, logic, ideas or any other mental “Mode of Operation” interrelated (Connected)”.
2. According to **Random House Dictionary** the concept of information has been defined as the data of knowledge which is “Communicated received concerning a particular fact or circumstance” in order to reduce the user’s uncertainty by meaning their needs.”

Seeking:

According to **Oxford English Dictionary** this word means “to go in search or quest or try to find, look for either a particular object or place or an indefinite object suitable for a particular purpose.”

Behaviour:

“As a Psychological term the word behaviour denotes to the actions and reactions of an organism towards its environment.”

Seeking Behaviour:

“The complex patterns of action and interaction which people engage in when seeking information of whatever kind and for whatever purpose.”

“The expression is used in wide ranging way to refer to any context where information is sought and it uncompressed all forms of information seeking”.

Faculty:

A faculty, whatever professional name he or she may be called who performs one basic function-teaching. Where university faculties are concerned, apart from teaching, they are expected to continue research and to publish results of research from time to time throughout their carriers.

It goes without saying then, that the information seeking behaviour of the university faculty is related to the above functions-classroom teaching, research and publications.

Researcher:

The researcher seeks information mainly for his research interests and for keeping up-to-date.

His secondary reasons are for writing and, to a lesser extent, teaching.

The field of invention is so vast that it is not possible for researcher to achieve all the researchers from one point of view, in the case of information. For any invention it is essential to know the former experiences of the researchers. The experiences of inventions direct the researchers to obtain new knowledge. From this point of view, information seeking behaviour has brought about new revolution in the field of inventions. Who is the person carries out investigation by scientific study of a subject M. Phil / Ph. D. scholars. (**Concise Oxford** 1993)⁷

University:

A University is research-oriented educational institutions which provide both undergraduate and postgraduate programs, and M. Phil. and Ph. D. studies together with several professional studies facilities provided by University.

Library:

“Library, traditionally collection of books used for reading or study, or the building or room in which such a collection is kept. The word derives from the Latin ‘Liber’, ‘book’, where as a Latinized Greek word, bibliotheca, is the origin of the word for library in German, Russian, and the Romance languages”

Navsari:

Navsari is an administrative district in the state of Gujarat in India. The district of Valsad consists of Taluka has Navsari, Chikhali, Gandevi, Vansda, Umargam, Pardi, Dharampur, Kaprada, Jalapore. State Government has formed six new districts from 1/10/1997 and Navsari has been carved out as separate district of Navsari comprises 5 (Five) talukas i.e. Navsari, Vansda, Chikhali, Gandevi, Jalalpole. Navsari is also popularly known as South Gujarat. Some of the villages of Dandi Movement in Gandhiji. Navsari talukas are located in this region.

