

User Persistence on Visiting Institutional Library

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Abstract

A user visits a library only when his/her purpose has been solved. Specifically, in Institutional Libraries, the users are students and faculty where the purpose of visit to library varies from one another. An attempt was made to find out the Users' persistence on visiting an institutional library by analysing separately the faculty members and students for different institutions specifically all R.I.E. libraries of India, a user visits library with multi purposes. So, for assessment of the purposes of use, a 5 - point scale was used for the survey where 5 is for very often to 1 for never. The respondents covering 1577 student users and 378 faculty users from all the R.I.E.s were asked to give their ratings against all the 23 identified purposes. Purposes of visiting to library by student users were found to be for preparing for project/ seminar, reading study books, Xerox of course materials, reading newspapers, magazines etc. and that for faculties are for reading newspapers and magazines, to find information for research, for preparing class notes, preparing for lecture, writing journal article and enhancing knowledge etc.

Keywords: Use of Library; Academic Library; Purpose of Visiting Library; Determination of Library Usefulness.

The purpose of visit to library varies from user to user. The purpose may be for preparing lecture or project or seminar, writing journal articles, getting general information, borrowing and returning of books, finding information for research, searching C.D. database and e-mail, for serious reading or reading personal materials or simply passing time by reading newspapers and magazines or preparing class notes. The average on the purposes for visiting library from a large sample of a particular category of users such as students or faculty members may not vary significantly but these are likely to vary significantly between the categories of users.

The purpose of visits to library is a persons' individual choice depending on his need and convenience, and the library as a unit seems to be

have less influence over this. The physical facilities as well as the usefulness of materials may tend to affect them to certain degrees.

Hence, analysis has been made separately not only for the faculty members and students but separately for different institutions specifically all R.I.E. libraries of India, a user visits library with multi purposes. So, for assessment of the purposes of use, a 5 - point scale was used for the survey where 5 is for very often to 1 for never.

The respondents covering 1577 student users and 378 faculty users from all the R.I.E.s were asked to give their ratings against all the 23 identified purposes.

The Tables, 1 (a), (b), (c), (d), contain the results of the analysis on the students and faculty members of the four studied institutional (R.I.E.) libraries.

From the Tables 1 (a) to 1 (d), it is found that the percentage of students visiting the libraries with different purposes varies from around 20.0% to 90.0% in all the institutional (R.I.E.) libraries. Similarly, the percentage of faculty member users

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Table 1(a): Purpose of use of library by the students& Faculty of R.I.E., Ajmer library

Students - N = 286, Faculty - N=98

Sl. No	Purpose	For Students			For Faculty		
		Mean Score	S.D.	% of score	Mean Score	S.D.	% of score
1	To prepare for lecture	1.00	0.00	20.00	3.20	0.67	64.0
2	To prepare project / seminar	4.54	1.03	90.80	2.96	0.78	59.2
3	To write journal articles	1.68	1.12	33.60	3.23	1.09	64.6
4	To enhance knowledge	2.48	0.97	49.60	3.20	1.14	64.0
5	To browse different database	3.80	1.02	76.00	2.84	1.35	56.8
6	To write essay	2.10	0.99	42.00	2.80	1.12	56.0
7	To prepare for database completion	1.74	0.88	34.80	2.57	1.25	51.4
8	To write article on national programme	1.78	0.89	35.60	2.86	0.93	57.2
9	To study the text book	4.50	1.05	90.00	1.69	0.71	33.8
10	To make Xerox of course materials	4.41	1.12	88.20	3.08	0.88	61.6
11	To search CD database & e-mail	2.15	1.00	43.00	2.57	1.32	51.4
12	To borrow & return books	1.56	0.86	31.20	2.49	1.11	49.8
13	To get general information	2.76	1.16	55.20	3.04	0.90	60.8
14	To pass time	2.80	1.06	56.00	2.78	1.23	55.6
15	To prepare class notes	2.64	0.99	52.80	3.33	1.18	66.6
16	To read newspaper and magazine	4.32	1.11	86.40	3.94	0.87	78.8
17	To borrow & return non-fiction	1.00	0.00	20.00	1.12	0.39	22.4
18	To find information about employment	1.67	1.03	33.40	1.41	0.73	28.2
19	To prepare for competitive examination	2.37	1.01	47.40	1.22	0.54	24.4
20	To improve general knowledge	2.66	1.06	53.20	3.08	0.92	61.6
21	For serious reading	3.68	1.12	73.60	2.20	0.81	44.0
22	For reading personal materials	1.00	0.00	20.00	1.00	0.00	20.0
23	To find information for research	2.35	1.09	47.00	3.71	0.64	74.2

Table 1(b): Purpose of use of library by the Students& Faculty of R.I.E., Bhopal library

