Library User Study of Medical, Dental and Ayurvedic College of Rajasthan

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Abstract

Library is considered as heart of any educational institute. It plays an important role in the development of the organization and imparting quality education to its users. This study show that the user survey of Medical, Dental and Ayurvedic College of Rajasthan. A well structured questionnaire was used for collecting data of the library users services. Questionnaires were collected from the respondents 782 users for analysis of data. The present study shows and elaborates that the various aspects of library services, collections uses within the available information resources, frequency and purposes of visit library , adequacy of library working hours, use of library services & collections and library user's satisfaction with the overall performance of the library.

KEYWORDS: Medical, Dental and Ayurvedic College of Rajasthan, User Study, Library Services

1.Introduction

The present century is the ICT century As a result, libraries are facing day to day new challenges, new competitions, new technology and new demands for variety of services with latest up-to-date technologies by its users. To satisfy the new challenges and multifaceted information needs of the user, libraries tend to undergo a change over by reconsolidating, reengineering, reshaping and redesigning their information services and resources by incorporating new tools and technologies.

Library play a crucial role in providing valuable information to the academic community by selecting and organizing information resources that support research, education and extension activities of the colleges. Today, libraries are surrounded by networked data that is connected to vast ocean of Internet-based services. Moreover, electronic resources relevant to the profession are developing at an unprecedented pace. Academic libraries are considered to be the nerve centres of academic institutions and supporting teaching, research, and other academic programmes. The success of a library in meeting the information needs of its users play an important role.

User surveys can be designed and administered in a number of ways. Self-administered surveys are often employed to reach a large number of potential respondents with a minimum of direct contact and cost. Individuals are given or sent surveys to complete and return and the responses turned into data that can be analyzed. Surveys can range from broad and comprehensive to those narrowly focused on specific services or activities. When properly designed and administered, user surveys can provide both quantitative and qualitative data directly from the target population. Wilson states the place of user studies in Library and Information Science research that "Apart from information retrieval there is virtually no other area of information science that has occasioned as much research effort and writing as 'user studies'."

2. Objective of The Study

The present study is aimed to achieve the following major objectives:
i. To identify the use of collections and services of the libraries;

ii. To find out the purpose of users information search;

iii. To identify the infrastructure facilities are being provided by the library to users;

iv. To find out the overall users satisfaction with the resources and services provided in the Medical, Ayurvedic & Dental libraries in Rajasthan.

3. Review of Literature

Kannappanavar and Rajanikanta's (2008), paper published using Medical college's e-learning resources. The study found that medical education only after the country's independence is universal. Colleges and universities in research in this area found that most electronic data tools, electronic database. In almost all colleges and universities have been members of the Alliance study. Because as an infrastructure-related research, almost all colleges and universities offer a good infrastructure, not far from its library to effectively serve their customers.

Farajphlou A H (2002) Studied on information technologies in Iran shows that computerization of library systems and services in Iran started in the late 1970s and resumed after an apparent gap in 1980s. However, this trend has accelerated in the last decade especially in institutions of higher education due to the increased number of users, greater demand for the use of library materials within and outside the libraries, increase in the amount of materials being published, changes in the nature of reading material and the development of new and cheaper computers.

In a study by Moorthy (2000), many of the libraries and information centers in India started using computers for their works after the introduction of mini computers during the late 1970s. Since these were costly, only elite, R&D and private sectors could afford them and the libraries in these institutions were able to utilize them to some extent. Library automation, as a result did not progress satisfactorily. However, the arrival of micro computers and personal computers (PCs) in the Indian market in the 1980s gave the necessary impetus; the environment began to change and library automation picked up momentum.

