

Use of Library Resources and Facilities in College of Fisheries Library, Mangalore: A Study

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Abstract

Information has been identified as one of the strategic resource required for information center. This paper examines the use of library resources and facilities provided in college of fisheries Mangalore. A survey conducted by selecting the students, research scholar and teaching staff to obtain their needs and opinions. Various research methods like questionnaire method, observation method and Interview method are used to analyses the various collections usage, frequency and purpose of library visits, user satisfaction of library facility etc.

Keywords: Resources; Facilities; Services; College Library; Fisheries.

Introduction

The library plays a pivotal role in any institution as it fulfills the needs of users. The main objective of any library is to cope with the challenge of providing its user community with increased access to knowledge in any for at any time distance. Special library consist of a balanced collection of material comprehensive in the main interests of the organization it serves. Special library is equipped with the essential bibliographical aids, reference works etc. It also serves the specialists by evaluating all incoming documents, and ensuring that they reach the right person. The reputation of any special library is judged not merely by the presence of a large number of appropriate titles and other materials, but by the efficiency of the methods used to serve and bring these to the notice of the readers.

At the first sight, one may think that the introduction of computer system will make the services of the library personnel completely redundant. But this is not the case; because, technically qualified personnel will be essential to

provide access to databases and data banks. So far as the situation of the libraries in the electronic world is concerned, the libraries still have the important role to play to collect, catalogue, and index materials of purely for local interest.

It seems likely that libraries and other types of information personnel will still have vital role to perform in a paperless system. The information personnel who are familiar with the resources, available in machine readable form and with vocabularies, query languages, and search strategies will still be needed to exploit these resources most effectively and efficiently. Computer scientist holds the opinion that just after a decade the 21st century will be the "paperless society". Prof. P.N. Kuala has opined that it would be more correct to term the future as 'Balance Media Society', but not "paperless".

Research Institute Libraries

Agricultural Research Institutes in India are spread in almost all the states and union territories on the basis of crop and Research priorities. They are established and administered by the different agencies of central government. Majority of them are under the administrative control of ICAR, New Delhi., Some are under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). New Delhi and some are under different departments of Government of India. Predominant among all is Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). New Delhi is being a premier institution, conducting agricultural research, post graduate education and extension education IARI's library in one of the biggest libraries in Asia

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Purpose of the study

It is possible for a library to meet most of the requirements of its clientele by way of material resources, personnel resources, service resources, etc. It must be realized that speed of the Research and Development (R and D) activity is dependent on the efficient library services.

Library service is a social service which aims at self development and improvement of skill and efficiency of the people of all walks of life. Obviously, the very purpose of library service will be defeated unless a minimum quality or standard is maintained. Though quality aspect is involved in every material that is acquired or every action that is undertaken in a library, the ultimate quality of the library is judged by the standard of the service that it provides to its users. The quality of library service is naturally influenced by the following factors:

- ❖ *Library Environment:* A cozy and inviting atmosphere in the library attracts the users and ensures better utilization of resources and services of the library.
- ❖ *Library Resources:* The Quality of library service depends on how for the resources are able to meet the information requirements of the researchers and how well they are organized.
- ❖ *Library aids:* By library aids are meant all those, materials that help in library work, such as catalogue, cabinets, kardex etc., and various mechanical devices employed in libraries.
- ❖ *Library staff:* Quality depends on various aspects such as adequate number, training, experience and attitude.

Hence, a detailed study is essential to see through that the library is functioning smoothly and efficiently. It is also essential to find out whether the users are satisfied with the quality service provided by the library, since users are the prime importance in any library. A library survey or a detailed study may help to a large extent in identifying the problems and thereby improving the quality of library service. A library survey may cover one or all the facets of a library, viz. stock, staff and services. It aims at identifying the lacunae and bottlenecks and sectors where inefficiency has set in. It brings out a clear picture of the real condition of a library and the effectiveness of its services. For the improvement of quality of library service and collection etc. conducting of user's survey or user's needs may also be very useful, through this, personal evaluation of the library services and collection by the users can be obtained.

