

## Utilization of Information Resources by the Faculty and Research Scholars in Kannada University Library Hampi: A Study

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### Abstract

This paper towards light on the step-by-step process of information resources in Kannada University, Hampi. Kannada University specialized in Kannada studies and have specialized research centres. A survey conducted at Kannada University Library, Hampi

**Keywords:** Library Resources; Faculty; Research Scholar; Kannada University; Hampi.

### Introduction

Information is an important national resource. It is required and consistently been a significant element at every phase of human development. In one form or other it has it is an indispensable resource for right decision-making at governmental, organizational and personal levels. Vital ingredients for the socio-economic and cultural development of any nation especially for developing countries like India. It is well-accepted fact that the country, which is rich in information is always ahead in socio-economic spheres. The countries, which suffer from information gap due to non-transfer of information, lag behind in socio-economic development.

Modern Society is characterized by an increasing need for specialized institutions in various fields of human activities.

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Specialization is the order of the day. Research and development (R&D) has become a primary function of institutions such as universities, industries, government and private institutions and associations.

Majorities of the libraries even today are providing only traditional services to its users. It is high time to go beyond this and think of providing intensive services to its users. A library may be having rich resources in the form of materials and manpower, but it is not successful to provide expected services to its users, unless the resources are not used to the optimum levels. Information is one of the basic needs of mankind today's research scholars are totally lost in obtaining the required information amidst the information flood. Hence to organize the mass of information, after its evaluation in terms of quality, quantity, and reliability, is the need of the hour.

The libraries being communication centers attached to various institutions endeavor in providing relevant information to its users whenever required. The importance of library use for research work cannot be over emphasized. Research is an activity, which is directed to see something knew, to find out what was not known before and thus expand

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man's fund of knowledge. Research scholars are specialists working in the narrower areas of a selected subject. Naturally their information requirements are also of special nature to be supplied in a special way. Newly generated information constitutes an essential resource for the research worker. Knowledge builds on knowledge as new inventions are reported.

Today, due to the impact of team relay research, research activity is becoming multi disciplinary in nature. There is seepage of literature. The documents in every field are being published at an accelerated rate. In this situation it is not possible for any library, especially university library to acquire everything, which is needed by its users. Most of the higher educational libraries are facing financial constraints. Therefore, it becomes necessary for the library to develop a need-based collection. Thus it is necessary to understand the user's needs, so that one can be able to provide better services to his users. To know the information needs of the users, "User Studies" are necessary during planning and designing library and information systems/services.

#### *Need for the study*

The present study focuses on the information seeking behavior of the faculty members and research scholars of the Kannada University, Hampi and the user satisfaction. The main focus of this study is to describe the information needs and requirements in general and to analyze the research scholar's information search activities, their use behavior and use pattern. The studies also endeavor to find out the ability of the existing library and its organizational structure for disseminating information to satisfy the needs of the end users.

#### *Objectives of the study*

The specific objectives of the study are as follows

- a. To know the frequency of visits to the library by the research scholars;
- b. To find out the information needs of the teachers & research scholars;
- c. To trace the potential utility of the library resources;
- d. To identify the types of information sources required by the users;
- e. To identify the different methods of literature search used by the scholars;
- f. To know the use and adequacy of the information sources by the teachers & research scholars; and
- g. To understand the extent of help sought by users and the services offered by the library staff;
- h. To suggest the ways and means for the further improvement of the library services.

#### **Methodology**

The main purpose of the present study is to assess the various facilities available for the teachers and research scholars in the library of Kannada University. There are many techniques to carry out such an investigation. Which include interview method, schedule method, observation method and questionnaire method. In the present case a questionnaire method was applied. A structured questionnaire was prepared keeping in view of the objectives of the study and personally distributed to the 150 randomly selected teachers and research scholars of Kannada University, Hampi. Sufficient time was given to fill the questionnaire. After the stipulated time the questionnaires were collected back and analysed for collecting information and recorded in the present work.

## **Kannada University, Hampi: A Profile**

### *Introduction*

The Government of Karnataka through the Kannada University Act 1991 established Kannada University-Hampi, in 1991. Though the University was established in 1991, the demand for such a University was there in Karnataka since the mid 1980s. The Government of Karnataka established a commission under the chairmanship of Sadashiva Wodeyar to look into the demand. This committee after consulting various intellectuals, education experts, political thinkers, social activists, literary personalities and representatives of people came out with a report and recommended for the establishment of Kannada University.

