

"INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF THE STUDENTS OF A.B.N SEAL COLLEGE IN CHANGED LIBRARY SERVICES"

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Abstract

This study investigated the information seeking behaviour of the students of A.B.N SEAL college (Cooch Behar, West Bengal). The study used a convenience sample of students of this College. Specifically, the study made effort to determine the sources consulted and the general pattern of information gathering system by the students: the impact of students' gender, level of study and course of study on the students' information seeking behaviour. The study adopted a descriptive survey and data was collected for using a questionnaire administered to the students. The paper is a product of recent survey carried out by the authors; hence the findings reported here are original and reflect the current views and practices of information seeking behaviour of A.B.N SEAL college.

Key words: ISB, ICT, Information need, Access and users interface, ISB on web.

1. INTRODUCTION:-

In the foreseeable future it is likely that personal information environments will continue to be hybrid of both digital and more traditional library sources. In the late 20th century, it can be described as an era of information revolution, with the presence of information bearing materials in diverse formats. Libraries and information centres are not only varied with materials in traditional formats but also in electronic formats offering users a vast selection. On the other hand, information sources available in the college library, little wonder then that the library is known as the academic heart of the college. Wilson sentenced 'the information seeking behaviours of the students' that the proper human behaviour in relation to sources and channels of information including active and passive information seeking process in a broader prospect. Emphatically, in the purpose of questioning information, different kinds of behaviour are manifested as students have different reasons for wanting information, different levels of search skill and preference for some types of information bearing materials. Here also, an attempt has been traced to INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR of the students of A.B.N SEAL COLLEGE.

2. MEANING OF INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR:-

The studies are simply conducted in the electronic environment, in order to trace out the mode of interaction of the users communication of the information system in the college libraries, are truly being quite important as well as needy. The information behaviour deals the general manner, in which users conduct themselves in proper relation to a given information environment. This kind of studies bear the important part for making the library fluent, as it required. In the broader prospect, ISB can be defined as the field made out of studies concerning the needs and what types of information are required and to be satisfied to the users.

3. INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR ON THE WEB:-

The WEB has grown into a vital channel of communication & an important term for information dissemination & retrieval that is exerting power over the evaluation & development of the information seeking behaviour. In the electronic environment, the users who are as heterogeneous as WEB resources, more detailed information is needed on the ways in which individual differences, found within specific groups of users. To date the most unique and popular method of examining users 'WEB' interactions has been through quantitative analysis of the large number of user-system transactional data, taken from real online searches on the WEB.

Although WEB information searching studies can manipulate an informative insight into WEB searching activity they do not allow for a more in-depth investigation of individual users. Thus type of research is not able to offer comprehensive interpretations of elements that are significant to the study of the ISB such as different information needs cognitive & affective characteristics & experience of the individual users. Research on WEB information searching useful for examining behaviour and actions but adequate for explaining the factors and processes which have led to that behaviour.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR:-

The most significant factor that affects the information seeking behaviour of an individual is the type of work in which he is involved-as found by Lin and Gargvey. Another factor is -whether the work is basic or applied. The discipline, within which an individual is working also affects his information seeking behaviour-for example, the information needs of teachers and researchers and also students in the pure sciences is probably more urgent than that of the users in the social sciences, because science ever growing. The users, just like research scholars will need to constantly update his or her knowledge -i.e. he/she has to catch -up with the latest developments.

Other factors include-social, political, economic and legal stuffs.

Hence it is clear that ISB of an individual is characterized by innumerable factors, but any study has to make its own assumptions entering into consideration the respondents of the study.

5. SCOPE & OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

The general study was traced out to rule the Information seeking behaviour of the students of A.B.N SEAL COLLEGE Cooch Behar in the changed library environment. The scope as well as the objectives was limited to every department of the college. The objectives are:

- 1> To identify the various types of information sources in use by these users of A.B.N Seal college library.
- 2> To examine and observe how these users learn to know about the existence of various information.
- 3> To explore the reasons and factors that motivate these users to seek and consume information.
- 4> To find out how these users use and disseminate information once they get it.
- 5> To visualise the impact of Information Communication Technology on ISB.
- 6> To know the adequacy of reading materials in the library.

