Electronic Information Needs of the Faculty Members and Research Scholars of the Bangalore University

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Abstract: The present Knowledge society is dependent on information, the information is generated in various forms and made accessible to the wide variety of individuals. The information needs are varies on the type of users and also the seeking pattern to information different with the user. The article finds the formal electronic information needs by the faculty members and scholars of the Bangalore University. The study reveal that the respondents opined that e-journals, e-books, e-databases, dissertations and theses and website portals are the main the sources of information.

Keywords: Information Seeking, Behaviour, Information Literacy, Information Needs, User Study, Bangalore University

1. INTRODUCTION

Information resources and its organization in libraries for the benefit of the user community on a range of variety of information needs as to the purpose is a normal and routine affair. As time and technology changes the resource may organized and relevance and usage of different formats has given due importance. Present online environment necessitated the libraries to have a hybrid collection on various subjects and also to make the access anytime anywhere with the use of technologies. Providing access to new resources frequently is warranted in higher academic institutions.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of literature is an important task of any research and information seeking and behavior of the faculty on the resources owned by the libraries has been reveled in the study. Savolainen, Reijo (2019) examined the connections between information sharing and seeking. The study is drawn by using 27 keys issues to examine the information sharing behavior. The study employed three approaches like indirect, sequential and interactive approach to test the relationship between information seeking and sharing to understand the holistic approach of the scholar. The study pioneers by providing an in-depth analysis of the connections of information seeking and information sharing. Howlader, Ahmadul Islam and Islam, Md Anwarul (2019) had investigated the information seeking behavior of the undergraduate students at Dhaka University,

Bangladesh. The primary data is collected through questionnaire and the response rate is 75.33%. The study finds that most of the undergraduate students required academic and information on placements. The study also reveals that the information skills of undergraduate students were very poor and they are not well aware about the library services. The outcome of the research helps libraries to develop the resources and services. Yaranal, Mahesh A. and Ramesha (2016) examined the various types of collections and services are being used by the users of the National Library and suggested measures to be taken to provide effective and efficient library services to the users of the library.

Mahesh, G. T. and Kumari, H. Adithya (2018) found that the distance learners are dependent on the public library for their study purpose and for borrowing of books. The researcher recommends that library instruction programme should be organized by the public libraries for distance learners that create the responsiveness and use of library and information services effectively. Mulla, K. R. (2011) studied the use of electronic resources by the faculty members of HKBK College of Engineering. They recommended to improve electronic resources and to provide training on skills to use electronic resource by the faculty members. Marouf, Laila and Anwar, Mumtaz A. (2010) studied the information-seeking behavior of the social sciences faculty at Kuwait University. The study finds that the respondents largely depend on books and journals for teaching. The respondents use formal sources than informal sources. Journals and books are the important sources to fulfill their information needs. Their satisfaction level with all the sources is positive but higher for journals and books. The level of satisfaction with informal sources is slightly higher than formal sources. Their library use is very low with complaints about the quality of staff, resources, especially in Arabic and access to international resources.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are as follows
1. To find out gender wise distribution of respondents
2. To find out the age wise distribution of respondents verses gender
3. To know the qualification of the respondents based on their gender
4. To explore the type of information resources required by the respondents
5. To determine the electronic resources used by the faculty members and scholars of the Bangalore University.

4. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The primary data has been collected from the faculty members and research scholars of the Bangalore University. The unstructured questionnaire was utilized as a tool for data collection. The collected data has been converted in excel sheets and the data has been analysed by using SPSS software package by applying statistical tools and percent analysis. The analysed data has been presented in below tables in numbers and descriptive method.

Table1: Gender wise distribution of respondents

Sl. No.	Gender	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Female	96	38.2	38.2
2	Male	155	61.8	100.0
	Total	251	100.0	

The table 1 shows that the gender wise distribution of respondents, 96 (38.2%) respondents are female and 155 (61.8%) respondents are males. The total number of questionnaires was distributed to faculty members and research scholars are 300 and the filled and returned questionnaires are 251 and the response rate is 83.66%.