Need of the study

All the luxuries of information-revolution and problems of information explosion are centered on the user and his/her convenience. Understanding the user is half the battle in providing information services. The user is not only the most important aspect, but is also, paradoxically, a dynamic component of information system. Hoadlynd Clark say that a library can achieve its goal," if the library is more precise about who its users are, this precision, coupled with more research into behavior and information gathering pattern of these user groups, will assist the library more effectively in developing programs and using its resources and limited finds to achieve desired goals".

Objective of the study

- To identify the areas of research among the scientists at college of Fisheries
- To examine the users' approaches to information in different types of information sources.
- To identify the search strategy for an exhaustive information search on a specific topic.
- To examine the nature of research already done for current information.
- To understand the user awareness towards general as well as sophisticated services being provided by the college of fisheries library systems.
- To examine the behavior of researchers in gathering scientific information from external agencies.
- To ascertain the adequacy of sources of information for research according to users' point of view.
- To identify the most preferred abstracting and indexing journals among researchers in their respective field and extent of using them.
- To assess the overall picture of the library viz., its resources, service and facilities.
- To suggest ways and means for improving library facilities to ensure efficient, effective and fruitful organizational operation and services.

Review of literature

Susheela (2004), described the electronic publishing facilitated the research for quick and precise search

for scientific information. The paper gives stress on the various developments that have taken place to provide facilities to the researchers. The author says that the growth and developments of electronic journal is envisaged with electronic publishing, computer and web technology. Serial publications especially publishers of primary and secondary journals have been transforming their trends to the tune of current needs and priorities of scientific community, utilizing the latest technologies.

Khaiser and Pramodini (2007), the paper described the use of e-journals and databases subscribed by UGC-Infonet Consortium in University of Mysore. The objectives of the study were to determine the extent of use of electronic resources, and to identify the alternative sources used and the extent of awareness of UGC-Infonet Consortium resources among the users. The paper also examined the utilization and satisfaction levels of users with respect to the electronic resources.

Talija and Maula (2003), made a study with an aim to contribute to the development of a domain analytical approach for explaining the use and non-use of e-journals and databases. The authors identify and define factors to account for disciplinary differences in e-journal usage, outline hypotheses to be tested more rigorously in future research, and test them initially on a limited data set. The empirical data was gathered as a part of a wider qualitative study exploring scholars' use of networked resources in four different disciplines;

nursing science, literature/cultural studies, history and ecological environmental science. The findings suggest that e-journals and databases are likely to be used most heavily in these fields.

Methodology for Research

The present study is restricted to seek opinion from selected group of users which includes the researchers, staffs and students belonging to different departments of College of fisheries Mangalore. The following methods were adopted to collect the data pertaining to the study:

Questionnaire Method

Necessary primary data are collected with the help of questionnaire. The college presently consists of the Directors, Scientific staff, Technical staff, Research scholars and Administrative staff at various levels who have professional qualification. For the study purpose, only the scientific staff and technical staff are considered as samples. A questionnaire (Appendix II) was given to collect their responses with regard to their mode of library usage, approaches to document/ information, modes of information gathering and awareness regarding the information services provided by the library. The details are given in the following table:

Table 1: showing the questionnaires distributed

Category	Total members	No. of Questionnaires	Response	Percentage
P.G. students & Research Scholars	42	30	30	100%
Undergraduate	95	50	50	100%
Teaching Staff	49	20	20	100%
Total	186	100	100	100%

Interview Method

The questionnaire method has been supplemented by interview method. Few discussions were also made with the library staff to clarify certain doubts.

Observational Method

The observational method gives all information about the working of library services, and also the arrangement of the documents etc. *Secondary Data:* A large number of records were consulted pertaining to the library, such as the Annual reports, Pamphlets

Brochures, Newsletters and other records were referred to gather more information relating to library.

