

Use of Information Resources and Services in the Veterinary College Libraries of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Information is the essential commodity for studying, teaching, research and extension activities. The present study makes an attempt to know the use of information resources and services by the teachers/scientists, research scholars and post graduate students in the veterinary colleges of Karnataka State. Questionnaire method was adopted to collect the data from the academic community along with observation and informal interviews. The study aimed at identifying the adequacy of library resources and services, purpose and frequency of using library resources. Tests like mean value and percentage method were adopted to verify the results. Further attempt was also made to highlight the findings of the study and suggestions given based on the analysis and interpretations of the study.

Key words: Information resources; Services; Veterinary education; Veterinary libraries.

INTRODUCTION

Library is a knowledge centre which has rich information resources stored in different ways. For getting information, the users may depend on printed or electronic forms of information. The primary purpose of the library resources is to support teaching, learning and research in ways consistent with and supportive of the institutions mission and goals. Adequate information resources and services offered will support the intellectual, cultural, and technical development of the academic community.

The veterinary college libraries play a vital role in education system. They act as an information resource centre that supplements study, teaching, research and extension activities of the parent institution. Veterinary science being a multidisciplinary subject, the library is expected to acquire, organize, store, retrieve and disseminate information not only on the specific subject, but also in current direction of technological advancement.

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Unprecedented growth and diversification of information is a problem in veterinary and animal science also. The complexity in information explosion and globalization necessitates reorganizing and repackaging of the information according to the needs of veterinarians.

Veterinary Colleges in India

Veterinary Science is a science of diagnosing, treating and curing the diverse type of diseases in birds and animals. The subject broadly covers the study of animal physiology, treatment and prevention of diseases among animals.

Veterinary education is as old as human civilization and developed in India as early as Vedic Period. In order to train personnel in modern veterinary and animal husbandry practice, the first veterinary institute began in 1862 with the establishment of an Army Veterinary School at Poona. In due course of time the veterinary colleges at Lahore (1882), Mumbai (1884), Kolkata (1893), Patna (1930), Chennai (1932), Hyderabad (1946), and Mathura (1947) came up with the aim of imparting a sound and efficient system of veterinary education.

First veterinary college in Karnataka was established in 1958. It was then affiliated to Mysore University and continued up to 1964. Later, in 1965 became a constituent college of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, to meet the increasing demand for veterinary graduates. Veterinary College, Bidar, was started in 1984, at Shimoga in 2005 and at Hassan in 2007. In 2005, after the establishment of Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), the veterinary colleges have become a part of the KVAFSU. The main focus of these institutions is to make veterinary education responsive to the growing needs of the society in general and aspirations of the livestock farmers in particular. In this direction, it strives hard to produce highly skilled and competent manpower to meet the needs of the changing society and challenges of the new areas of research and extension.

The role of veterinary colleges is to enhance the livestock production, health improvement, milk production and strengthening the nation's wealth. All the existing veterinary and animal sciences institutions come under the purview of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

The present study confirmed to the use of information resources and services. There are four veterinary colleges in Karnataka. Each of these institutes has libraries to cater to the needs of their academic community. Keeping in view the enormity of the study, the scope and limitations of the study covered only those

colleges offering Post Graduate and PhD courses.

OBJECTIVES

- To know the types of information resources used for study/teaching/research.
- To study the frequency and purpose of using information resources
- To assess the usefulness of services provided by the library.
- To assess the adequacy of information resources and services.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted by collection of data through structured questionnaire and personal visit to these colleges. The questionnaire was administered using a simple random sampling technique. A total number of 160 questionnaires were administered among the users of the veterinary colleges under study of which 149 questionnaires were received back with response rate 93.12%. The sample respondents consisted of all together 77 faculty members (F.M), 30 research scholars (R.S) and 42 post graduate students (P.G). The data collected was tabulated and analyzed. Statistical techniques of mean value and percentage method were mainly used to analyze the collective data. Five point scale was adopted to get the mean and rank order.