The analyses reveal that males (61.8%) are dominated by female (38.2%) in responding to the questionnaires.
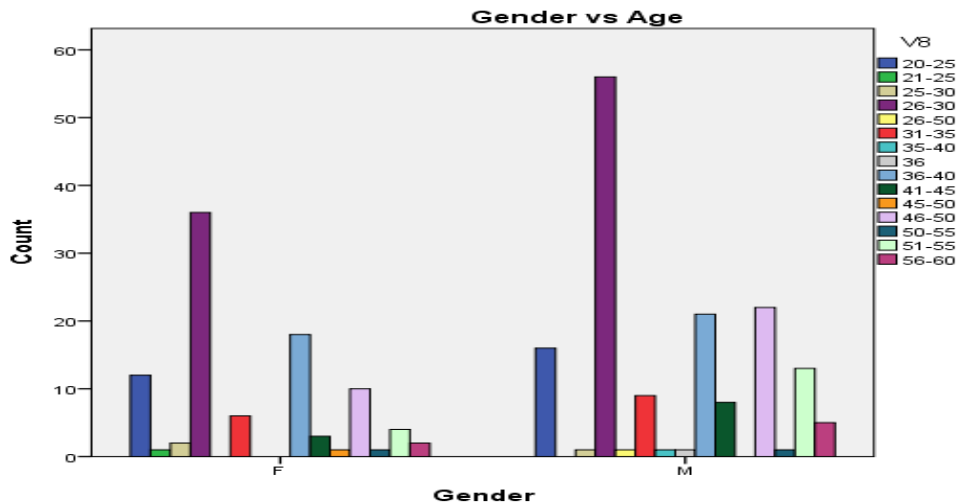
The table 2 depicts that, 93 (37.1%) of the respondents are in the age group of 26-30 years and most of them are the research scholars and assistant professors, 39 (15.5%) are in the age group of 36-40 years, 32 (12.7%) are in the age group of 46-50 years, the age groups of 36-55 are the experienced faculty of the Bangalore University and 17 (6.8%) are in the age group of 51-55 and they are senior and experienced faculty members of the Bangalore University.

The overall analysis shows that, 27.9% of respondents are experienced and are in the age group of 40-60 and these faculty members are in the cadre of Assistant, Associate and Professors.

Table2: Age Group of the respondents

		Age													Total
		20-25	21-25	25-30	26-30	26-50	31-35	35-40	36-40	41-45	45-50	46-50	50-55	51-55	56-60	
Gender	F	12	1	1	32	0	6	1	19	3	1	11	0	6	3	96
	M	16	0	2	61	1	9	0	20	8	0	21	2	11	4	155
Total		28	1	3	93	1	15	1	39	11	1	32	2	17	7	251

Graph 1: Gender wise distribution of respondents vs age wise distribution respondents

The table 3 shows that qualifications of the respondents, 122 (48.6%) respondents are qualified NET, 108 (43%) respondents are having Ph.D and 21 (8.4%) respondents are having only master's degree.

The table reveals that, all most all the faculty members (43%) are having Ph.D with Masters degree and NET or M.Phil and all the research scholars are having the NET with Masters Degree and NET is a qualified degree for doing research in their respective subject.

Table 3 Qualifications of the respondents vs Gender

		Qualification						Total
		B.Arch	M.E	M.S	M.Tech	NET	Ph.D	
Gender	F	0	6	0	1	49	40	96
	M	2	9	1	2	73	68	155
Total		2	15	1	3	122	108	251

The table and graph shows that male respondents are dominated with Ph.D (68) and NET (73) respondents and female with Ph.D (40) and NET (49) respondents.
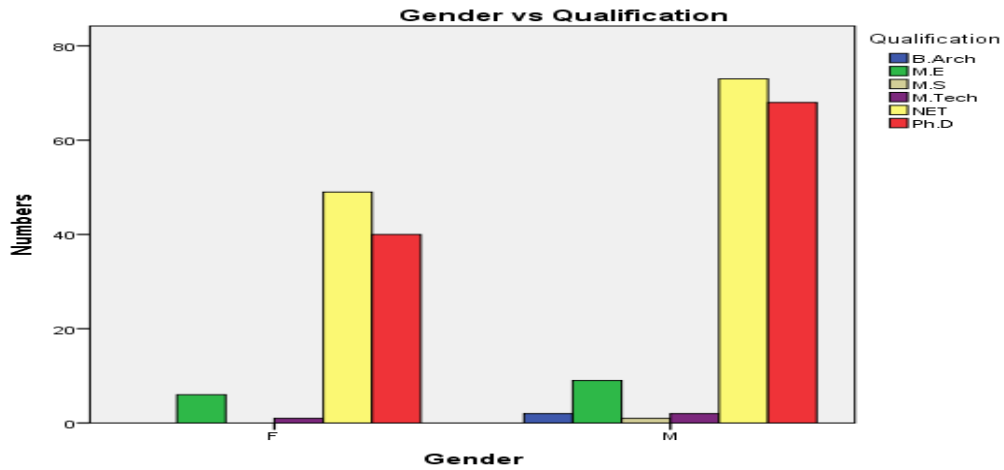
Graph 2: Gender VS Qualification