6. A.B.N SEAL COLLEGE:-

Acharya Brajendra Nath Seal College persists tremendous place in the history of Cooch Behar for that we can feel proud. This institution was formerly known as Victoria College. If we see the history of this college we also can find that Maharaja Nipendra Narayan (1863-1911) was known as the architect of Modern Cooch Behar who conducted to set a higher education in the state. These subjects -English, mathematics, Philosophy & science were taught in the college.

The importance of the college library was perceived by the college authority and gradually it looks healthy. Though originally it was housed in a single room, yet during the long period of time our college library became enriched & healthy. Located in its separate two storied building from July 1999. The college library insists books and journals as well as information on various topics to quest the needs of the users.

6.1 LIBRARY SYSTEM OF A.B.N SEAL COLLEGE.-

The library system of A.B.N SEAL college consists the major factors revealing with the INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR in the changed library services. There are

two different kinds of library can be found in this college, Central Library, another is Departmental Seminar Library. This library has collection of more than 1 Lakh books and over 200 bound volumes of periodicals. This library subscribes two foreign journals-named-NATURE and SCIENCE & 27 titles of Indian journals (Resonance, Current Science, Journal of Chemical Society, journal of Bio-Science) and 12 popular magazines and also 3 news papers. The total number of membership of the library is near about 2600, including teaching and non-teaching professionals. This library was automated using Lybsis (Housekeeping) software partially and it has the Internet system through LAN. The library offers E-Journals through N-LIST programmes.

7. METHODOLOGY

7.1 SURVEY INSTRUMENT:-

Different methods of the tools have been used in the study for analysing data from the college. Questionnaire method was the main instrument for the data collection. It reveals the informal interviews and observations on the research population & other questionnaire strategies. This generally had been interrupted with the check points obtained during reviewing similar studies. This 'questionnaire strategy' was influenced to a major study.

7.2 SAMPLING & DATA COLLECTION:-

Sampling reveals the factors of the study of a few representative units of the world. Here in this study, to locate the maximum representation & reliability investigator adopted an almost survey method. The chance for the sampling error was quite minimised by having proper students. The total students of the study is 100, of which questionnaires were administered in person by the investigator to 88 students. A total of 12 questionnaire were returned back. Some were partially filled in and some were blank. A total number of questionnaires which were found good are chosen for the study.

TABLE I

Total respondents	No. Of questionnaires Administered	No. of questionnaires Returned	No. of good responses
100	88	12	73

7.3 DATA ANALYSIS:-

"Data Analysis" is a technique of inspecting, cleaning, transforming and modelling data with the goal of highlighting useful information, suggesting conclusions, and supporting decision making. Data analysis has multiple facets and approaches,

encompassing diverse techniques under a variety of names, in different business, science, and social science domains. Data mining is a particular data analysis technique focusing on modelling and knowledge in broader circumstances.

8. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

8.1 LIBRARY USERS:-

There are different kinds of users in this college. These are 'Research Scholars', post graduate students', Honours Graduate Students' & 'Graduate (general) students'

