

Usage of Information Sources by the Students of Engineering Colleges in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu: A Study

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Abstract

This paper explains a survey of 32 engineering colleges with 25 respondents from students of each college totaling to 800 respondents belonging to various engineering colleges in Coimbatore was conducted. Studies on the reference sources collection, i. e., functioning of the library, book availability, library environment is helpful in reading, and reading materials are sufficient, responds visit to library, present library timing, staffs supportive utilizing, arrangement of library books, were the important aspects taken into consideration.

Key words: *Functioning of the Library, Library Environment, Library Resources*

1. INTRODUCTION

Information is important and a key resource for every organization and is an essential input for all types of organization. Libraries are organized information centers but they have limited resources with which they have to satisfy the information needs of the users. Therefore, libraries have to increase their collections and facilities to meet users' satisfaction besides; this study aims to know the purpose of library visit, services offered in the engineering college library and also the attitude of the engineering college students.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Surveys aim primarily at measuring general user satisfaction, this survey is dedicated to understanding users' needs, usage patterns, and preferences towards various collections. Findings showed dissimilar use behavior and perceived importance of materials between academic- and performance-oriented users [1].

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the level of functioning of the libraries;
2. To find out the satisfaction of the book available in the library;
3. To identify how far the Library Environment is helpful in reading;

4. To identify important information sources of library services;

To given related suggestions of the tables and findings.

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to assess the extent of usage of information sources by the students of engineering college's library. Keeping in view the objectives of the study a structured questionnaire was developed using four point scales wherever necessary for the purpose of data collection. To find out the facts, both primary and secondary methods, i.e., questionnaire, and personal interview methods were used to collect the relevant data.

5. METHODOLOGY

Survey of data is often obtained by using questionnaires. The questionnaire method was used for the collection of data in the present study. The respondents from the questionnaire were drawn from 32 engineering colleges 800 respondents in engineering college in Coimbatore city. The data thus collected were analyzed.

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1 Satisfaction Level about the Functioning of the Library

Level of Satisfaction	No of Respondents	%
Satisfied	442	55.2
High Satisfied	242	30.2
Not Satisfied	116	14.5
Total	800	100

Table 1 shows the respondents satisfaction level of the functioning of the library is concerned. Out of the 800 respondents 442 (55.2%) are satisfied with the existing functioning of the library. 242 (30.2%) are highly satisfied and only 116 (14.5%) are not satisfied.

Table 2 Satisfaction on the Book Available in the Library

Level of satisfaction	No of Respondents	%
Satisfied	450	56.2
High Satisfied	150	18.7
Not Satisfied	200	25.0
Total	800	100

Table 2 describes the respondent's satisfaction on the books available in the library. On the availability of books in the library, 450 (56.2%) respondents have expressed satisfaction while 150 (18.7%) have great opinion and satisfaction and only 200 (25%) respondents are not satisfied.

Table 5 User's Opinions on Reading Materials

Sl. No.	Materials	High	Very High	Poor	Very poor	Total No. of Respondents
1	Books	460	141	175	24	800
2	Back volumes	380	200	140	80	800
3	Periodicals	530	150	40	80	800
4	E-Journals	560	140	20	80	800
5	E-Books	480	120	160	40	800
6	Non-Book Materials	360	240	140	60	800
7	News Papers	560	240	-	-	800

Table 5 shows that 141, 200, 150, 140, 120, 240, 240 respondents have very high satisfaction over the available of resource materials like books, back volumes, periodicals, E-journals, E-books, Non-book materials and newspapers respectively.

Table 3 Library Environment

Level of Opinion	No of Respondents	%
Good	350	43.7
Very good	380	47.5
Poor	50	6.2
Very poor	20	25.0
Total	800	100

Table 3 describes the respondent's level of the library environment is helpful in reading. As related to the environment in helping the users in reading purposes 380(47.5%) respondents have very good opinion of the existing environment, 350 (44%) responding as good. The number of negative results received was 20 (25%). This indicates that the environment for the purpose of reading is healthy and good.

Table 4 Books Searching Facilities Available in the Library

Level of Opinion	No of Respondents	%
Manual search	320	40.0
Computerized	330	41.2
Web OPAC	150	18.7
Total	800	100

Table 4 indicates that out of 800 respondents, 320 respondents (40%) are familiar with manual search and 330 respondents (41.2%) are search materials through computer and 150 respondents (18.7%) search information through web OPAC.

Table 6 Visit to Library

Library Visit	No. of Respondents	%
Daily	280	35.0
Weekly	320	40.0
Fortnightly	90	11.2
Monthly	110	13.7
Total	800	100

Table 6 shows that 320 (40%) users visit the library weekly and 280 (35%) visit the library daily. Monthly visits are 110 (13.7%) and fortnightly visits are 90 (11.2%). This shows that only really interested people visit the library frequently.

Table 7 Library Timing

Level of Convenient	No. of Respondents	%
Convenient	560	70
Very Convenient	160	20
In Convenient	80	10
Total	800	100

Table 7 describes that the majority of respondents are convenient on the library timings.160 (20%) of respondents have opined that the library timings are very convenient and 80 (10%) have inconvenient on library timings.

Table 8 Users Opinion on Time Spend in Lib

Duration	No. of Respondents	%
0 to 10 minutes	50	6.2
10-20 minutes	180	22.5
20-30 minutes	170	21.2
30-40 minutes	110	13.7
More than 1 hour	90	11.2
When They get Time, They Spend 1 Hour	200	25.0
Total	800	100

Table 8 describes on a question of users spending their time in the library, the majority are to 200(25%) state that when they get time they would spent 1 hour. 180 (22.5%) of the respondents state that they would spend between 10 - 20 minutes. 170 (21.2%) respondents stated that they would spend 20-30 minutes. 110 (13.7%) respondents stated that they would spend

30-40 minutes. Only 90 (11.2%) respondents stated that they would spend more than 1 hour in the library. This clearly indicates the patter of spending time in the library is based on the need of the Individual.

Table 9 Satisfaction of Arrangement of Books

Level of Satisfaction	No of Respondents	%
Satisfied	430	53.7
High satisfied	140	17.5
Not satisfied	230	28.7
Total	800	100

Table 9 describes the arrangements of books in the library. 430(53.7%) respondents are fully satisfied and 140 (17.5%) are highly satisfied. Only 230 (28.7%) are not satisfied with the arrangement of books. This clearly shows that the existing system is acceptable.

Table 10 Satisfaction of Library Service

Level of Opinion	No. of Respondents	%
Good	420	52.5
Satisfactory	330	41.2
Not Satisfactory	50	6.2
Total	800	100

Table 10 describes the question on the library services, 420 (52.5%) respondents are satisfied and have expressed it as good and 330(41.2%) are satisfied. This clearly states that the librarian and their staffs are well courteous and with a helping tendency.

7.CONCLUSION

User satisfaction and optimization of resources have become important areas for libraries to maintain awareness about the library. Library had previously conducted quantitative studies, a qualitative user needs survey was carried out in order to gather more in-depth information regarding the attitudes of staff towards the services and products offered. This study looked primarily at a selection of key issues considered to be of particular importance. By using information gained through this user survey to better meet the needs of its community, the library demonstrates just how valuable a tool such a study can be for any organization focused on continually improving its role for all users.

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