Kannada University is located near Hampi, an historical place in Karnataka State. The very name HAMPI evokes mythological and historical memories. People lived here since the Stone- age, as it is evident in the cave paintings left here for posterity by the Stone-age people. Historically this place has been the abode of many religions – Buddhism, Jainism, Virashnavism. Islam and many popular religious cults like Huligemma cult, Galemma cult, Mylaralinga cult, Balabasava cult which exist to this day. This has been an important place for many kingdoms like Hoysalas, Sindhs, Kapilas, not to speak of the Vijayanagar kingdom, which originated here and reigned over most part of South India for more than three centuries. Vijayanagara Kingdom has also been the icon of Kannada identity and has inspired the Karnataka unification movement. Hampi has also been the abode of many a well-known Kannada poets like Harihara, Raghavanka, Kumaravyasa and Purandaradasa. Hampi is the treasure house of Indian architecture and has been recognized by the UNESCO as a World Heritage Center.

### *Stone Mantapas to Vidyaranya*

The University moved from the stone mantapas of Hampi, where it was initially located to the preset campus, Vidyaranya, in

1994. It now has three more satellite campuses: one in Badami, an historical place, where the Department of Sculpture and Visual Arts is located; other at Kuppalli, the birth place of the poet Kuvempu, where the Kuvempu Research Centre is located and other research centre at Kudalasangama.

### *Vidyaranya*

The present campus of Kannada University spans a hilly terrain of 680 acres situated amidst a natural forest and beautiful lake. A small brook runs through the campus. The campus is named Vidyaranya after the 'founder-Guru' of the Vijayanagara Empire. It also means the 'forest of knowledge'. The University has departments of research in History, Religion and Philosophy that have developed on the basis of the Kannada language and literature.

1. To translate books in other languages into Kannada according to the needs in consonance with the objectives of the university and also to translate books in Kannada into other languages.
2. To preserve and publish palm leaf manuscripts and rare ancient books.
3. To search for and compile epigraphs relating to Kannada language and literature, Kannada culture and history of the Kannadigas and publish them with its findings based on research.
4. To compile and publish Kannada words, expressions, colloquial terms, words peculiar to Industries and Agriculture, which are used by the Kannadigas in Karnataka and in other countries where the Kannadigas live.
5. To provide for research in Kannada language and literature of the ancient times with an eye on future scientific developments.
6. To provide for research and determine the procedure regarding development of Kannada language and literature embodying in itself all the educational

fields existing in the developing world and evolving suitable approach.

7. To institute studies in Kannada language and literature in relation to other Indian cultures.
8. To organize advance studies and research programmes based on a deep understanding of the trends in Kannada language and literature.
9. To promote archaeology in all its various aspects with a view to resurrecting and rediscovering the ancient Kannada culture.
10. To document the monuments in the state so as to facilitate future research.
11. To project Kannada culture, expressed through art, architecture, sculptures, painting, iconography, epigraph, theatre, dance, music, tribal, art, religion, philosophy of life, social movements; etc.
12. To document, analyse and preserve traditional tribal folk-art forms and performing arts.
13. To develop Kannada as a medium of instruction in relation to modern advances in sciences and technology.
14. To foster comparative studies of Kannada with other Dravidian and Aryan languages.
15. To build a museum that would store classic objects and artifacts of Karnataka.

*The University has three main wings*

- 1 Adalitanga (Administrative wing)
- 2 Adhyayananga (Academic wing)
- 3 Prasaranga (Publication wing)

*Faculty of Language*

- Department of Kannada Language Studies
- Department of Dravidian Studies
- Department of Translation Studies
- Department of Manuscriptology
- Department of Women's Studies

*Faculty of Arts*

- Department of Sculpture, Iconography, Painting and other Visual arts
- Department of Music and Dance

*Faculty of Social Science*

- Department of Folklore Studies
- Department of History
- Department of Archaeology and Ancient History
- Department of Epigraphy
- Department of Tribal Studies
- Department of Development Studies

*Chairs for Focused Research Activities in the University*

1. Chair for Studies in Dalit Culture
2. Chair for Lohia Studies
3. Chair for Studies on Shamba Joshi
4. Chair for Studies on Purandara Dasa
5. Chair for Hyderabad -Karnataka Regional Studies
6. Chair for Valmiki Studies
7. Chair for Jaina Studies
8. Chair for Dr. Rajakumar Studies

*Specialized Research Centres*

Center for Women's Studies was established in the University in 2005 with funding from UGC, to conduct research in that area.

The Kuvempu Research Centre has been established in 2002 at Kuppalli, the birth place of Kuvempu, a renowned Kannada poet.