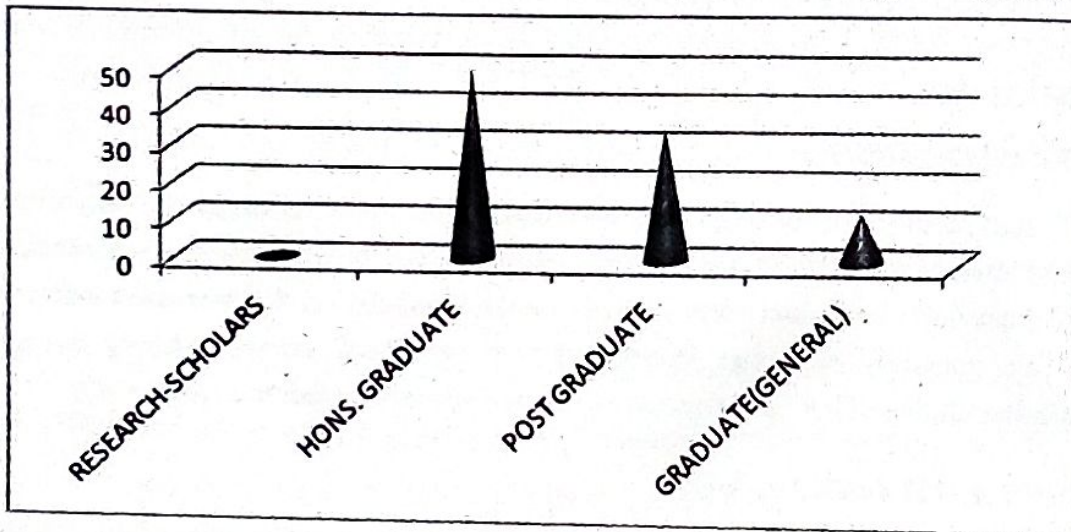


Fig.1: Library users.

8.2 USE OF INTERNET FOR SEEKING INFORMATION:-

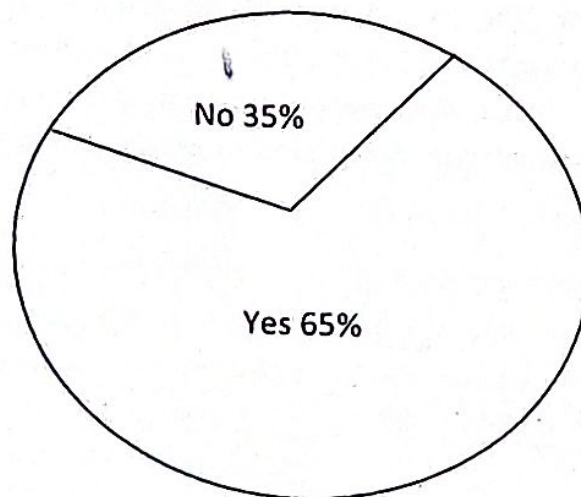


Fig.2: The use of the internet is examined and is graphically presented here. From graph it is clear that a good majority of the students use internet for seeking information.

8.3 ADEQUECY OF COLLECTION IN THIS LIBRARY:-

The library has rich collection of Books, Reference Books, Rare books, Thesis, Non-Book materials, Bound Periodicals, Census Report, etc.

TABLE2

INFORMATION SOURCES	TOTAL
TEXT BOOKS	67,352
REFERENCE BOOKS	6,914
RARE BOOKS	12,505
BOUND PERIODICALS	217
THESIS	03
NON-BOOK MATERIALS	78
CENSUS REPORT	17
GAZETTEERS	37
JOURNALS	5,212
TOTAL	92,330