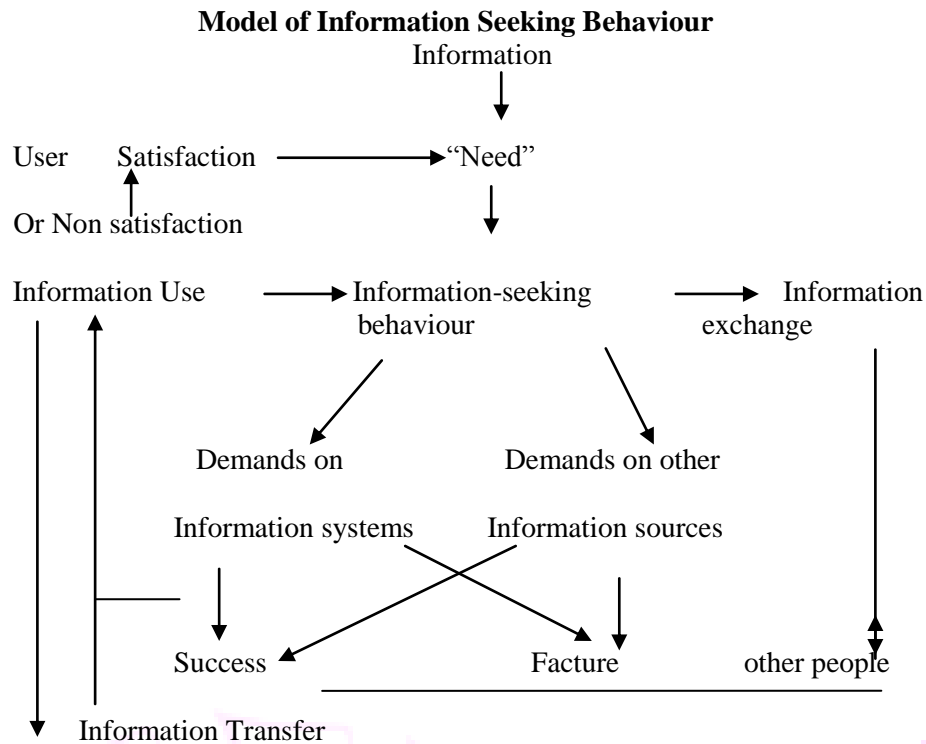


Figure 1: Wilson's Model of Information Behaviour

Wilson on the hand provides the following model to explain the process (Ref. Fig.1):

The model suggests that information seeking behaviour arises as a consequence of a need perceived by an information user, who in order to satisfy that need, makes demands upon formal or informal information sources or services, which results in success or failure to find relevant information. If successful, the individual then makes use of the information found and may either fully or partially satisfy the perceived need- if the fails to satisfy the need, he will have to start searching again. The model also shows that part of the information seeking behaviour may involve other people through information exchange and the information perceived as useful may be passed to other people as well as being used by the person himself or herself.

IV. Scope and Limitation of the Study

Scope: The meaning and scope of information seeking behaviour in this study is to include the objectives and purposes of seeking information, the nature and type of information required, the ways and means of accessing, searching, identifying and acquiring work related information, the percentage of dependence on source of information, communication behaviour and use of library.

The facilities of the Agricultural University Library in Navsari are used mainly by the faculty and researchers of the university. It is also used by faculty and researchers from neighbouring university department, colleges and institutes. They form a very small percentage of the total users and hence, the study focused only on the two major types of users namely, Faculty and Researchers of Agricultural Universities of Navsari.

1. Faculty includes:

1. Professors
2. Associate Professors or Readers
3. Assistant Professors or Lecturers

2. Researchers includes:

1. M. Phil Research Scholars
2. Ph. D. Research Scholars

Considering the volume of data that will be generated while collecting information from faculty and researcher regarding different aspects of their usage of library services, clear borders were drawn with regard to the scope and coverage of the subject. Series of discussions were conducted to arrive at this. This study will mainly highlight the current information seeking behaviour of faculty and researchers. The study will list and assess the efficiency of and the utilization of the different services provided by the library. The information needs of the faculty and researchers will be collected and tabulated which will be the basis for future expansion and management of the library

V. Limitations

The study would be limited to be period of the study and thus would examine the information seeking behaviour of faculty and research scholars in agricultural education in agricultural university of Navsari. The present study is therefore limited to agricultural education Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari. All important aspects of the above Navsari Agricultural University library faculty and researchers have been critically examined and studied based on data collection and personal visits and interview with library personals. Then researcher has suggested planning for modern concept plan for agricultural university library of Navsari

VI. Objectives of the study

1. To study the information services provide by faculty and researcher in the Agricultural University library of Navsari.
2. To study the information needs of the faculty and research scholars of Agricultural University in terms of different variables such as nature, type of information & required source of information used etc.
3. To study the purpose of library e-resources services provided by faculty and researcher.
4. To study the usefulness of collection of their respective libraries.
5. To study the effectiveness of existing information system and services provide by the faculty and researcher in libraries.

6. To ascertain and study the principal information needs and resources utilized for obtaining the desired information by the faculty and research scholar of Agricultural University of Navsari.
7. To study the types of information sources use on internet service by the faculty member and research scholar of Agricultural University of Navsari.
8. To study the problem faced by the faculty and researcher to gathering information and to provide suggestions to ever some such problem.