Table 1: Veterinary Colleges of Karnataka: The State of the Art Report

Sl.No	Name of the college	Year of Establishment	Courses offered
1.	Veterinary College, Bangalore	1958	UG, PG, PhD
2.	Veterinary College, Bidar	1984	UG, PG, PhD
3.	Veterinary College, Shimoga	2005	UG
4.	Veterinary College, Hassan	2007	UG

Table 2: Frequency of Visit to the Library

Sl. No	Frequency	No. of Responses n=149	Percentage
1	Daily	91	61.07
2	Twice in a week	38	25.5
3	Fortnightly	12	8.05
4	Once in a month	6	4.03
5	Occasionally	2	1.34

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION*Frequency of visit to the library*

The use of library could be measured by several ways. One such way is the frequency of the visits of users to the library.

It is evident from Table 2 that majority of the users visited the library daily (61.07), 25.5% of the users visited the library twice a week, 8.05% of users visited the library fortnightly, and 4.03% of users visited the library once in a month, and very few visited the library occasionally.

Purpose of visit to the library

A user visits the library for many purposes like reading, research, recreation etc. The main

purpose of using a library was to explore the professional purpose of the veterinarians.

It is evident from the Table 3 that majority of respondents used library resources for subject information (90.60%), 74.50% for ongoing research work and 71.81% for the purpose of thesis/project work. Also, 65.10% of the respondents used them for writing research papers for publication and 46.98% for preparation of teaching /lecture notes. Around 48.32% for guiding researchers/PG students and 28.86% for exploring research grants. About 17.45% of the respondents used information resources for curriculum design. Thus, it may be inferred from the above facts that there is a significant use of library resources for research purposes.

Table 3: Purpose of Visit to the Library

Sl. No.	Purpose	Teachers/ Scientists(n= 77)	Research Scholars(n=30)	P.G Students (n=42)	Total (n=149)
1	Ongoing research work	47 (61.04)	30 (100)	34 (80.95)	111 (74.50)
2	Preparation of teaching/lecture notes	60 (77.92)	8 (26.67)	2 (4.76)	70 (46.98)
3	Thesis /Project work	42 (54.54)	30 (100)	35 (83.33)	107 (71.81)
4	Writing research papers	62 (80.52)	30 (100)	5 (11.9)	97 (65.10)
5	Subject information	65 (84.41)	30 (100)	40 (95.24)	135 (90.60)
6	For guiding researchers/P.G students	54 (70.13)	14 (46.67)	4 (9.52)	72 (48.32)
7	Exploring research grants	18 (23.37)	13 (43.33)	12 (28.57)	43 (28.86)
8	curriculum design	24 (31.17)	2 (6.67)	Nil	26 (17.45)

Table 4: Types of Information Resources and their Usefulness

Sl. No.	Types of Resources	Usefulness of Information Resources(n=149)						
		1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Rank
1	CD-ROM s	2	7	22	31	87	4.3	1
2	Current Journals	-	4	24	53	68	4.24	2
3	On-line databases	-	13	27	35	74	4.14	3
4	Reference books	-	8	23	62	56	4.11	4
5	Books	-	14	26	57	52	3.99	5
6	Reports	3	19	28	55	44	3.79	6
7	On-line journals	8	12	38	49	42	3.7	7
8	Back Volumes	5	22	37	47	38	3.61	8
9	Thesis	16	24	41	40	28	3.27	9
10	Conference proceedings	12	46	53	26	12	2.86	10
11	Standards	18	36	54	26	15	2.83	11

(1=Not at all useful, 2= Somewhat useful, 3= Moderately useful, 4=Useful, 5=Most useful)

Table 5: Usefulness of Library Services

Sl. No.	Library Services	Usefulness of Library services (n=149)						
		1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Rank
1	Circulation service	0	0	12	51	86	4.5	1
2	Web based services	0	7	18	46	78	4.3	2
3	Photo copying service (Xerox)	0	6	23	44	76	4.27	3
4	Reference services	4	24	18	38	65	3.91	4
5	User Education/Orientation	14	25	34	37	45	3.62	5
6	Current Awareness Service	9	38	26	34	42	3.42	6
7	Interlibrary loan Service	12	47	38	30	22	3.02	7
8	Referral services	12	34	22	45	16	2.72	8
9	News paper clipping service	16	52	33	22	13	2.5	9

(1=Not at all useful, 2= Somewhat useful, 3= Moderately useful, 4=Useful, 5=Most Useful)