*Profile of Kannada university library*

A library with a meaningful collection and effective library service is the fundamental requirements for the efficient academic functioning of any university. The achievements of a university can be gauged by the effectiveness of its library service. The



library collection instead of being merely qualitatively rich must also be quantitatively rich responding to the academic needs of the university. Such an institution would automatically attract good faculty and students. The Kannada University central library came into existence in the year 1991. The central library is equipped with a good number of books and national and international book, journals related to the mandatory disciplines of the university. All out efforts are being constantly made to procure all publications relating to Kannada and Karnataka. Though priority is given to Kannada publications relatively important and useful English publications are also procured for effective library development. The main objective of the central library is to support staff and students of research by providing up-to-date information.

The central library housed in Akshara a big temple-like structure, has two distinct branches:

- 1 Library of modern texts
- 2 Sirigannada (Special library for reference studies).

At present, total computerization of the library collection and connecting it to other libraries via Internet has been taken up to facilitate smooth and effective functioning. The library offers on-line references and downloading facilities on payment from the ERNET. It has valuable audio video cassettes of folk epics of Gonda, Kudubi, Myasa Beda, Mansa, Lambani and Soliga communities.

#### *Sirigannad rederece library*

Sirigannada reference library is housed in a separate building 'Sirigannada' is a distinct library that exclusively stocks the source materials, both primary and secondary, necessary for anyone doing research on Karnataka. The objective of this library is to bring all the available sources and studies under one-roof. A database of descriptive bibliography of Karnataka Studies is presently

underway. Information on individuals, institutions, which have contributed substantially for the development of Kannada, will be made available in this database.

Kannada University has an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the state public library under this, one copy of the publication published in Karnataka and duplicated in the state central library under copyright act in being received in the university central library.

#### *Computerisation of Library*

To modernise the library the University Grants Commission provided financial grants of Rs. 25 lakhs which has been utilised for infrastructure development such as purchasing computers, providing Internet service, Web page designing for the university and the library, etc.

U.G.C sponsored INFLIBNET located at Ahmedabad, (Gujarath) state has given additional grants of Rs. 6.50 lakhs for computerising the library, for house-keeping operations and training of the staff. The professional staffs of the library are regularly deputed to undergo training at INFLIBNET center. The SOUL software developed by INFLIBNET for computerization of library activities has been procured and implemented.

The users are making use of OPAC since May 2004. Bar coding for the library collection is under progress.

#### *Internet & Digital Library Services*

Internet access is provided to all the users of the university. C.D-ROM and DVD based databases are acquired in the library on various subject fields and are provided to the users on demand. A multimedia regional language encyclopedia entitled "Kannada Vishvakosha" and the Encyclopedia Britannica are two of the most used CD databases in the library.

*Electronic Journals through U.G. C. Info-net Consortia*

Kannada University Library being the member of U.G.C- Info-net programme avails the Internet Protocol authenticated Electronic Journals subscription facility extended by the INFLIBNET center.

*Journals through Developing Library Network (DELNET)*

Kannada University Library is an institutional member of the DELNET. Through this institutional subscription library user has access to over 70 lakh records of books, journal articles, non -print materials etc. This is a popular service in the library.

**Academic Year 2004-05**

	No. of Books	Cost	
		Rs.	Ps.
Purchase	6880	4,78,732=00	
Donations	17,520	9,30,273=00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>14,09,005=00</b>	

**Academic Year 2005-06**

	No. of Books	Cost	
		Rs.	Ps.
Purchase	2978	4,50,456.00	
Donations	2225	1,70,602.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5203</b>	<b>6,21,058.00</b>	

**Academic Year 2006-07**

	No. of Books.	Cost	
		Rs.	Ps.
Purchase	1496	2,47,297.66	
Donations	5925	4,29,539.90	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7421</b>	<b>6,76,837.56</b>	

**Books procurement Statistics (2004-2007)***Newspapers Subscribed*

1. Deccan Herald
2. Economic Times
3. Hospet Times
4. Kannada Prabha
5. New Indian Express
6. Prajvani
7. Samyuktha Karnataka
8. The Hindu
9. Times of India
10. Udayavani
11. Vijay Karnataka

*Journals Subscribed (In Kannada language)*

1. Abhivruddi Adyayana
2. Achala
3. Agni
4. Anikethana
5. Aseema
6. Basava Belagu
7. Budakattu Adhyayana
8. Cheluva Kannada
9. Deshakala
10. Diksuchi
11. Dravida Adhyayana
12. Gandhi Bazar Patrike
13. Gruhashobha
14. Hai Bangalore
15. Hambala
16. Hastapрати Adyayana
17. Hosatu
18. Janapada Veechara
19. Janapada Jagattu
20. Janapada Karnataka
21. Kannada Adyayana
22. Kannada Sahithya Parishatpatrike