VII. Review of Literature

Bhatti⁶ (2009) "Information needs and information-seeking behaviour of faculty members at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur"- this article described the mainly focus on information need, information seeking behaviour, sources of information channels and services. This study based on the information received from the faculty members. Questionnaires are providing the complete information. The successful operation of a library depends to a large extent on the choice of library collections. The collection should meet the needs and requirements of users. Consequently librarians must be aware of how faculty seek information knowledge of faculty information needs and information-seeking behaviour is imperative for developing valuable collections, and improving facilities and services. It is recommended that library staff or reference librarians focus on assisting users to develop a better image for the library. Reference librarians should help teachers improve their information-seeking and find the types of information they need.

Dabus and Surender Kumar⁹ (2014) "Information Seeking Behaviour of Senior Secondary School Teachers: A case study of Gurgaon and Mahenergarh District"- this study main concept of the information seeking behaviour of senior secondary school teachers in Haryana. The determine teachers information need and used source for getting their information. Mostly teacher need information for preparing class lecture and general awareness of current affairs. Mostly prefer source is used by teacher is book and Internet. A survey of questionnaire design comprehensively includes all aspects regarding information need and used source by the teacher.

Kadli and Kumbar²¹ (2011) "Faculty Information-seeking behaviour in the changing ICT Environment: A study of commerce colleges in Mumbai"- this article mainly focus on information need, information-seeking behaviour, sources of information, changing ICT environment etc. A structured questionnaire was developed to find out the information seeking behaviour of commerce college faculty members. The article discusses sources use to seek information by the commerce colleges faculty in meeting their information need. Inferences and finding are shown with relevant of data analysis was 46 commerce colleges in Mumbai city. Information seeking behaviour of the study indicates that the commerce college are much diversified in the information they seek, the resources they access and the use they make of the information and changing ICT environment. The library and information resources and changing ICT their environment from printed publications to formless data analysis. It is also available e-resources, e-information, through internet or through online library services. Changing ICT environment is affected the information seeking behaviour for the majority of users. It is important for the library to make aware to the users time to time about different forms and types of source developed by library.

VIII. Research Methodology

Research has become the most remarkable modern phenomena of development, scientific discoveries, technological achievements and scholarly publications, are all the faculty and researchers of the agricultural university library and library and information science which developed as an independent and a vital discipline in the present century, also needs and information seeking behaviour verification, improvement and constant development through research by letters in the agricultural field. As the concept of information seeking behaviour in the faculty and researcher in Agricultural University libraries is new to the library and information filed, their applications have been studied in other fields through literature search. Questionnaire have been design based on the study of literature and modified based on discussion held and testing done with all Agricultural University faculty and research scholars and librarians of Gujarat. Data analysis done by using excel and SPSS packages. A structured questionnaire having mainly closed ended questions will be used for the faculty and research scholars and librarians, on the basis of the objectives and hypothesis. A comprehensive review of literature with in the field of information seeking behaviour and comments from the experts will be solicited while designing the questionnaire. Statistical techniques will be used as per the requirement for data analysis.

IX. Data Analysis

The University has a total number of 60 Faculty 15 Professors, 15 Associate Professor and 30 Assistant Professors. Initially 100 % of the Faculty in each category was selected at random and administered the questionnaire distribution was done, this time to a larger set, i.e., 70 % of the Faculty population. Out of these 10 Professors, 10 Associate Professor, and 22 Assistant Professors returned the completed questionnaires.

Types of Users	Frequency	Percent %
Assistant Professors	22	52.38%
Associate Professor	10	23.81%
Professors	10	23.81%
Total	42	100.00%

Table No. 1 Sample Population by Types of Users

Faculty who were part of the study a total of 42 respondents took part in the survey. Out of the 22 (52.38%) Assistant Professor, 10 (23.81%) Associate Professor and Professor 10 (23.81%) have respondents of the research study.

