



International Journal of Allied Practice, Research and Review

Website: www.ijaprr.com (ISSN 2350-1294)

Information Needs and Seeking Behavior of the Faculty in Agricultural Universities of Gujarat State: A Study

Dr. Rajeshkumar M. Gamit

Assistant Professor

**Department of Library and Information Science
Gujarat University, Ahmedabad-380009, India**

Abstract - This research paper aims at of information needs and seeking behavior, refers to the way faculty search and utilize information to improve their knowledge. To understand agricultural universities faculty behavior we sought to understand literature search experiences and skills of the faculty in all departments of Agricultural universities of Gujarat State. The survey held provides information of seeking behavior in sample study among the all agricultural universities faculty to examine the objectives of visiting the library is evaluated to find out the satisfying level of the services of the university library. The finding of the survey helps the university library professionals providing better sources and services to the faculty community.

Keywords: Information Needs, Information Seeking Behavior, Agricultural, Universities, Faculty, Library, Resources

I. Introduction

Understanding information needs and seeking behavior of the faculty is top priority in the information services delivery of nay agricultural university libraries. The responsibility of library is to lend its services equivalent to those behavior response which understands the information needs and information seeking behavior of its faculties. Information needs are indication of a knowledge gap which needs to be satisfied. The faculty is the transporter of learning to teaching methods. Information is an indispensable resource for all human activities. As information is a valuable input and output for social development, only those who utilize information effectively will ultimately be in the lead. In library or information center, the users are the last links or the recipients of information in the communication cycle.

Hence, understanding the user requirements is a fundamental pre-requisite for libraries whose purpose is to satisfy the information needs which vary from user to user. As different people have different information needs, information specialists rely on a variety of tools and information sources that help them in providing relevant information to the users. In agriculture university libraries are responsible for providing knowledge and information sources to the students, faculties, administrators and staff of the academic institutions for which they collect a variety of materials to support teaching, research and learning activities.

Information needs and seeking behaviorism concerned about gender which involves personnel reasons for seeking information. The information needs and way of seeking behavior may differ between female and males. The way in which needed information is being sought, various factors like time spent for searching information, knowledge about information sources, interest area, the way of expressing to his needed information etc decided to their seeking behavior.

II. Review of Literature

Baliar (1990) “Information needs of different communities: a survey of the Puri District of Orissa”- this is the first study of its kind on ‘community information needs’ carried out in India on a large scale. The important point is that the communities have also studied information needs of non-users of libraries and the methodology used is a sound one. He collected data about socio-economic conditions, community information providers, utilization of leisure time, reading interests and habits of literates, library consciousness of the respondents and their willingness to accept advisory services to solve their day-to-day information seeking problem. The suggestions about community libraries are practicable and extremely useful. The significance of ‘National Policy on library and information system’ document has been missed. This study is a good research of a descriptive community survey.

Bansal and Singh (2013) “Information Seeking Pattern of Researchers of Guru AngadDev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana: A case Study”- this case study mainly focus on information seeking pattern, information use, e-resources and GADVASU etc. This case study main purpose of seeking information, use of information resources, time spent on gathering information use of print and e-resources, etc. The obstacles faced by researchers in gathering information are also discussed and information received from the users. Responses of researchers are data analysis and discussion of the present study. Information seeking pattern of researchers of the study indicate that majority of the researchers seek information for research/ dissertation work.

Bhatti (2010) “Information needs and information-seeking behavior of faculty members at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur”- this article mainly focus on information need, information seeking behavior, sources of information channels and services. This study is based on the information received from the faculty members. 88% of respondents indicated their purposes of seeking information for teaching purpose, 68% for literature searches, 43% to borrow books, journal and article searches, 54% percent of faculty members consult the library use for research and 43% for keeping their knowledge up to date, and 27% users visit the library for reading newspapers and magazines. These clearly show that majority of the Faculty members use the library resources and seek for information for teaching and learning.