23. Karmaveera
24. Karnataka Lochana
25. Kasturi
26. Lankesh Patrike
27. Madipu
28. Mahila Adhyayana
29. Mayura
30. Mogaveera
31. Namma Kannada
32. Neenasam Mathu kathe
33. Prapancha
34. Priyanka
35. Pusthaka Mahithi
36. Rangathorana
37. Sankalana
38. Sankramana
39. Sudha
40. Sujata
41. Taranga
42. Tushara
43. Vijnana Sangathi
44. Vikrantha Karnataka
45. Viveka Prabha

*Journals Subscribed (In English Language)*

1. Art India
2. Artha
3. China Report
4. Competition Success Review
5. Digit
6. Down to Earth
7. Front line
8. Health & Nutrition
9. India Today
10. Journal of Karnataka Studies
11. Kurukshetra
12. Manushi
13. Men's Health

14. Political and Economy Journal
15. Sanctuary
16. Social Action
17. Social Scientist
18. Southern Economist
19. Sport Star
20. The Week
21. University News
22. University Today
23. Ushas
24. Yogasudha
25. Yojana

*International Journals Subscribed*

1. Chain Report
2. Contemporary India
3. Contemporary Review of Historical Studies
4. DESIDOC Bulletin Information Technology
5. Developer I. Q.
6. Economic and Political Weekly
7. Herald of Library Science
8. Indian Epigraphy
9. Indian Journal of Applied Linguistics
10. Indian periodical literature
11. International Journal of Communication
12. International Journal of Rural Management
13. Journal of Historical Review
14. Journal of Librarianship & Information Science
15. Language
16. Language Forum
17. Marg
18. National Geographic
19. Quarterly Journal of Mythic Society
20. Quarterly Review of Historical Studies
21. Quest Historica

22. Reader's Digest
23. Reserve Bank of India Bulletin
24. Seminar
25. SRELS Journal of Information Management
26. Text
27. The Book Review
28. Time
29. Twentieth Century Literature

*Electronic Journals accessed through U.G. C. Infonet Consortia programme*

Kannada University Library being the member of U.G. C- Infonet programme avails the I.P. authenticated E- Journals subscription facility extended by INFLIBNET, Ahamedabad.

#### **Some reference resources in the library**

##### *Dictionaries*

1. English Konkani Dictionary
2. Chamber's English Dictionary
3. English Dictionary
4. English Kannada Dictionary. 3 Vols.
5. Halagannada Niganttu
6. Kannada English Dictionary
7. Kannada- Kannada- Kasturi Kosa
8. Kannada Niganttu; Kannada Sahithya Parisatu
9. Law Dictionary
10. Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs Ed. 3. 1975.
11. Oxford English Dictionary. Vol. 3; 1961.
12. Oxford Thesaurus: A to Z dictionary of synonyms

#### **Tulu English Dictionary**

##### *Encyclopedia*

1. Bharatha Samajakarya Vishvakosha: 1994
2. Encyclopedia America:Vol.10, 1965

3. Encyclopedia Backward Castes: Vol.4, 2004.
4. Encyclopedia Indica: 1999.
5. Encyclopedia Mundarica: 16 Vols, 1998.
6. Encyclopedia of Britannica: Vol.30,1981.
7. Encyclopedia of Buddhist :Vol.2.
8. Encyclopedia of Communication Media: 4 Vol.
9. Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science: Vol.8, 1972.
10. Kannada Janapadha Vishvakosha: Kannada Sahithya Parisat, Bangalore.
11. Kannada Vishvakosha: Mysore University, Mysore.
12. Kiriyaara Vishvakosha: Perambar Publishing, Bangalore.
13. Religion Encyclopedia.
14. Vaidhya vishvakosha: Kannada University, Hampi.

##### *Bibliography*

1. Analytical and Critical Bibliography.
2. Bibliography of Dissertation Theses: New Delhi.
3. British Books in Print: London, 1965.
4. British National Bibliography: London, 1950-1974.
5. Cumulative Book Index: Newyork, 1969.
6. Indian Books in Print: Delhi.
7. Indian National Bibliography: Calcutta, 1957.
8. National Bibliography of Indian Literature: New Delhi, 1901-1953.