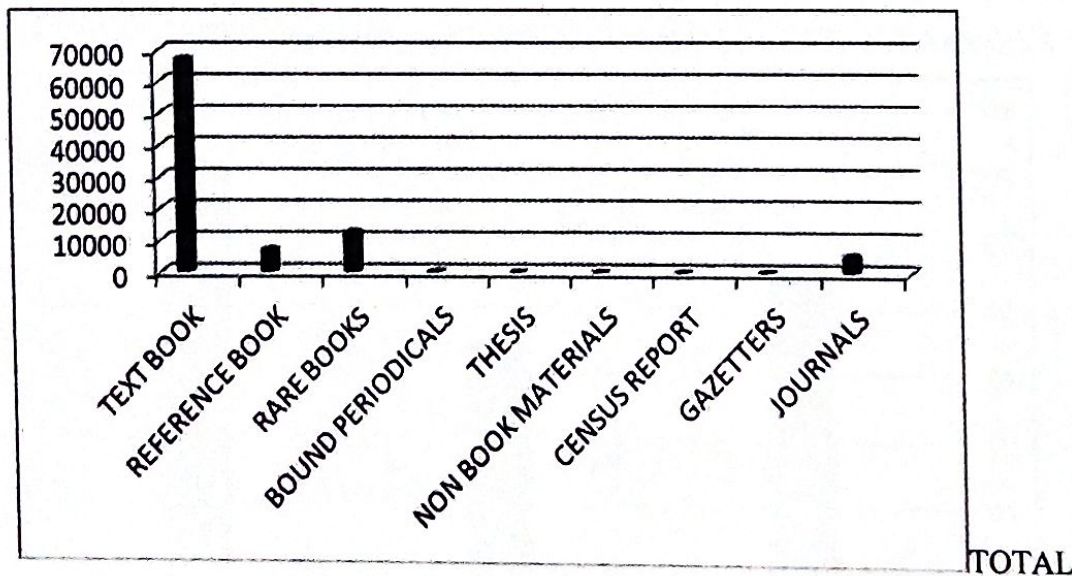


Fig.3: ADEQUECY OF COLLECTION IN THIS LIBRARY

8.4 DIFFERENT TYPES OF INFORMATION SOURCES REQUIRED TO MEET THE INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR:-

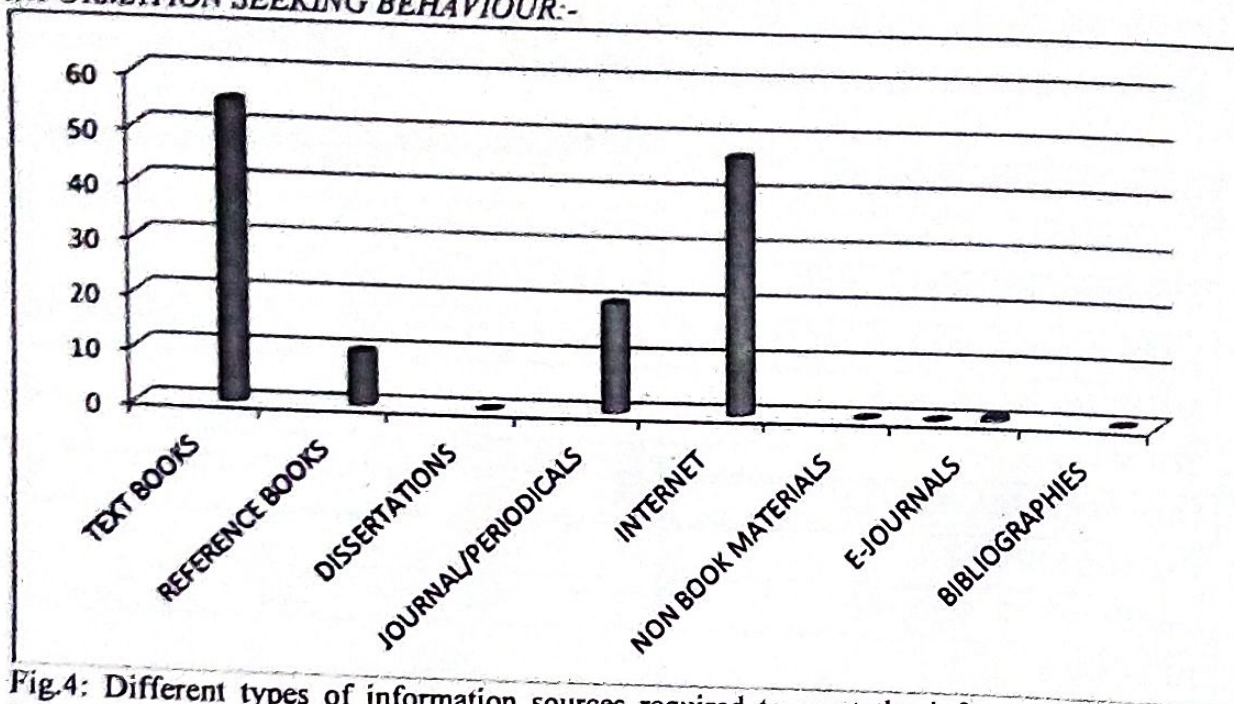


Fig.4: Different types of information sources required to meet the information needs of information for the A.B.N SEAL college is text book. Similarly, Reference books (10%), Dissertations (1%), Journals/periodicals (20%), Internet (47%), Non-Book materials(1%), E-Journals (11%), Bibliographies (2%).