Bhatt, Atul A. (2014) studied the information needs and perception of Law faculty members and revealed that most of law faculty members are familiar with online legal resources and online legal resources are more preferred resources for them. Most of them are preferred to access internet using Google Chrome browser and Heinonline is most preferred online database.

Dabusand Surender Kumar (2014) “Information Seeking Behavior of Senior Secondary School Teachers: A case study of Gurgaon and Mahenergarh District”- this study main concept is information seeking behavior of senior secondary school teachers in Haryana. To 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 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.

Bhatt, Atul and Trivedi Dharmendra (2019) Studied information needs and seeking behavior of research scholars of Gujarat University and found that most of research scholar desired to access Gujarat University Library for their information needs. Most of students are aware with subscribed online resources but little care need to be taken for inform them about RemotXS facility to access various online resources from outside the campus.

III. Objectives of the Study

1. To survey the information needs and information seeking behavior of faculty in the Agriculture University of Gujarat.
2. To identify the designation, and gender of the respondents.
3. To analyze the extent of use and dependence on various sources of information.
4. To examine the motivating factors for information seeking behavior for the Agriculture University Faculty.
5. To assess the faculties satisfaction of library services.

IV. Research Design

This research study is based on survey method. The data has been received through questionnaire method. For this research study the agriculture university faculties of Gujarat have been selected. Respondents were collected from four agricultural universities in Gujarat. A total number of 200 questionnaires were distributed. Out of which 168 responded.

V. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

Scope and limitation are the two cardinal factors responsible for timely completion of any social investigation. The present study is therefore limited to information needs and seeking behavior of the faculty of agriculture education of four agricultural university libraries of Gujarat this following:

1. **Anand Agriculture University, Anand.**
2. **Junagadh Agriculture University, Junagadh.**

3. Navsari Agriculture University, Navsari

4. Sardar krushinagar Dantiwada Agriculture University, Dantiwada (S.K.)

VI. Data Analysis

All important aspects of the above four universities libraries faculty have been critically examined and studied based on data collection and personal visits and interview with library personals. Then faculties have suggested planning for modern concept plan for agricultural university libraries of Gujarat.

Table No.1 Number of Designation wise Respondents of Faculties

The table No. 1 shows that faculties are respondents 168 (100%) in four Agricultural Universities of Gujarat are Assistant Professor 58 (34.52%), Sr. Assistant Professor 40 (23.82%), Associate Professor 38 (22.62%), and Professor 32 (19.04%).

Designation of Faculties	No. of Faculties	Percentage
Assistant Professor	58	34.52%
Sr. Assistant Professor	40	23.82%
Associate Professor	38	22.62%
Professor	32	19.04%
Total	168	100.00%

Table No. 2 Gender wise Respondents of Faculties

The table no. 2 shows the gender wise breaks-up of faculties in Four Agricultural Universities of Gujarat State. Out of respondents 98 (58.33%) faculties are Male and 70 (41.67%) faculties are female.

Gender of Faculties	Number of Universities Faculties	Percentage
Male	98	58.33%
Female	70	41.67%
Total	168	100.00%

Table No.3 Age Group of Faculties

The table No. 3 indicates the Age-group of Faculties of Four Agricultural Universities of Gujarat. Out of which 5 only (3%) faculties are below 25 years. 22 (14%) between 26-30 year. 25(15%) between 31-35 year. 35 (20%) between 36-40 year. 14 (8%) between 41-45 year. 25(15%) between 46-50 year. 28(16%) between 51-55 year and 15 (9%) faculties are above 55 years.