Profile of college of fisheries and its library Mangalore

The first Agricultural University, the University of Agricultural Sciences was established in 1963 through Mysore Act, No.22of 1963 of the State Legislature, for the development of agriculture, animal husbandry and allied science in Karnataka state (the erstwhile Mysore state). It was inaugurated on August21, 1964 by Dr. Zakir Hussein, the then vice president of India through Karnataka Act No.14

of two universities viz., the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad While the former has territorial jurisdiction over Bangalore and Mysore revenue divisions (comprising the districts of Bangalore urban, Bangalore rural, Mysore, Tumkur, Kolar, Mandya, Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Chickmagalur, Shimoga and Chitradurga), the latter has territorial jurisdiction over Belgaum and Gulbarga revenue divisions (comprising the districts of Belgaum, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar, Bijapur and Bellary). The College of Fisheries, Mangalore was established in 1969 by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and is a constituent part of the university. It was first of its kind being established in the country.

The location of the college is such that it provides in one place the necessary facilities for academic, practical, field experience and research in marine, estuarine and fresh water fisheries, fish culture, fish

processing technology, fishery engineering, marine biology, oceanography etc. The main campus of the college is located adjacent to Mangalore-Cochin Highway i.e., NH-17 on the outskirts of Mangalore. Out of a contiguous area of about 20 hectors of university land, about 8 hectors are occupied by the main campus, the rest constituting the agricultural research station of the university. An adjoining piece of land measuring about 9 hector has been acquired for constructing an extensive fish farm of earthen ponds. The technology wing occupies an area of 0.66 hectors. The fisheries department of the state has transferred to the college an adjoining plot of about 0.4 hectors to facilitate the construction of a by-product laboratory and oil pilot plant. The by-product laboratory has now been completed.

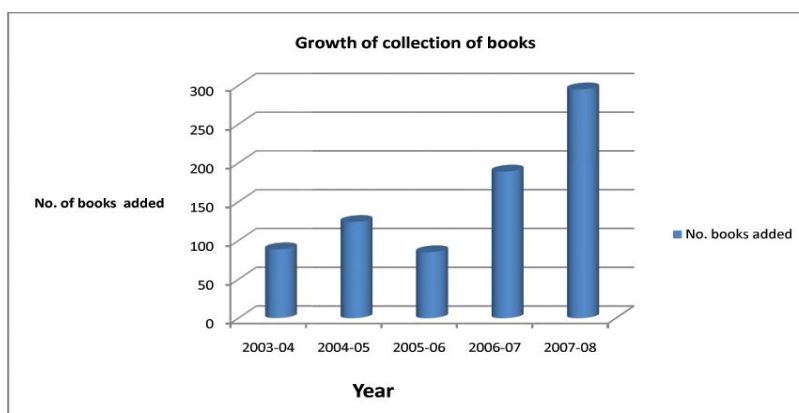
Table 2: showing different collections found in the library

Sl. No.	Sources	Copies
1	Books/Reference Books	13,557
2	Thesis/Dissertation	617
3	Standards and Reprints	4714
4	Maps	04
5	Pamphlets	821
6	Technical Reports	2795
7	Periodicals	147
8	Bound Volumes	4678
9	Microfiche	160
10	Audio /Video Cassettes	17

Table 3: showing the growth in the collection of books

Year	Number of Books added	Cumulative
2003-04	89	12864
2004-05	124	12988
2005-06	85	13073
2006-07	189	13262
2007-08	295	13557

Fig. 1: showing the growth in the collection of books



Library Collection

The Reference Collection

The term 'reference' means refers to a direction from one heading to another. The reference books

like dictionaries, encyclopedias, gazetteers, yearbooks directories, etc., which are compiled to supply definite pieces of information of varying extent and intended to be referred to rather than read.

Table 4: showing the collection of reference tools

Source	Copies
Dictionaries	26
Encyclopedia	38
Geographical source	13
Biological Source	07
TOTAL	84

Table 5: showing the total number of periodicals subscribed

Periodicals	Number
Indian	20
Foreign	15
Gratis	20
TOTAL	55

The Library under study has a very good reference collection comprising of encyclopedias, year books, directories, handbooks, geographical sources and so on.