##### *Year Book*

1. Europa yearbook 1987.
2. India: a reference annual: 1985.Govt. of India.
3. Press and Advertisers yearbook 1981.
4. Reader's Digest Almanac Yearbook 1981.



5. The Stateman's Yearbook and historical annual of the states of the world for the year 1981.

#### *Biography*

1. Chambers Biographical Dictionary 1989: New York.
2. Current Biography 1940: London.
3. Dictionary of National Biography, 1972-74; Calcutta.
4. India: Who's who : New Delhi, 1969.
5. The International Who's who, 1987: London.
6. Webster's Biographical Dictionary 1976.
7. Who's who in India 1986: Bombay.
8. Who's who of Indian Writers , 1961: New Delhi.

#### *Geographical Sources*

1. Gazetteer of India and Indian Women, 1965: India.
2. Imperial Gazetteer of India, 1907: Oxford.
3. Karnataka Gazetteer: Bangalore.

#### *Indexing and Abstracting*

1. Biographical and Agricultural Index; 1934: New York
2. Chemical Abstracts, 1907: USA
3. Index India, 1976; Jaipur
4. Indian Library Science Abstract, 1976: Calcutta
5. Indian science index, 1976: Gurugav
6. Library and Information Science Abstracts: London, 1950.
7. National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials, 1965: New Delhi
8. Social Science Index, 1974: New York
9. Union Catalogue Periodicals INSDOC
10. World list of Scientific Periodicals

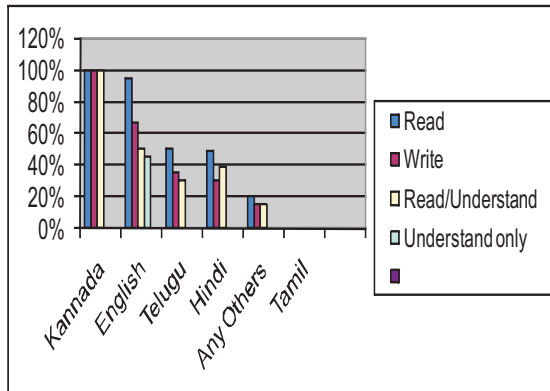
#### *Statistics of the Kannada University, Hampi Library: (As on year 30.11.2007)*

Number of books	=	90,887
Number of Reference books	=	3,246
Number of International Journals subscribed	=	11
Number of Journals subscribed	=	82
Number of Theses/dissertation	=	388

Questionnaires distributed:	150
Faculty members:	75
Research Scholars:	75
<b>4.1 Languages known to read and write/ understand only</b>	
Efforts have been made to check the efficiency and proficiency in languages. Table. 1 indicates the different languages known by the respondents.	

**Table 1**

	Read	Write	Read/ Understand	Understand only
Kannada	100%	100%	100%	
English	95 %	67%	50%	45 %
Telugu	50 %	35%	30%	
Hindi	49%	30%	39%	
Any Others	20%	15%	15%	
Tamil	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL



Number of Projects Reports	=	200
Number of CD-ROM	=	150
Number of Floppies	=	53

#### *Analysis and interpretation of data*

Utility of the library resources by the users is the main aim and purpose of the library. The use studies are more useful to understand the psychology of the user in getting information. With this objective the user group is studied to introduce modify the services and tools of the information handling system.

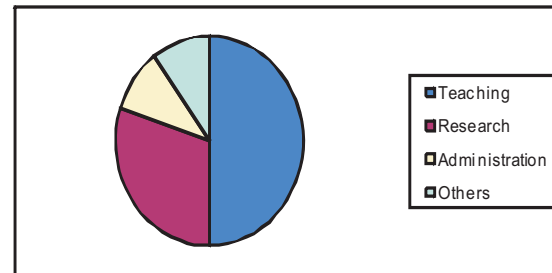
In this chapter, an attempt has been made to interpret and analyse the use of library resources by the faculty members and research scholars of Kannada University, Hampi. A Questionnaire was designed and distributed among 150 randomly selected sample population they were requested to go through each set of questions and to answer the questions along with their opinion towards the same.

The preliminary questions asked were about the background information of the individual regarding the name, sex, qualification, language known etc.

The table indicates that majorities of the respondents are well versed with the Kannada language followed by English, Tamil language was alien to them.

**Table 2**

Teaching	50%
Research	30%
Administration	10%
Others	10%



#### *Activities*

Majorities of respondents were involved in teaching activities (50%) followed by research (30%) as indicated in table 2.

Modify the respondent were enviable in tracing activities (50%) followed by research (30%).