8.5 PREFERENCE ON THE FORMAT OF INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR:-

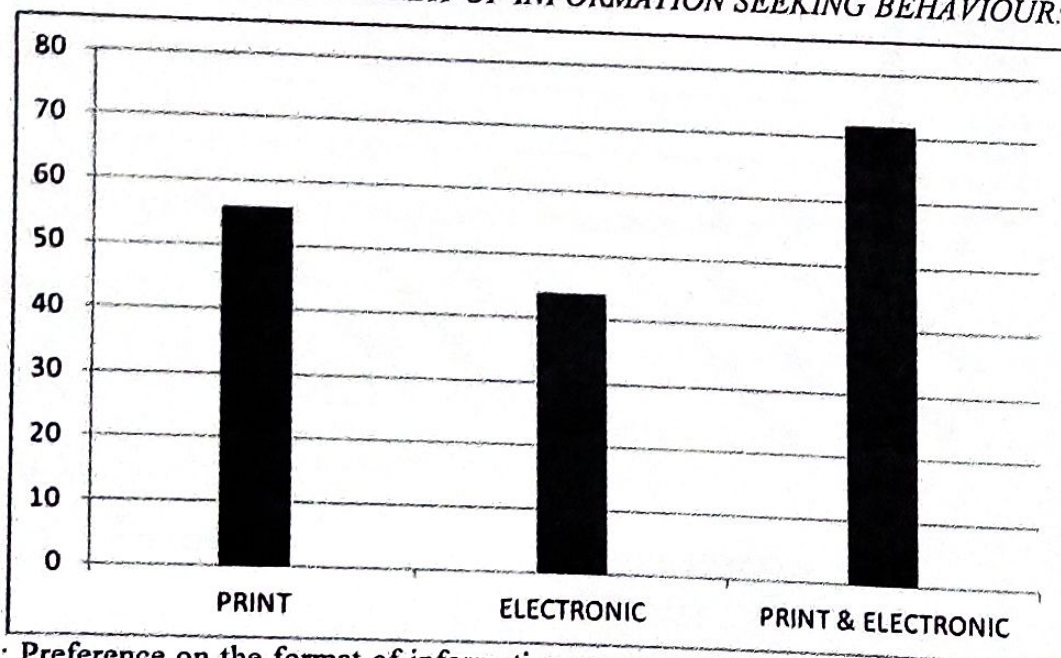


Fig.5: Preference on the format of information source, we can see the huge amount of use of the printed & electronic forms in our college library, but on the other hand printed form of information source significantly more usable in this college than the electronic forms of information source.