Age Group of Faculties	AAU		NAU		SDAU		Total No. of Faculties	%
	No. of Faculty	No. of Faculty	%	No. of Faculty	%			
Below 25	1	2	0.12%	1	0.06%	5	3%	
26-30		6	3.73%	5	2.97%	22	14%	
31-35	7	6	3.73%	6	3.73%	25	15%	
36-40	8	10	6%	9	5.35%	35	20%	
41-45	4	3	2.01%	4	2.38%	14	8%	
46-50	4	8	4.76%	6	3.73%	25	15%	
51-55	5	9	5.30%	8	5%	28	16%	
above 55	2	4	2.98%	4	2.38%	15	9%	
Total Faculty	35	48	28.58%	43	25.60%	168	100%	

Table No. 3 show that 35 (20.83%) Age Group of faculty in Anand Agricultural University is responded, 42 (24.99%) Age Group of faculty in Junagadh Agricultural University is responded, 48 (28.58%) Age Group of faculty in Navsari Agricultural University is responded and 43 (25.60%) Age Group of Faculty in Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University is responded.

Table No. 4 Visit of Faculties to the Agricultural University Libraries

Visit to the Agricultural University Libraries	No. of Faculties	Percentage
Daily	38	22.61%
More than one a week	44	26.19%
Once a week	28	16.70%
Fortnightly	15	8.92%
Once a month	18	10.71%
When there is need	14	8.33%
Rarely	11	6.54%
Total	168	100.00%

The table no. 4 shows the number of visits of faculties to the library. Table no. 4 indicated that 38 (22.61%) faculties daily visit the library, 44 (26.19%) faculties visit more than one a week, 28 (16.70%) faculties once a week, 15 (8.92%) faculties visit fortnightly, 18 (10.71%) faculties visit once a month while 14 (8.33%) faculties visit library when there is a need and 11 (6.54%) faculties visit rarely. It indicates that maximum number of faculties visit the library when they are in need.

Table No. 5 Generally visit the Library time of Faculties

Library Time	No. of Faculties	Percentage
10- 12 Noon	36	21.42%
12- 2 P. M.	24	14.30%
2- 4 P. M.	38	22.61%
4- 6 P. M.	22	13.10%
6- 8 P. M.	18	10.71%
Any time when free	30	17.86%
Total	168	100.00%

The Table number 5 shows the time to generally visit the library by Faculty member of the Agricultural Universities in Gujarat. The number of faculties who visit the library between 10-12 noon is 36 (21.42%), number of faculties who generally visit the library between 12-2 P. M. is 24 (14.30%), The maximum number of faculties who visit the library is during 2- 4 P. M. is 38 (22.61%) , Number of faculties who visit during 4-6 P. M. is 22 (13.10%), Number of faculties who visit during 6-8 P. M.18 (10.71%) and 30 (17.86%) faculties visit the library when they are free or according to their suitable time.

Table No. 6 Time spent in the library

Time spent	No. of Faculties	Percentage
Up to 10 Minutes	26	15.48%
11- 20 Minutes	32	19.04%
20- 30 Minutes	28	16.67%
30- 60 Minutes	36	21.42%
More than One hour	46	27.39%
Total	168	100.00%

The Table number 6 shows that, 26 (15.48%) faculties spend up to 10 minutes, 32 (19.04%) faculties spend 11-20 minutes in library, 28 (16.67%) faculties spend 21-30 minutes, 36 (21.42%) faculties spend 31-60 minutes in library. While maximum Number of University faculties 46 (27.39%) spend more than an hour in library generally.

Table No. 7 Use of Documents by faculties who visit the Agricultural University libraries

The table no. 7 shows the number of faculties who visit the library in use of documents very frequently who use library to get books issued is 36 (21.42%), frequently who use periodicals is 35 (20.83%), Sometimes who use references materials is 29 (17.27%) , Rarely who read newspapers/ Magazines is 26 (15.48%), who never use audio-visual materials (Internet) is and 20 (11.90%), to browse periodical /books are faculties who use of library document collection by visiting the library.