The library under study subscribes for both foreign periodicals and Indian periodicals. The above table clearly reveals that the library subscribes for 55 periodicals of which 20 are Indian periodicals and 15 are foreign periodicals. Rests of the 20 periodicals are received as Gratis.

Library Building

The college of fisheries library building was shifted to its new building on 24-03-1980. It has sufficient space. The library building is constructed keeping in mind the future requirements of the library and its users. This building has three floors i.e., cellar, ground floor and first floor. The duplicate issues of periodicals and worn out books are kept in the cellar.

The circulation counter is at the entrance of the ground floor. A text book section is maintained in

the same floor. Both multiple and single copies of books are arranged in this section. The reading facility is provided to the students in the same floor. About 40 readers can make use of this reading room at a time. The college subscribed about 3 newspapers for its readers and all these newspapers are kept in the reading room. Other than this there are two separate rooms in the library, one is used for technical processing of books and another by the librarian.

There are two different sections in the first floor. One is reference section and another one is periodical section. Dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference materials are kept in the reference section. The current periodicals and the back volumes of periodicals are maintained in the periodical section. The current periodicals are displayed on the display racks. The reading facility is provided to the students in the same floor. About 30 readers can make use of this reading room at a time.

Location of the library building

Convenience of the location of the library is important in promoting the use of library materials.

Table 6: showing the location of the library building

Convenience	Teaching Staff and Senior research Fellows		PG Students, undergraduates & Research Scholars	
		%		%
Convenient	30	100%	70	100%
Manageable	-	-	-	-
In- Convenient	-	-	-	-

In order to know whether the location of the library is convenient, manageable or not convenient the questionnaires were distributed.

The analysis of user's response indicates that the location of the library building of the college is convenient for users.

Satisfaction regarding the working hours of the library

Since the college of fisheries is an apex centre imparting professional higher education, library parts its heart. The use of library could be measured in several ways. One such way is that gives an idea

Table 7: showing the satisfaction regarding the working hours of the library

Convenience	Teaching Staff and Senior research Fellows	%	PG Students, undergraduates & Research Scholars	%
Convenient	26	87	58	83%
In- Convenient	4	13	12	17%

of the use of the library is by knowing the hours of the library as convenient or not to the users.

The survey says that majority of the respondents feel that the library working hour is convenient. 87% of teaching staff and 83% of PG students are supporting this claim.

Table 8: showing the frequency of visit to library

Frequency of visit	Teaching Staff and Senior research Fellows	%	PG Students, undergraduates & Research Scholars	%
Everyday	12	40	25	36%
Twice or Thrice a week	8	27	23	33%
Once a week	7	23	14	20%
Once in a month	3	10	8	11%
Rarely	-	-	-	-

Frequency of visit to library

The effectiveness of any library will always depend on the regularity of the visitors. A library without the frequent visit by the readers is a negative element. So regularity is needed to be maintained.

It is clear from the above table that 27% of the teaching staff visits the library daily. 40% of them visits twice or thrice a week. 23% visit once a week

and 10% of them visit once in a month and none of them visit rarely.

Thus it is clear from the above table that the library is an important agency to support educational teaching and developmental activities. Majority of the users visit the library daily.

User visits the library for different purposes. It may be for reading newspapers, borrowing or returning books or reading books.

Table 9: showing the duration of stay in library

Duration of stay	Teaching Staff and Senior research Fellows	%	PG Students, undergraduates & Research Scholars	%
Less than one hour	2	7%	8	11%
One hour	3	10%	23	33%
Two to Three hour	15	50%	25	36%
More than three hours	10	30%	14	20%
Any other comments	-	-	-	-

Duration of stay in library

Using the library is nothing but holding the interest and holding the patience to read and make use of materials. The usage time is nothing but the time one stayed in the library will also indicates the effectiveness of one using the library.