8.6 AWARENESS OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LIBRARY:-

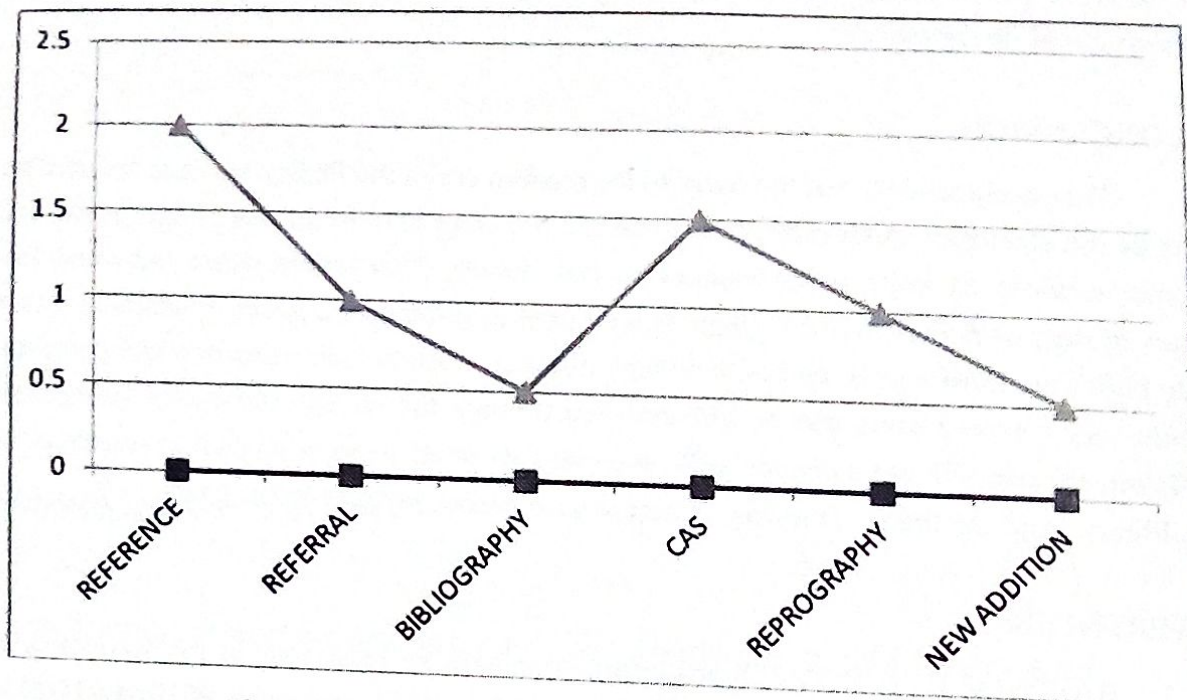


Fig.6: Awareness of the services offered by the library.

Graph provides a sketch of the awareness level of library about the services of A.B.N SEAL college library. Here the bench-mark awareness level 0.5. Among the services the Reference Services play the most significant role in this library.

8.7 ADEQUACY OF THE SERVICES OF THE LIBRARY:-

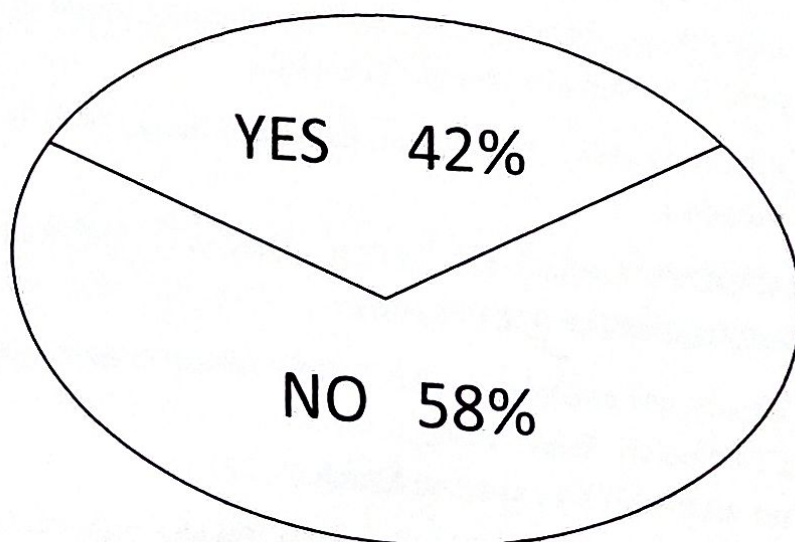


Fig.7: Adequacy of the services of the library

The adequacy of the services offered by the college library is analysed and is graphically presented in the graph. From graph it is clear that majority of the users are not satisfied with

the services provided by the library due to unavailability of the technical staff and infrastructural development.

9. CONCLUSION:-

This study reveals that the users in the modern era of the library services are shifting towards the electronic environment. We can see the large number of use of text books and Internet services as information sources in this library. This investigation indicated that library system of A.B.N SEAL College is well used in different purposes. Eventually this is quite high time for libraries, specially college libraries to reach their users in wider prospect. Technology oriented users can be implemented through the college library for using their own convenience will get a chance to be informed about all services as well as resources of this library. And the library is trying its best to give proper services to the users.

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