Documents	No. of Faculties Very Frequently	No. of Faculties Frequently	No. of Faculties Sometimes	No. of Faculties Rarely	No. of Faculties Never	Total No. of Faculties	%
To get books Issued	8	7	5	7	9	36	21.42%
To use Periodicals	7	7	8	7	6	35	20.83%
To use references materials	6	5	6	6	6	29	17.27%
To read newspapers/ Magazines	6	5	5	5	5	26	15.48%
To use audio-visual material (Internet)	5	5	4	4	4	22	13.10%
To browse periodical/ books	4	4	4	4	4	20	11.90%
Total	36	33	32	33	34	168	100.00 %
Percentage	21.42%	19.64%	19.04%	19.64%	20.23%	168	100.00 %

Table No. 8 Information Sources used by faculties in Agricultural University Libraries

Information Sources	No. of Faculties	Percentage
Books	28	16.67%
Encyclopedia	20	11.90%
Reference Books	22	13.10%
Periodicals	17	10.11%
Dissertations and Theses	18	10.72%
Conference and Seminars Proceedings	10	5.95%
ICAR Annual Report	14	8.33%
Census of India	12	7.14%
Agricultural Census	11	6.55%
Internet	16	9.53%
Total	168	100.00%

The Table number 8 shows the different information sources used by Agricultural University faculties, use of books is 28 (16.67%), 20 (11.90%) faculties who use of Encyclopedia, 22 (13.10%) faculties use reference books, 17 (10.11%), faculties use periodicals 18(10.72%) faculties use dissertations and theses, 10 (5.95%) faculties use Conference and Seminars Proceedings, 14 (8.33%) faculties use ICAR annual report, 12 (7.14%) faculties use Census of India 11 (6.55%) faculties use agricultural census and 16 (9.53%) faculties use Internet.

Table No. 9 Formal Information Sources used by Faculties in Agricultural University Libraries

Formal Information Sources	Preference by Number of Faculties	Percentage
Textbooks/ Handbooks	32	19.04%
Periodicals	26	15.47%
Encyclopedia	15	8.92%
Dictionaries	12	7.14%
Research Reports	12	7.14%
Proceedings of Conference/ Seminars/ Workshop	13	7.73%
Advances in Progress in Annual review	5	2.98%
Patents	4	2.39%
Standards	6	3.59%
Theses and Dissertations	10	5.95%
References Books	12	7.14%
Indexing Journals	8	4.76%
Abstracting Journals	6	3.59%
Bibliographies	7	4.16%
Total	168	100.00%

The Table number 9 Shows the different Formal Information Sources used by Agricultural University faculties. Table indicates the total number of faculties, who use Textbooks/ Handbooks is 32 (19.04%), total number of faculties who use Periodicals is 26 (15.47%), 15 (8.92%) faculties who use Encyclopedias, 12 (7.14%) faculties who use Dictionaries, 12 (7.14%) faculties who use Research Report, 13 (7.73%) faculties who use Proceedings of Conference/ Seminars/ Workshop, 5 (2.98%), use Advances in Progress in Annual review, 4 (2.39%), use Patterns, 6 (5.59%) use of faculties Standards 10 (5.95%), faculties who use Theses and Dissertations, 12 (7.14%) use References Books, 8 (4.76%) use Indexing Journals 6 (3.59%) use Abstracting Journals and 7 (4.14%) use faculties of Bibliographies.

Table No. 10 Informal Information Sources used by Faculties in Agricultural University Libraries

Informal Information Sources	Number of Faculties	Percentage
Discussion with Colleagues/ teachers	42	25%
Attending Lectures	54	32.14%
Attending Seminars/Conferences/ Workshops	36	21.42%
Reading list prepared by Librarians	24	14.28%
If others Pl Specify.....	12	7.14%
Total	168	100%

The Table number 10 show the different Informal Information Sources used by Agricultural University faculties. This table indicates the total number of faculties, who use Discussion with Colleagues/ teachers is 42 (25%), total number of faculties who use Attending Lectures is 54 (32.14%), 36 (21.42%) faculties use Attending Seminars/Conferences/ Workshops, 24 (14.28%) faculties use Reading list prepared by Librarians, and 12 (7.14%) faculties use other information. Thus the maximum number of University faculties use Textbooks/ Handbooks, Periodicals, References Books and Proceedings of Conference/ Seminars as the Sources of Information.