Students - N = 357, Faculty - N=111

Sl. No	Purpose	For Students			For Faculty		
		Mean Score	S.D.	% of score	Mean Score	S.D.	% of score
1	To prepare for lecture	1.12	0.61	22.4	3.02	0.82	60.4
2	To prepare project / seminar	4.57	0.80	91.4	2.78	0.86	55.6
3	To write journal articles	1.78	1.26	35.6	3.06	1.20	61.2
4	To enhance knowledge	2.58	1.01	51.6	3.03	1.24	60.6
5	To browse different database	3.90	0.79	78.0	2.62	1.34	52.4
6	To write essay	2.21	1.13	44.2	2.59	1.13	51.8
7	To prepare for database completion	1.84	1.09	36.8	2.41	1.26	48.2
8	To write article on national programme	1.88	1.09	37.6	2.68	0.98	53.6
9	To study the text book	4.59	0.75	91.8	1.56	0.56	31.2
10	To make Xerox of course materials	4.51	0.76	90.2	2.88	0.97	57.6
11	To search CD database & e-mail	2.24	1.11	44.8	2.38	1.32	47.6
12	To borrow & return books	1.77	1.13	35.4	2.31	1.10	46.2
13	To get general information	2.87	1.08	57.4	2.86	0.99	57.2
14	To pass time	2.90	0.89	58.0	2.61	1.27	52.2
15	To prepare class notes	2.74	0.94	54.8	3.15	1.31	63.0
16	To read newspaper and magazine	4.38	0.82	87.6	3.77	1.11	75.4
17	To borrow & return non-fiction	1.13	0.62	22.6	1.21	0.52	24.2
18	To find information about employment	1.89	1.27	37.8	1.36	0.65	27.2
19	To prepare for competitive examination	2.47	1.08	49.4	1.14	0.39	22.8
20	To improve general knowledge	2.76	1.02	55.2	2.89	1.02	57.8
21	For serious reading	3.78	0.91	75.6	2.06	0.77	41.2
22	For reading personal materials	1.13	0.62	22.6	1.05	0.21	21.0
23	To find information for research	2.46	1.17	49.2	3.55	0.91	71.0

Table 1(c): Purpose of use of library by the Students& Faculty of R.I.E., Bhubaneswar library

Students - N = 582, Faculty - N=86

Sl. No	Purpose	For Students			For Faculty		
		Mean Score	S.D.	% of score	Mean Score	S.D.	% of score
1	To prepare for lecture	1.09	0.50	21.8	3.02	0.81	60.4
2	To prepare project / seminar	4.59	0.77	91.8	2.76	0.85	55.2
3	To write journal articles	1.75	1.23	35.0	3.01	1.18	60.2
4	To enhance knowledge	2.55	0.99	51.0	3.02	1.22	60.4
5	To browse different database	3.87	0.82	77.4	2.66	1.37	53.2
6	To write essay	2.17	1.10	43.4	2.60	1.16	52.0
7	To prepare for database completion	1.81	1.06	36.2	2.40	1.23	48.0
8	To write article on national programme	1.85	1.06	37.0	2.66	0.96	53.2
9	To study the text book	4.57	0.75	91.4	1.70	0.92	34.0
10	To make Xerox of course materials	4.48	0.82	89.6	2.94	1.05	58.8
11	To search CD database & e-mail	2.21	1.09	44.2	2.45	1.38	49.0
12	To borrow & return books	1.71	1.10	34.2	2.29	1.08	45.8
13	To get general information	2.83	1.07	56.6	2.93	1.09	58.6
14	To pass time	2.86	0.88	57.2	2.59	1.25	51.8
15	To prepare class notes	2.70	0.92	54.0	3.13	1.30	62.6
16	To read newspaper and magazine	4.39	0.79	87.8	3.74	1.11	74.8
17	To borrow & return non-fiction	1.06	0.43	21.2	1.27	0.74	25.4
18	To find information about employment	1.99	1.30	39.8	1.50	0.99	30.0
19	To prepare for competitive examination	2.44	1.06	48.8	1.38	0.88	27.6
20	To improve general knowledge	2.73	1.02	54.6	2.88	1.02	57.6
21	For serious reading	3.75	0.94	75.0	2.17	1.06	43.4
22	For reading personal materials	1.08	0.45	21.6	1.42	1.09	28.4
23	To find information for research	2.42	1.15	48.4	3.52	0.90	70.4

Table 1(d): Purpose of use of library by the Students& Faculty of R.I.E., Mysore library