**Table 3**

Research	50%
Teaching	40%
Others	10%

#### *Association with any other Institution(s)*

In addition they were also associated with other institutions in teaching and research activities table 3.

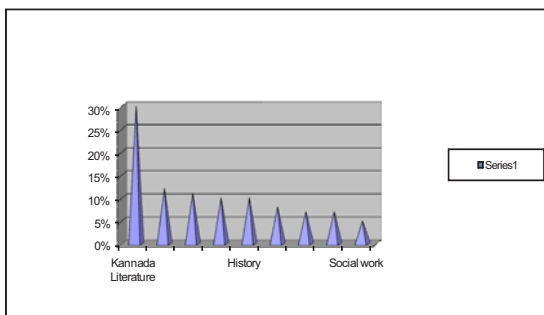
**Table 4**

M.Phil	60%
Ph.D	40%

Table 3 in addition they were also associated with other institution in tradition and us, activities.

**Table 5**

Kannada Literature	30%
Folklore	12%
Anthropology	11%
Tribal Studies	10%
History	10%
Sociology	8%
Education	7%
Women Studies	7%
Social work	5%



*Research related information*

To a question about the research students under their guidance it was revealed that a large majority had registered for M.Phil (60%) degree programme table 4.

**Table 6**

Grants	70%
Scholarship	20%
Any other	10%

**Table 7**

Greatly	50%
Considerably	40%
Moderately	5%
Scarcely	5%
Not at all	—

*Areas of specialization*

**Table 8**

Daily	60%
Once in three days	15%
Once in a week	10%
Fortnightly	10%
Once in a Month	5%
Not at all	—

Diptychs the areas of specialization of the respondent's Kannada literature topped the list (30%) followed by the folklore (12 %) and anthropology (10%).

*Research Scholarships/grants*

Financial assistance for research studies was in the form of the grants 70% followed by the scholarship (20%) as received.

*Use of personal library collection*

*Use of University Library*

*Use of the library*

Library resources are for use. They are known as Knowledge reservoirs. To check the utility of these sources /collections a question has been posed to the is tabulated as under table 7, 8 and 9.

It was found that the majority of respondents use the library to gather information for their day to day need. Majority of them (60%) visited the library almost every day while 15% used the library twice a week.

The reason for this may be that they do not get sufficient time because of getting sufficient

**Table 9**

Fortnightly	35%
Once in week	30%
Once in a three days	15%
Daily	10%
Once in a Month	10%
Not at all	

information by surfing the Internet in their home or at the cyber café. Still, some are in the habit of visiting the library regularly for accessing the traditional book collection.

**Table 10: Library resources and its impact on user**

Greatly	60%
Considerably	15%
Moderately	10%
Scarcely	5%
Not at all	

**Table 11**

Greatly	80%
Considerably	10%
Moderately	7%
Scarcely	3%

**Table 12**

5-6 hours	60%
3-4 hours	30%
0-2 hours	10%

### Utility of other libraries

#### *Use of other libraries*

It is fact that no libraries are self-sufficient. No single libraries can meet the needs of requirements of its users. An open-ended question was asked about utilizations and results are presented in Table 9.

Table 9 indicated the many of respondents have a good personal library collection. In addition they make use of the university library and other libraries almost Eveready for collecting information.

#### *Impact of the library collection*

#### *Publications of Kannada University research activities*

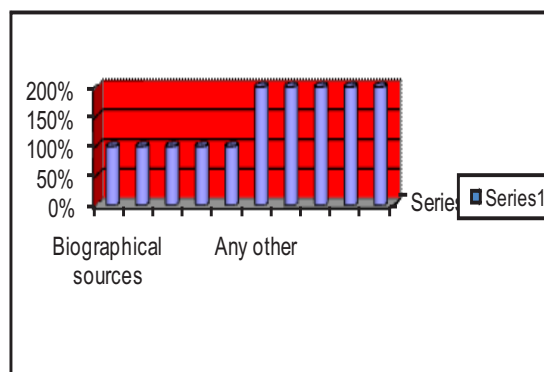
These tables indicate that the library collection has a great impact on the users (60%) in them research activities. The publications of the Kannada University have greater influence (80%) as they deals with on going research activities as well as completed research programs of the university.