The University has a total of 26 Research Scholars divided between 10 M. Phil Research Scholars and 16 Ph. D. Research Scholars. Approximately 100% of research scholars from each category were selected at random and administered the questionnaire.

Table No. 2 Sample Population by Types of Users

Types of Users	Frequency	Percent %
M. Phil Research Scholars	10	38.46%
Ph. D. Research Scholars	16	61.54%
Total	26	100.00%

Table no.2 show that out of 10 (38.46%) Researchers in Agricultural University of Navsari were M. Phil Research Scholars and 16 (61.42%) Researchers were Ph. D. Research Scholar.

NAVSARI AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PROFILE:

Statistical Format:

Name of University Library	Navsari Agricultural University Library, Navsari
Establishment Year	1960
Librarian Name (I/c)	Dr. Kailash D. Tandel
Website	www.nau.in
Phone Number	02637-283234
Library Area	2800 Sq. Meet.
Timing Office	10.30 AM To 6.10 PM
Circulation Timing	8.00 AM To 19.30 PM
Timing Library Reading Room	7.30 AM To. 20.00 PM
Total No. of Students	98735
Total Library Membership	2734
Total Collection of Library Books	52209 Books (Total Collection- 73952)
Total Collection of Journals	Indian 147 Foreign- 35 (New Yearly)
Classification of Books	DDC (19 th Ed)
Cataloguing	AACR-II
Library Automation Software	SOUL 2.0
Open Access System	Web OPAC

X. Suggestion

N. A. University library main component 'Strengthening of Digital library and Information Management under NARs e- GRANTH: The university library e-Granth research main **objectives wise achievements are following:**

1. To create online public access catalog (OPAC) under "Indian Agricultural Research Group Catalogue" of all 12 library resources with online computer library center (OCLC) partnership.
2. To digitize important institutional repositories (limited to IARI, IVRI, and VAS, Bangalore) including are books and old journals and make them open access under NARS.
3. To strengthen capacity building for library and information management system (open to all libraries of NARs).
4. Develop a group catalogue to share library resources on digital platform.
5. Institutional Repository has been created by conserving e-theses in the format of Krishiprabha, now it is known as Krishikosh.
6. All library collection databases has been converted in to KOHA a professional library software. Library staff has been given the training in workshop organized by University Library NAU, Navsari.

Navsari A. University Library Services:

Sr. No.	Services	Sr. No.	Services
1	Circulation Services	11	Inter Library Loan Services
2	Current Awareness Services	12	Internet lab Facilities
3	SDI (Selective Dissemination Information Services)	13	Separate Reading Room for boys and girls
4	Classification Services	14	Reading Room facility in nights
5	Cataloguing Services	15	Book Display Services
6	Abstracting Services	16	Discussion Room Services
7	Indexing Services	17	CCTV Camera facilities
8	Reference Services	18	CeRA
9	Reprography Services	19	Krishi Prabha through NAIP Project
10	On-line Databases: CAB Database, VET Database, Plant Biotechnology, EMIE Indian online commodities, India Stat etc. Services		

Consortium for E-Resources in NAU Library:

The ICAR has provided on-line E-resources service through CeRA under NAIP project under CeRA university library, NAU library delivered the photo copies of 321 full text articles to staff (Faculty) and students of NAU, Navsari.

E-Resources (Online database):

Sr. No.	INDIAN	FOREIGN
1	J-GATE	CAB ABSTRACT
2	IBID	VET ABSTRACT
3		AGRIS
4	CMIE	AGROLA
5		PLANT PATHOLOGY

Digital Library:

- (1) CeRA : Gateway to e- journals,
- (2) Agricat,
- (3) Indiastat,
- (4) E-Reference Sources
- (5) Vidyanidhi
- (6) E- Conference Alerts,
- (7) E-Books,
- (8) E-Databases,
- (9) Library Subscribed E-journals,

- (10) Miscellaneous
- (11) Online Catalogue

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