Students - N = 352, Faculty - N=83

Sl. No	Purpose	For Students			For Faculty		
		Mean Score	S.D.	% of score	Mean Score	S.D.	% of score
1	To prepare for lecture	1.13	0.63	22.6	3.06	0.68	61.2
2	To prepare project / seminar	4.48	0.90	89.6	2.77	0.70	55.4
3	To write journal articles	1.81	1.27	36.2	3.06	1.09	61.2
4	To enhance knowledge	2.61	0.98	52.2	3.05	1.14	61.0
5	To browse different database	3.92	0.79	78.4	2.66	1.29	53.2
6	To write essay	2.24	1.11	44.8	2.63	1.06	52.6
7	To prepare for database completion	1.87	1.10	37.4	2.39	1.14	47.8
8	To write article on national programme	1.91	1.10	38.2	2.69	0.87	53.8
9	To study the text book	4.52	0.82	90.4	1.82	0.83	36.4
10	To make Xerox of course materials	4.49	0.83	89.8	2.97	0.93	59.4
11	To search CD database & e-mail	2.28	1.10	45.6	2.40	1.23	48.0
12	To borrow & return books	1.79	1.13	35.8	2.31	0.97	46.2
13	To get general information	2.89	1.05	57.8	3.00	0.99	60.0
14	To pass time	2.93	0.86	58.6	2.59	1.16	51.8
15	To prepare class notes	2.76	0.90	55.2	3.14	1.19	62.8
16	To read newspaper and magazine	4.34	0.88	86.8	3.77	1.00	75.4
17	To borrow & return non-fiction	1.13	0.63	22.6	1.35	0.85	27.0
18	To find information about employment	1.87	1.31	37.4	1.58	0.96	31.6
19	To prepare for competitive examination	2.49	1.06	49.8	1.49	0.98	29.8
20	To improve general knowledge	2.79	1.00	55.8	2.91	0.90	58.2
21	For serious reading	3.81	0.86	76.2	2.20	0.88	44.0
22	For reading personal materials	1.13	0.63	22.6	1.34	0.98	26.8
23	To find information for research	2.48	1.15	49.6	3.53	0.75	70.6

vary from around 20.0% to 75.0% against the 23 identified purposes for visiting library. Further, from the analysis, it is found that the main purpose of the student users visiting the library in order of

preference are for preparing projects/seminars, for studying the study books, to get Xerox of course materials, for reading newspapers and magazines. From the analysis of the purpose of visit to library by

Table 1(e): Correlation matrix among users of the four R.I.E. libraries

Users	Student Ajmer	Student Bhopal	Student Bhuban- eswar	Student Mysore	Faculty Ajmer	Faculty Bhopal	Faculty Bhuban- eswar	Faculty Mysore
Student Ajmer	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Student Bhopal	0.99	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Student BBSR	0.99	0.94	1.0	-	-	-	-	-
Student Mysore	0.98	0.99	0.99	1.0	-	-	-	-
Faculty Ajmer	0.32	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-
Faculty Bhopal	-	0.29	-	-	0.99	1.0	-	-
Faculty BBSR	-	-	0.30	-	0.99	0.99	1.0	-
Faculty Mysore	-	-	-	0.33	0.99	0.97	0.98	1.0

the faculty members, it is found that the main purposes in order of preference are for reading newspapers and magazines, to find information for research, for preparing class notes, preparing for lecture, for writing journal articles and to enhance knowledge.

The collections of the libraries both qualitative and quantitative, are likely to influence the users purpose of visit to library to some extent as both the categories of users i.e., students and faculty members are from the same institutions and the above aspects become known to them gradually with the passing of time. However, the purpose of visit to libraries by a single category of user tend to be similar in all the institutions as their collections as well as physical facilities have less variations which may be due to the facts that they are contemporary and run by the Government. In order to find out the extent of co-relationship among the categories of users between the institutional libraries, co-relationship study was made, the results of which are as contained in Table 1(e).

From the table 1 (e), it is found that the purpose of visit to library by the same category of users i.e. the students or the faculty members between different institutional (R.I.E.) libraries are highly and positively correlated to the extent varying from 0.94 to 0.99 and between the categories i.e., student and faculty members of the same library are although positively but feebly related varying from 0.29 to 0.33. In the Table 1 (e), the coefficient of correlation between the heterogeneous users i.e., faculty members and students of the same institutional (R.I.E.) libraries are found out due to the logic of comparison, not between different libraries since there is some chance of the influence of the usefulness of available collections and physical facilities may be there.

It is therefore inferred that the purposes of visit to library between the student users are almost similar irrespective of the libraries, and so also the case of the

faculties. But, the purposes of visit to library by the students are quite different than that of the faculties.

1. The main purpose of visit to library by student users in order of preference are preparing for project/ seminar, reading study books, Xerox of course materials, reading newspapers and magazines.
2. The main purpose of visit to library by the faculty members in order of preference are for reading newspapers and magazines, to find information for research, for preparing class notes, preparing for lecture, writing journal article and enhancing knowledge.
3. There exists significant difference in the purpose of visit to libraries between the faculty members and students.
4. The purpose of visit to library by the students is similar irrespective of the institution they belong to. Similar is the case of faculty members also.

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