4. Scope of The Study

The study addresses Medical, Ayurveda & Dental libraries in Rajasthan state, these are well developed than other academic, particularly college and University libraries in terms of fund, manpower and IT applications. The 24 Medical, Ayurveda & Dental Colleges libraries of Rajasthan are selected for the study.
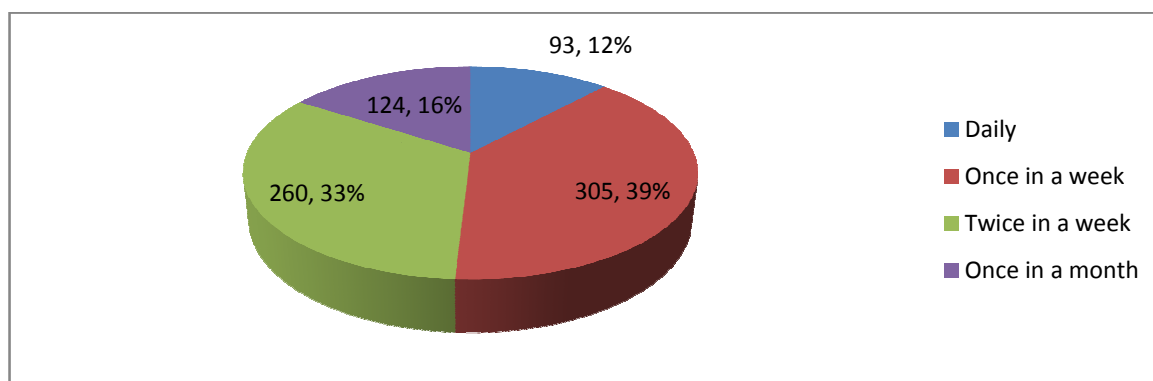
5. Methodology

Three methods viz., questionnaire surveys and semi-structured interviews with librarians, staff, user and observational visits in the libraries will be used in data collection. A survey method based on a structured questionnaire will be used for the study which will be circulated to library users. The purpose of questionnaire will be to obtain data regarding the contemporary use and application of ICT based resources and services in Medical & Dental Academic Libraries in Rajasthan. The different questionnaire will be distributed to users with a covering letter indicating the significance of the study and the intended plans for the results and data collection. The study will confined only to Medical & Dental Academic Libraries with ICT based resources and services.

The data collected through questionnaires will be converted into machine –readable form and imported into the statistical analysis package, SPSS. The data will be analyzed and inference made based on various standard statistical methods. The respondents will be asked to select multiple answers for ICT services.
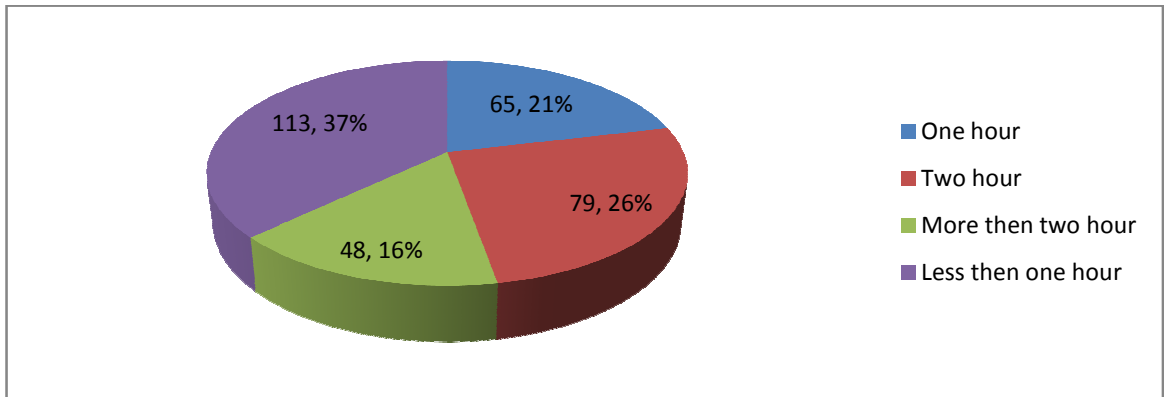
6. Result and Analysis