Table 4: Type of Information often required

Sl. No.	Type of Information	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Factual and Statistical Information	152	14.4	14.4
2	For administrative progress	176	16.7	31.1
3	For guiding research scholars	64	6.1	37.1
4	For special lectures and Academic activities	128	12.1	49.2
5	Information for preparing project proposals	144	13.6	62.9
6	Information for writing research articles	192	18.2	81.1
7	Procedural Information	104	9.8	90.9
8	Product Information	96	9.1	100.0
	Total	**1056**	**100.0**	

Table 4 reveals the type of information required by the respondents, 192 (18.2%) respondents opined that they need information for writing research articles. The respondents required information for writing research articles, all the research scholars need to publish research articles for awarding the Ph.D degree and the faculty members required to publish research articles for their promotion and also for their professional carrier development. 176 (16.7%) respondents used information for the administrative progress because the faculties use information for the development of the administrative system of the department as well as the

university system. 152 (14.4%) respondents uses the factual and statistical information to draw the facts and figures of their research and this information will be used for the nation progress.

The results revealed that, the information is used for writing research articles (18.2%), for administrative progress (16.7%), for facts and statistical use (14.4%), Information for preparing project proposals (13.6%) and for special lectures and academic activities (12.1%).
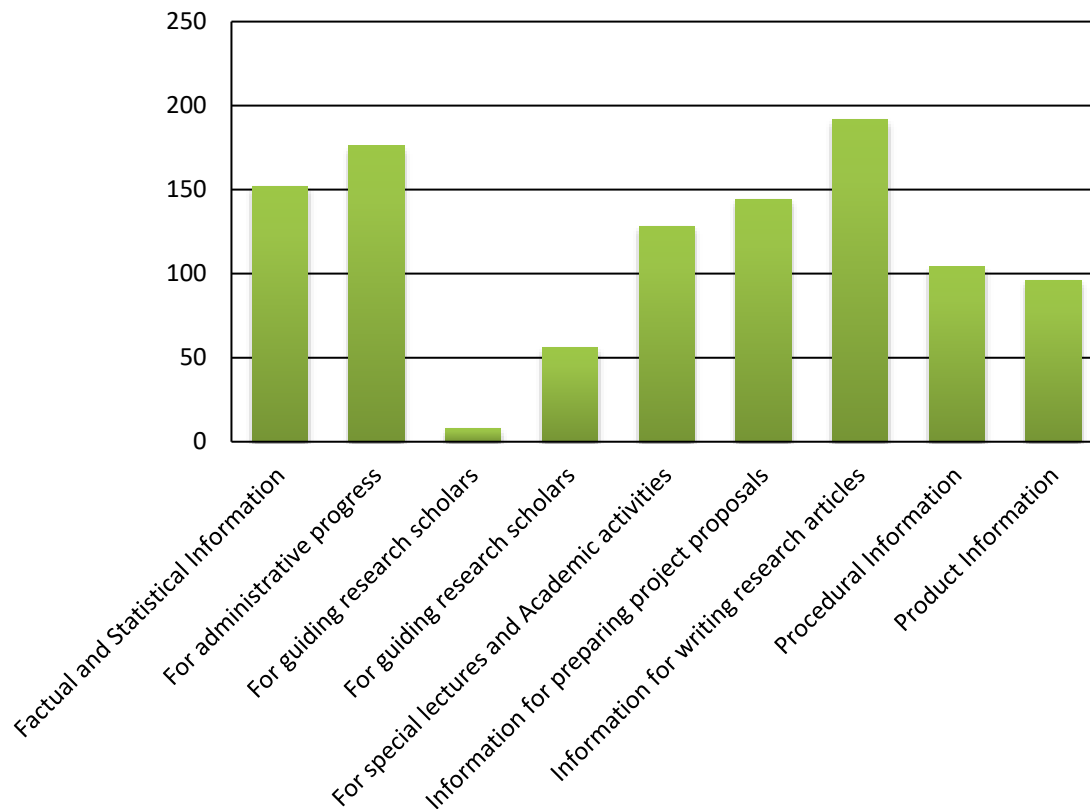
Graph 3: Type of information required by the respondents

