

Use of Electronic Resources in the Library of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT), Sikkim : A Study

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Abstract

The paper focuses on use of electronic resources in the library of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology Library. It highlights the use of e-resources by faculty members of Computer Science Department in SMIT Library. The purpose of seeking information, formal and informal sources used by faculty in searching the relevant information is studied in the paper. It also discusses frequency of their visit to the library and tools used for searching the information. The role of library professionals in helping faculty for finding information is also touched upon. The suggestions given by faculties are also discussed.

Keywords: E-journals, Electronic resources

Objectives of the Study

The study consists of following objectives:

- To identify the various sources adopted for learning internet.
- To find out the different categories of information access from internet /web resources.
- To study the **library cooperation and consortia. To study the useful of electronic resources compared to printed journals.**
- To assess the **level of satisfaction about library collection.**
- To survey the purpose & utilization of electronic resources by the faculty of SMIT. To find out the problems in respect of access the e-resources and their use.

Scope of the Study

The study is focused on the faculty members of Computer Science Department of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT), Sikkim. The Computer science department is having total 30 faculty members.

Sample Size: The questionnaire was distributed among 30 faculty members. The responses from 17 faculty members were collected.

Analysis and interpretation of the Data

Table 1: Purpose of Seeking Information

Purpose	No. of Faculty
For updating knowledge	17
For doing research work	17
For doing PhD	13
For guiding researchers	12
For discussions	06
For Entertainment	10

Table 1 shows that most of the faculty members are seeking information for updating their knowledge and for doing or guiding the research work. Only few of them are using for discussions and entertainment.

Table 2: Sources of Information used by Faculty members

Sources of Information	No. of Faculty
Discussion with colleagues	14
Consult a knowledgeable person in the field	13
Consult supervisor	11
Discussion with librarian or references staff of your library	04
Discussion with librarian or references staff of other library	02
Review articles / Thesis	16
Abstracting journals	03
Indexing journals	06
Library catalogue	02

Table 2 shows that faculty members are searching information from various sources. Some of the faculty

are taking help of knowledgeable persons in the field and discussing with colleagues. Most of the faculty members are reviewing the articles or thesis for the same. Other sources such as indexing/abstracting journals/ Library catalogues, discussions with librarian/library staff of the library and other libraries are other sources for searching the information.

Table 3: Formal Sources of Information

Formal Sources of Information	No. of Faculty
Book / monographs	16
Scientific technical journals/ periodicals	16
Patents/Reports/standard/ specifications	07
Conferences/workshop/Seminar proceedings	14
Online – journals/Database/ Archive	12
Internet/Intranet sources as audio/video CD-ROM/DVD	12
Review articles/ Thesis	07

The Table 3 shows the various formal sources of information consulted by the faculty members. Most of the faculties are dependent on the books and Journals and gradually they also come to depend upon journals and Conference/Seminars proceedings and Internet/Intranet etc.

Table 4: Sources for Having Knowledge of Current Development in The Field

Sources of Information	No. of Faculty
Scanning of current issues or print/online journals	17
Scanning recent issues of abstracting tools	03
Attending conferences	10
Internet/E-mail alert	01
Through services from library as CAS & SDI	11
Personal communication	05

Table 4 shows that for the purpose of updating their knowledge they highly depends on print and online journals. Some of them also gain knowledge through services from library as CAS & SDI and also from attending conference.

Table 5: Source of Obtaining Journal

Sources of Information	No. of Faculty
Personal subscription to print journals	11
Personal subscription to online version	03
Library's online/electronic version	15
Library's print subscription	09
Inter library loan	02

Table 5 shows that most of the faculty members use library electronic resources. Some of them also depend on personal print journal subscriptions. Just a few of them personally subscribe online version or through inter-library loan.

Table 6: Time Spent for Information Gathering Activities

Methods	0-3 hrs	4-6 hrs	7-9 hrs	More than 10 hrs
Reading e-mail alerts	09	02	00	01
Scanning journals articles	05	04	03	02
Photocopying	07	05	00	00
Conferring with co-workers or other experts	00	11	01	01

Table 6 shows that some faculty are using 4-6 hours in discussing with co-workers and experts, a few of them are spending 0-3 hours in reading e-mail. There is variation in the time spent for scanning journal articles and in Photocopying.