#### *Reading habits of users*

It was observed that 5 to 6 hours were utilized for reading and information gathering purpose by (60%) of the respondents. Perhaps they are the research scholars and the faculty member who ever more involved in research activities than the seniors who are engaged mostly in teaching functions these active users suggested that the library should have optimum collection print and non print sources of information in all the fields of the specialization under taken by the university

**Table 13**

Biographical sources	1
Books	1
Dictionaries	1
Index and Abstracting sources	1
Reports	1
Any other	2
Current journals	2
Encyclopedias	2
Geographical sources	2
Handbook	2
Bibliographical sources	3

**Table 14**

Scanning latest periodicals in the library	30%
Utilizing institute's current awareness service	20%
Participating in discussions with experts	20%
Utilizing personalized service from external source	10%
Participating in Conferences	10%
Participating in Seminars	5%
Through Correspondence	5%

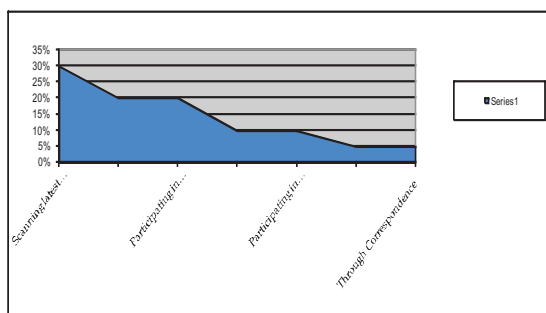
the had informed that on this part they are making provision for literature collection in their project proposals seeking financial aids.

### Resources

#### *Utility of library reference sources (rank wise)*

#### *Update of knowledge practice*

An analysis of the utilization of the library reference collection (Table 13) indicated that bibliographical resources were the list



consulted sources for the information collection.

Books, Dictionaries, Reports, Indexing sources were the first priority followed by Encyclopedias and current journals.

However while updating the knowledge in the respective fields of specialization latest issues of the journals formed the primary source (30%). The next practice was discussion with experts (20%). Participation in seminar and conferences, utilization external sources

and correspondences formed the other practices for keeping one self abreast of the latest developments (Table 14).

#### *Awareness of library services*

Libraries are always eager to provide different services to save the time of the users and to keep them abreast about the latest developments in their subject fields.

Library's success lies in its user satisfaction. It is the user not the manager of the library who judges the efficiency of the library. Therefore the user opinion is very much important to develop the library. Open-ended question was formed in this regard and the response is presented in Table 15.

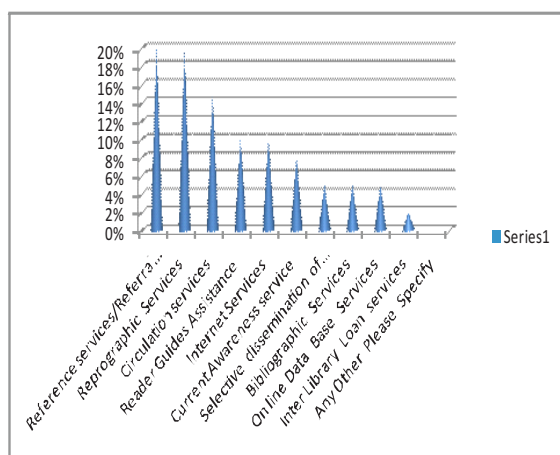
#### *Use of Library Services*

Even though the analysis revealed that the respondent were using the library collection effectively in their information collection activities it was on their personal endeavours Majority of them were not making use of the sources available within the library as can be seen in Table 15. The general demand was for reprographic service (20%). The Internet services (10%) on-line database services (5%), and inter-library loan service (2%) were not fully utilized.

Library is mainly known by its collection rather than its building. Efficient collection of the library helps the users to satisfy their information needs.

**Table 15**

Reference services/Referral services	20%
Reprographic Services	20%
Circulation services	15%
Reader Guides Assistance	10%
Internet Services	10%
Current Awareness service	8%
Selective Dissemination of Information services	5%
Bibliographic Services	5%
On line Data Base Services	5%
Inter Library Loan services	2%
Any Other, Please Specify	



#### *Need For instructions and assistance in the use of library resources*

Introducing the library to the new comers and explaining the rules and regulations, providing the instructions to maintaining library decorum and discussing the do; and don't activities in the library needs a lot of support from the library staff. A question was asked in this regard and it was found that not many represents aware of the sources as offered to use the library resources. They expressed the urgent need of assistance by



the staff in this matter by way of orientation courses.