Usefulness of Information Resources

Library is a physical place where collection of information resources in various types and formats is organized with the services required

To know the usefulness of library resources opinions of users of both the colleges were considered. Table 4 shows that in serial ranking order, CD-Rom databases are most useful and ranked first with a mean value 4.3, followed by current journals with mean value 4.24, on-line data bases with mean value 4.14, reference books with mean value 4.11, books with mean value 3.99, reports with mean value 3.79 , on-line journals with mean value 3.7, back volumes of journals with mean value 3.61 , thesis with mean value 3.27 conference proceedings with mean value 2.86 and standards with mean value 2.83. It is evident from the above table that users of veterinary college libraries use both print and electronic resources. CD-ROM databases are most sought after information resource and current journals and on-line databases are in next priority.

Usefulness of Library Services

Library is a service oriented institution and provides services to its clientele. Library services are varying from library to library but in the veterinary college libraries under study provide same services to their users.

Table 5 shows that circulation service is most useful with mean value 4.5 and first in the rank order, web-based services occupies second position in rank order with mean value 4.3, photo copy service third in the rank position with mean value 4.27, reference service is fourth with mean value 3.91, orientation/user education is fifth with mean value 3.62, current awareness service is sixth with mean value 3.42, inter- library loan is seventh with mean value 3.02, referral service is eighth with mean value 2.72 and news paper clipping service is ninth with mean value 2.5. It is evident from the above table that circulation service is the most useful service of the veterinary college libraries.

Adequacies of Information Resources and Services

To ascertain the various demands of the users, it is essential to consider that the

Table 6: Adequacies of Information Resources and Services

Sl. No.	Resources and Services	Adequacies of Information Resources and Services (n=149)						
		1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Rank
1	Books, Journals, Reports etc.	0	5	18	42	84	4.37	1
2	Electronic Resources	0	4	30	46	69	4.21	2
3	Assistance/Co-operation of library staff	0	7	46	41	55	3.97	3
4	Library services	0	17	39	46	47	3.83	4

[1=Very poor, 2= Poor, 3=Moderately good, 4=Good, 5=Very good]

information resources and services provided are adequate to meet the information requirements of its users.

Table 6 shows that users of veterinary college, Bangalore, and Bidar, ranked print resources like books, journals, reports 1st and

electronic resources 2nd. Users of both the colleges ranked assistance/ co-operation of library staff 3rd with mean value 3.97 and library services 4th with mean value 3.83. It is evident from the above table that, Veterinary College Libraries of Karnataka has very good

collection of information resources. It shows that users are satisfied with library resources (both print and electronic resources).

Findings

The major findings of the study were:

1. Most of the users visit the library for their information need.
2. CD-ROM databases and current journals are most preferred sources of information for their study, teaching and research work.
3. Circulation service and web-based services are most used services, and it is noticed that many of the users are not aware of important services like inter-library loan service, current awareness services etc.
4. Both the libraries have not initiated digitalization of old and rare collection.
5. Regular user survey is not organized in these libraries to know the status of the library services.

Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions are put forward to improve the use of information resource among teachers/scientists, research scholars and post graduate students in the veterinary colleges of Karnataka.

1. More number of current journals and CDs should be procured in all the disciplines and preference should also be given for on-line journals.
2. Significant numbers of users are aware of the existence of print and electronic information resources. The study recommends organizing orientation training very often to make use of the information resources available in the library.
3. A good number of users have stated that library staff is co-operative and they should assist in searching the required information. It is suggested to increase the number of staff,

and training must be given to existing staff in current developments.

4. It is suggested to start current awareness services like e-mail services and bulletin board services to inform the users about the new arrival of on-line journals, books, CD-ROM and other information resources.

5. Efforts have to be made in complete automation and networking of veterinary college libraries and to form consortia for providing information sources and services.

6. More funds to be allotted to acquire print and e-resources.

CONCLUSION

Users of Veterinary colleges use various types of information resources for their study, teaching, research and extension work. Usefulness and preferences of information resources and services is varied, depending on the category of the user, nature of information needed and its accessibility. The study shows that CD-ROM databases and on-line databases are most used electronic resources and current journals and reference books are most used print resources. Veterinary college libraries which serve the academic community need to understand their information need in the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) environment and provide best resources and services to satisfy their users.

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