Table 7: Information Seeking Habits Related to Work

Information seeking habits	No. of Faculty
Conversing with experts located outside institute	06
Conversing with co-workers or other experts in institute	10
E-mailing co-workers or other experts	10
Discussion lists/ list serves	13
Reading e-mail alerts	08
Scanning journals titles or citations	13
Reading articles/books	06
Attending conferences/colloquia/ workshops	12
Searching electronic database	06
Reading electronic journals	04

Table 7 shows that faculty are mainly attending conferences and conversing with their co-workers directly or through e-mails. Some of them are taking help of discussion lists/list serves and other methods.

Table 8: Impact of IT on User's Information Seeking Behaviour

	A (Rarely)	B (Some-time)	C (Frequently)	No
Computer and its facilities		01	13	
Telecommunication & its facilities				05

Contd...

	A (Rarely)	B (Some time)	C (Fre- quently)	No
Photocopying			03	
Microfilm/Micro- fiche, etc.	03			
Internet /Intranet, etc.	05		05	
Multimedia			02	
Digitization		07	03	
Satellite/Modem			04	
Video Conferencing				

Table 8 shows impact of IT on user's information seeking behavior. Most of the faculties avail the facility of computers, Internet and Intranet for gaining information frequently. Sometime they also depend upon digitization. They rarely use Microfilm/Microfiche. There is no use of video conferencing.

Table 9: Problems Faced While Information Seeking

Problems	No. of Faculty
Material is not available	11
Library staff are unwilling for service	01
Incomplete information materials	08
Information sources are so far located	01
Lack of time	04
Do not know how to use the catalogue	08
Lack of knowledge in using the library	04
Understanding of English language	00
Information scattered in too many sources	03
Information is too vast	01

Table 9 shows the problem encountered in information seeking by the faculty members. It is clearly shown that users want more material related to their discipline. Some of them do not know how to use catalogue. There is also some incomplete information.

Table 10: Regular Visitor of the Library

Time spend	No. of Faculty
Over 30 Hrs/week	02
20-30 Hours/week	02
10-20 Hours/week	03
5-10 Hours/week	04
Less than 5 Hours/week	01

Table 10 shows that most of the faculty visit library and they utilize the library for a maximum of 5-10 hours in a week. Some of them use 20-30 hours in a week as well.

Table 11: Request for Assistance from Library Staff for Information Seeking

Problems	No. of Faculty
Very often (Daily)	03
On a regular basis (Weekly or bi-weekly)	10
Seldom (Around once per month)	02
Never	02

Table 11 shows that most of the respondents seek assistance of the library staff on regular basis. Assistance by the staff is needed by the faculty member for using online journals, searching books and other library services.

Table 12: Information Services Offered by the Library

Library Services offered by library staff	Excell-ent	Good	Satis- factory	No
Abstracting/Indexing services		02		
Circulation	05		02	
E-Journal/Journal services	12	05		
Database/OPAC search Browsing		07	02	
Display Board Service				
Inter Library Loan				17
Reference Service Reprographic				
Technical Enquiry Services				17

Table 12 shows the rating of information services provided by the library. It reveals that most of the faculty members have used E-journals, some of them found it excellent and for some of them it is good. For some faculty OPAC is good, very few members say that circulation service is excellent and for some of them it is satisfactory. Display board service, interlibrary loan, reprographic, reference service and technical enquiry services are not provided or there is lack of awareness.

Suggestions

One of the respondents suggested that there should be more collection of book and periodicals in basic science. Some have responded that library timings should be increased. There are some suggestions like pure sciences collection should be increased. The quality of reprographic service should be provided. There should be more use of inter library loan through awareness. E-resources may be added based on the demand of the users. The library should create awareness among the users by conducting programmes, Such as orientation program, demonstrations, conference, seminars and through notices.

Conclusion

The successful operation of any library depends to a large extent on the choice of library collections. The choice of collection should meet the need and requirements of the end users. Consequently, librarians must be aware of how the faculty members seek information. It is also observed that user's are not satisfied in display board service, inter library loan service and reference services. The professionals are great help for faculty members in searching their relevant information. Maximum number of faculties used electronic journals for course work and to get latest information resources. It is concluded that electronic journals which are subscribed by the SMIT are being used effectively by the faculty members. Internet access speed can be increased for speedy retrieval of information.

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