### Findings and Suggestions

#### *Suggestions*

1. The changing nature of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has brought in challenges for information users and organizers. This has completely changed the way in which users access and use information.
2. There is a growing demand from the student's community for accessing the digital information on various subjects fields. To cater to this demand sufficient financial aids, technology and place must be allocated by the authorities to establish a good digital library with good number of digital collection.
3. Most of the academic libraries in Karnataka have not got a reasonable strength of the traditional multimedia products like audio, visual or audio-visual aids and of course microforms except the collection of maps and atlases. In this situation a digital library is a powerful alternative to have all kinds and different formatted information sources.
4. Present day academic library is ever in transition due to many reasons including the budgetary constraints and non-voluntary demands of its non-committal users and the centralized organization set up. All these factors must be considered before setting a digital library. Adequately qualified and trained staff must be recruited to handle the media.
5. Modern academic libraries do not run by themselves; they require a lot of organization and administration strategies to run with multifarious activities and resources. An array of responsibilities is vested upon the librarian as an entrepreneur in the industry of knowledge. This demand's him to have an adequate knowledge of the management techniques for adjusting the working force to the working environment and the working force to maximize the library service to the academicians at the lowest cost and with reasonable effort.
6. Presently most of the academic institutions in Karnataka are trying to build their own data banks or repositories in digital form for many purposes with the help of their digital library.
7. Academic librarians in Karnataka have an inherent potentiality, as many of them are trying hard to gain new knowledge from world wide digital libraries. World Wide Web is used as communication media for the modern digital library from where all users are able to access unlimited resources in their desired areas of knowledge.
8. All modern gadgets like computers, printers and other facilities must be made available for the effective and potential in house operations of the library.
9. For designing a digital library prototype there is a lack of Organisational Models in Indian context. The LIS professionals must try hard to solve this problem.
10. Specialized organizational skills or aptentid to bring semblance between the user demands and the varieties of information sources. The profession of Librarianship is encountering this contemporary transformation in the media change as well as meeting the equally changing demands of the users.
11. The variety of materials held by the libraries also demands their handling and maintenance skills. For example, in the traditional as well as in emerging trends the library personel needs the knowledge and skill to demonstrate the use of microforms as well as surfing and navigating Internet.
12. Library finance should represent effective portion towards the digital/multimedia sources.

### Conclusion

Information is generated through a number of communication channels through print and

electronic media viz, books journals, websites, etc. These sources generate a large quantity of information, which has led to the phenomena of information explosion/ deluge. It is estimated that the growth of literature is roughly three times faster than the growth of population. This phenomenon of information flood has created various problems for information workers in respect to retrieval of information exhaustively, expeditiously, pinpointedly and with precision. The essence of information is a critical factor not only for the countries, but for the individuals also besides its multiplier effect on the efficiency and effectiveness of an entity for which it is being utilized. An individuals need for information arises, when his stock of knowledge does not give any answer to a particular concept. The information needs of human beings are to a large extent affected by the environment in which they work. To understand the information needs of a particular group of users, it is essential to undertake user's studies. The purpose for conducting user studies in the field of library and information science are varied in number, important among them are: to know the users and their information needs; to identify the levels and kinds of user needs; to identify the approach, perception and information-seeking behaviour of users in the parent library environment; to identify, by the results, the real strength and weaknesses of the existing library resources and services; to specify the limitations or problems which might appear to discourage the use of the library; to perceive the level of involvement and participation of the users in building a good library environment; and to improve the library system as a whole. User studies are essential not only for planning and designing information systems but also for their efficient and effective operation. User studies would help to improve the relation of the library with user community in an objective way. The success of any information system depends considerably on how best the system design is based on a close and accurate understanding of the users. The concept of information need, information seeking and use studies are synonymously used in the area of user studies.

The user studies involve study of information seeking behaviour of users in a particular discipline and environment. Several studies have been undertaken in the areas of information needs and use and information seeking behaviour of various groups of users such as scientists, technologist, social scientists, economist, students etc,. All the studies have revealed that the information need use and information seeking patterns of groups of users varied depending upon level, areas study or research and field of study. The methods and channels used by them also vary depending on the parameters.

The electronic or Internet era has brought in far reaching changes in how users seek information. With the advent of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and their massive use in libraries, patterns of information seeking behaviour of users have experienced a changed phenomenon. The users find it interesting and easy to browse web for required information than to search the library documents. The availability of Internet based information sources and successful use of search engines guides the behavioural pattern of information seeking. The growing popularity of the Internet has given wide variety of choices for users to browse and seek information from a wide variety of resources. However, it has also given a concern of accuracy and quality of information, as Internet is not a controlled medium of information like scholarly publications. the libraries and library professionals have a greater roll to play in this ever changing nature and types information to meet the information needs of library users effectively.

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