Table No.11 Use fullness of information services provided by Agricultural University Faculties in Library

The Table number 11 shows the presents the total number of faculties who use information services provided by Agricultural University Faculties in library 25 (14.88%) faculties use Circulation services, 27 (16.07%), faculties use References Services, 23 (13.70%) faculties use Indexing Services, 15 (8.92%) faculties use Abstracting Services, 21 (12.50%) faculties use Photocopying Services, 16 (9.52%) faculties use Current Awareness Services, 18 (10.71%) faculties use Translation Services, and 23 (13.70%) faculties use of Interlibrary Loan Services. Most of Faculties use more than one service and maximum number of faculties uses references services.

Information Services	No. of Faculties Very Useful	No. of Faculties Little Useful	No. of Faculties Not Useful	Total Faculties	Percentage
Circulation Services	10	11	6	27	16.07%
References Services	8	8	9	25	14.88%
Indexing Services	8	7	8	23	13.70%
Abstracting Services	7	5	3	15	8.92%
Photocopying Services	8	6	7	21	12.50%
Current Awareness Services	5	6	5	16	9.52%
Translation Services	6	8	4	18	10.71%
Interlibrary loan Services	10	8	5	23	13.70%
Total	62	59	47	168	100.00%
Percentage	36.90 %	35.12%	27.98%	0	100.00%

Table No. 11 show that 62 (36.90%) faculties has been very use to information services provided by Agricultural University Libraries, 59 (35.12%) faculties has been little use full to information services provided, and 47 (27.98%) faculties has been not use full to information services provided by Agricultural University Libraries.

Table No. 12 Library Training Program for users of Agricultural University Faculties

Training Program	No. of Faculties	Percentage
1- Very great extent	60	35.72%
2- Great extent	43	25.60%
3- Some extent	34	20.23%
4- Little extent	18	10.72%
5- Not at all	13	7.73%
Total	168	100.00%

The Table number 12 shows the view of Agricultural University faculties about any training program in favour of library. 60 (35.72%) faculties are in favour of training program at a very great extent, 43 (25.60%) great extent, 34 (20.23%) up to some extent, 18 (10.72%) up to little extent and only 13 (7.73%) faculties feel the need of any training program for users.

Table No. 13 Agricultural University Faculties Suggestion for Improvement of Library Services in University Libraries

Suggestions	No. of Faculties Yes	No. of Faculties No.	Total Faculties	Percentage
Increase the total number of references books	28	0	28	16.68%
Increase the current journals	22	0	22	13.10%
Increase the electronic sources such as databases	18	0	18	10.71%
Subscription of more number of e-books and e-journals	10	0	10	5.95%
Provision of Internet information services	12	0	12	7.14%
Concluding of regular orientation programs about the use of classification and catalogues	0	12	12	7.14%
Appointment of references librarian	8	0	8	4.78%
Provision of guide cards to use the library	0	7	7	4.17%
Provision of subject gateways	11	0	11	6.54%
Provision for complete automation of the library	14	0	14	8.33%
Provision of conducive reading environment	13	0	13	7.73%
Speed in the delivery of e-resources	0	13	13	7.73%
Total Faculties	136	32	168	100.00%
Percentage	80.95%	19.05%	0	100.00%

Among the Table No. 13 show that Agricultural University Faculties Suggestion for Improvement of Library Services in University Libraries of Gujarat State has been library service provided in suggestion have out of which 136 (80.95%) faculties are agreed, and 32 (19.05%) faculties disagreed which the library services provided.

VII. Findings

- 1.It is observed that the majority of faculty visit the library more than once in a week to the university library
- 2.The faculty spends one hour in their departmental and institutional library when ever he/she visit the university library
- 3.It is observed that the faculty uses the library to borrow the books, Encyclopedia, Reference books, Periodicals, Dissertation and Theses, Conference and Seminars proceeding and Internet, it indicates that the usages of the university library by the faculty are very high.
- 4.It is observed that the faculty members are highly motivated to prepare for class teaching and guide students and research scholars on subject regarding motivation and vague assertions.
- 5.It is observed that the agricultural university faculties are in favour of training program in library to a very great extent.