It is clear from the table that more than 80% of the teaching staff and more than 56% of the students spend minimum 2 hours a day in the library in this college.

Table 10: showing the adequacies of library material (As revealed by teaching Staff and Senior Research Fellows)

Library Resources	Highly Adequate		Adequate		In Adequate	
Text Books	20	67%	8	27%	2	6%
Reference books	10	33%	11	37%	9	30%
Journal/Periodicals	6	20%	12	40%	12	40%
Question Papers	18	60%	8	27%	4	13%
Supplementary Reading	11	37%	10	33%	9	30%

Adequacies of library materials

The success of any library will also depend on the adequate availability of materials in it. The library should have text books, reference books, journals/periodicals, question papers, supplementary reading, etc. of the reputed publications in an adequate quantity.

Table 11: showing the rankings of the library materials (By teaching Staff and PG Students)

Type of materials	Rank given
Text books	I
Reference Books	II
Journal/ periodicals	III
General Books	IV
Question Papers	V
Supplementary Reading materials	VI

The above table shows that the text books are adequate to 94% of the faculty members. 70% of the faculties expressed that reference books are moderately adequate. The faculty feels that the journals are not that adequate since 40% of them claim this conclusion. 40% are of the opinion that the periodicals are inadequate. 30% of the faculty have expressed their dissatisfaction about the collection of audio visual materials.

The above tables show that both the sections of the respondents give the first preference to the text books. The give second, third, fourth, fifth and the sixth ranks respectively to the journals/periodicals, general books, question papers, supplementary

reading materials. Based on the finding of the study and keeping in view the suggestions given by the respondents, the investigators make the following suggestions.

1. In order to make profitable use of information contained in fishery literature it is suggested that the library and information professionals should act as intermediary between information sources and information users. Hence, it is suggested to make provision of recruiting adequate number of information professional possessing high academic qualification, experience, skill etc. for handling various function and operations in library and documentation centers.
2. In view of the changing context of library and information centers and their management, it is recommended that the professionals be provided with facilities for improving and acquiring additional knowledge and skills in various fields such as information analyses and consolidation, computerized handling of information and so on.
3. Increasing cost of publication, lack of space to store paper materials have increased the demand for non-book materials like microforms, CD-ROM etc., again the storage capacity and durability of such materials has made them essential storage tools in libraries. The library has very less collection of non-book materials and hence it is suggested to the library authority to give importance to the collection of non-book materials.
4. It is found that majority of the respondents are unfamiliar with non conventional services.

Hence, it is suggested that this service be more intensified. Further, the users must be made aware of the usefulness of these materials and also they should be trained to use non-book materials.

5. Since scientific information is being generated at a faster rate, it is hard for any scientist to read all the literature published in their field. Moreover, scientists being busy people are hard pressed of time and hence will not find sufficient time to sit in the library and read. It is therefore essential that they should create online database so that the scientist can have access the articles required by them thereby saving their time. It is, therefore, suggested to the library authority to take this matter into consideration.
6. For the effective management of library resources it is essential to adopt evolving and flexible tools and techniques, in short, have an amorphous information technology as a base.
7. In view of the rapid growth of published literature in various fields of knowledge, it is recommended to the library to go in for online services.
8. In view of the rapidly diminishing cost of computer system and increasing versatility in handling varieties of information services, it is suggested that the library may seriously take up library automation in respect of acquisition of documents, circulation control, serial control, cataloguing and other information services.
9. It is suggested to subscribe to current content on CD-ROM and also other journals on CD-ROM.
10. Finally it is suggested to the library authority to install a LAN workstation in the library itself so that effective and sophisticated service is provided to the users.

Conclusion

The present study is intended to cover the overall opinion of the users regarding the use of library. Sources of information consulted, information

gathering habits, information use pattern and awareness of information services provided by the library. The study is further extended to examine the library resources, the services provided and facility available to the users, so as to find out gaps in collection and services and thereby recommend suitable practical solutions for improvement.

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