6.1 Frequency of Visits to The Library

The frequency of visits to the library by users depends upon the nature of library collections, organization, maintenance and above all, the services and cooperation of the library staffs in making use of library resources. Table 2 (fig. 2) indicates that, most of the students (30.57%) visit library 'once in a week' followed by 23.65% visit the library '2 day in a week' and 18.23% visit 'Once in two week'.
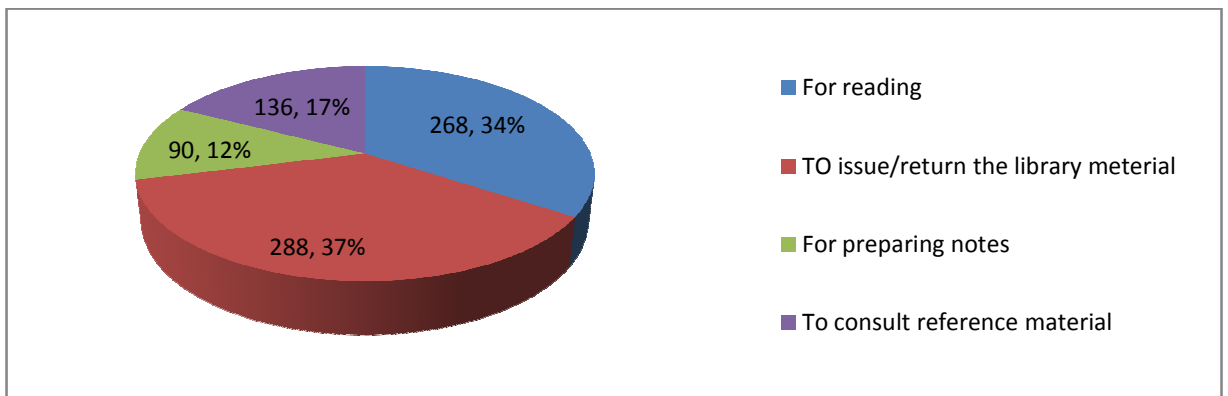

6.2 Average Time Spent in The Library

Study shows that the quantum of time spent by students in the library per week. It is observed that out of total respondents 113(37%) spend less than one hour per week, while 65(21%) spend '1 hrs', 79(26%) spend '2-3hrs' and 48(16%)% spend 'more then 2hrs' in the library.
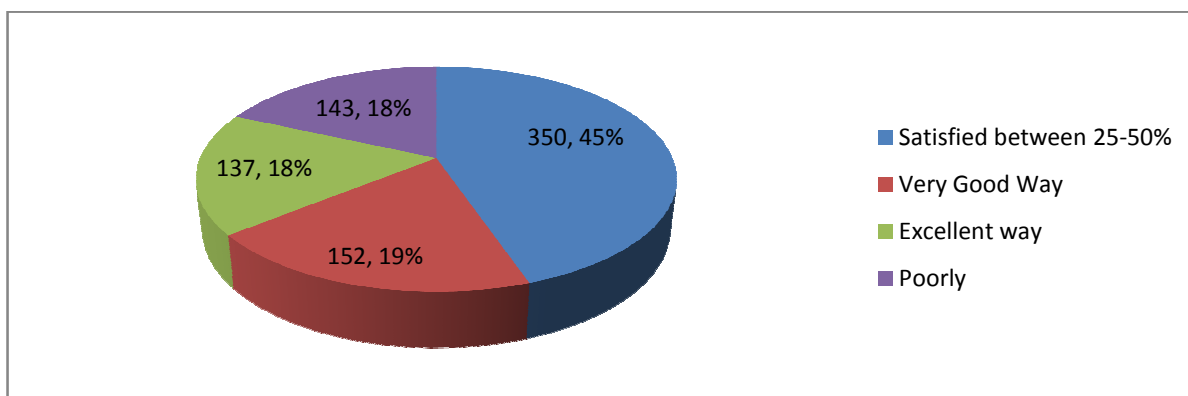
6.3 Purpose of Using Library Resource

The use of library resources uses are depends upon the resources available , nature of organization and timely cooperation of the library staff with users. Data indicates that 268(34%) of the students visit the library for reading, followed by 288(37%) for issuing/returning the library material, 90(12%) for preparing notes and 136(17%)for consulting reference material etc. for improving general and subject awareness'.

6.4 Satisfaction of Academic Needs

The respondents were requested to indicate their views on what extent they satisfied with their academic needs. Analysis show more than half 350(45%) of the respondents were satisfied between '25-50%', followed by 152(19%) were satisfied their needs in very good way and 137(18%) were satisfied in an excellent way respectively. Only 143(18%) of the respondents are satisfied poorly.

7. Conclusion

This study has given a clear picture of the users of Medical, Ayurveda & Dental libraries in Rajasthan. The utilization of medical college libraries by their potential users can be enhanced by adopting the modern ICT facilities. Automation of libraries according to new modern technologies is very essential to cope up with the present information scenario.

There are a plenty of problems which create barriers in providing and processing information services to users such as user orientation, lack of professional and non-professional library staff, policy matters, lack of autonomy and qualify library professional etc. It is very difficult to make available all the desired information documents to users but it is possible to managed to some extent, by keeping views of user's information demand while purchasing new books, reference books, online and print periodicals and consortium materials.

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