The Faculty Opinion on the usage of the University Library

Libraries in the past provided bulk services for the masses. They acquired and organized their stock to serve what they thought was wanted or needed by the unspecified majority.

- 1.An attractive building.
- 2.A friendly and informal physical atmosphere.
- 3.Comfortable seats for reading and research working.
- 4.A variety of study areas where, if one wishes, one can study quietly or have group discussion.
- 5.A coffee shop where one can relax, refresh oneself, and mix with other users and with the library staff.
- 6.A self-usable arrangement and library system.
- 7.A wide range of current materials for browsing, selected according to what the library discovers its clientele needs.
- 8.A selection of order material, including classics and standard works.
9. A good collection of references books.
10. Simple and speedy procedures for borrowing and returning books.
11. The ability to access a variety of media from one workstation.
12. Good access to information tools produced by other (e.g. commercial indexing and abstracting services).

13. Friendly and helpful staff who are bibliographically and technically knowledgeable, who are visible and who invite inquiries.
14. To pay as little as possible for access to information.

He stresses on the importance of designing systems around users of faculty. They obviously need to know if they are succeeding in their objectives. For this, they will have to measure their performance.

VIII. Conclusion

Age of 21st century is information technology explosion period in the world, field of research and education hub of information technology from which users are in teaching, learning, and research service facilities provided by Agricultural University Libraries of Gujarat State. This research study main focuses is on information seeking behavior of the faculty and researchers. Agricultural university libraries of Gujarat state has been libraries users of which faculty and researchers which use of library problem solution and service facilities'. Information seeking behavior role for libraries and librarian shows users need, information need and seeking behavior choice of human life in the users' research study.

IX. References

1. Baliar, Singh, R. K. (1990) **Information needs of different communities: a survey of the Puri District of Orissa** (Ph.D. Thesis, Utkal University,)
2. Bansal, Sonia and Singh, Nirmal (2013) **Information seeking pattern of researchers of Guru AngadDev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana: A case study, the International Journal of Digital Library Services Vol. 3, Issue-2, April-June, pp. 96-107.**
3. Bhatt, AtulA.. (2014). **Information needs, perceptions and quests of law faculty in the digital era. *The Electronic Library*, 32(5), 659-669.**
4. Bhatt, A., &Trivedi, D. (2018). **Contemporary Trends of Information Seeking Behaviour of Research Scholars of Gujarat University: A Case study. *Library Philosophy & Practice*.**
5. Bhatti, Rubina (2009) **"Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Faculty Members at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur"; *Library Philosophy and Practice*, November (e-journal) paper 314, pp.1 -11.**
6. Dabus, KC & Surender Kumar (2014) **59th ILA International Conference on Managing libraries in the Changing Information World: From Surviving to Thriving, Conference Proceedings, Roorkee. pp. 944-950.**
7. Laloo, BikikaTariang (2002) **Information Needs, Information Seeking Behaviour and Users; ESS ESS Publications, New Delhi, P.19.**
8. Laloo, BikikaTariang (2002) **Information Needs, Information Seeking Behaviour and Users; ESS ESS Publications, New Delhi, P.10-21.**
9. Laloo, BikikaTariang (2002) **Information Needs, Information Seeking Behaviour and Users; ESS ESS Publications, New Delhi, P.67-68.**
10. Laloo, BikikaTariang (2002) **Information Needs, Information Seeking Behaviour and Users; ESS ESS Publications, New Delhi, P.78-86.**
11. Laloo, BikikaTariang (2002) **Information Needs, Information Seeking Behaviour and Users; ESS ESS Publications, New Delhi, P.108.**
12. Line, M. B. (1967) **"Library Survey."** London, Clive Bingley, P. 11.