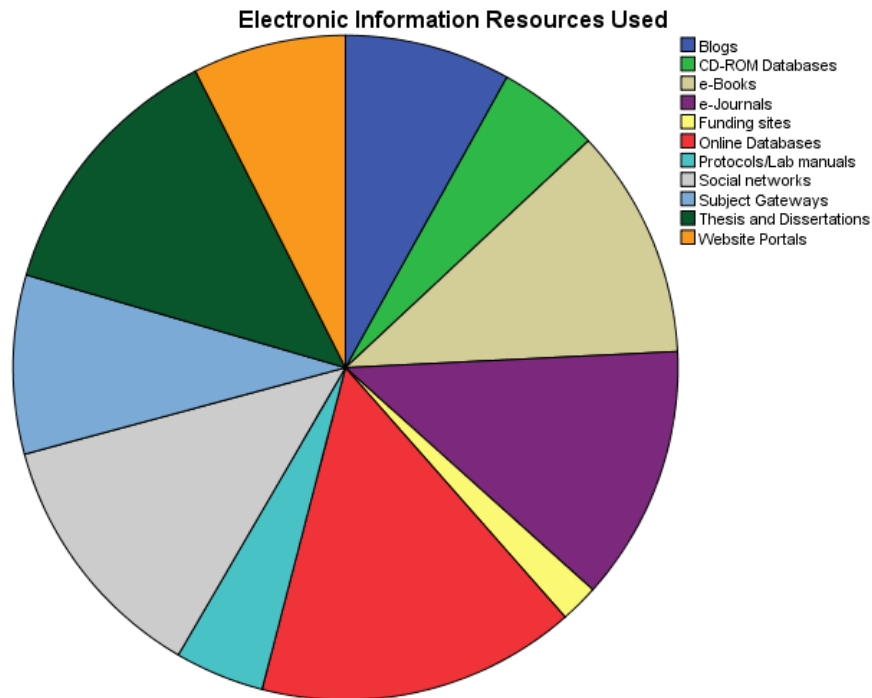

Table 5: Electronic Information Resources Used

Sl. No.	Electronic Information Resources Used	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Blogs	104	8.1	8.1
2	CD-ROM Databases	64	5.0	13.0
3	e-Books	144	11.2	24.2
4	e-Journals	160	12.4	36.6

5	Funding sites	24	1.9	38.5
6	Online Databases	200	15.5	54.0
7	Protocols/Lab manuals	56	4.3	58.4
8	Social networks	160	12.4	70.8
9	Subject Gateways	112	8.7	79.5
10	Thesis and Dissertations	168	13.0	92.5
11	Website Portals	96	7.5	100.0
	Total	**1288**	**100.0**	

Table 5 describes the electronic information resources used by the respondents, 200 (15.5%) respondents opined that online databases are the most used and favorable electronic information source. 168 (13%) respondents opined that they use thesis and dissertations, 160 (12.4%) respondents uses e-journals and social networks.

The table infers that, maximum respondents opined that the electronic information resources are required by them is online databases (15.5%), thesis and dissertations (13%), e-journals and social networks (12.4%) and e-books (11.2%).

Graph 4: Electronic Information Resources used by the respondents

Electronic Information Resources Used

Legend:
- Blogs
- CD-ROM Databases
- e-Books
- e-Journals
- Funding sites
- Online Databases
- Protocols/Lab manuals
- Social networks
- Subject Gateways
- Thesis and Dissertations
- Website Portals

5. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The study reveals that males (61.8%) are dominated by female (38.2%) in responding to the questionnaires. 27.9% of respondents are experienced and are in the age group of 40-60 and these faculty members are in the cadre of Assistant, Associate and Professors. All most all the faculty members (43%) are having Ph.D with Masters Degree and NET or M.Phil and all the research scholars are having the NET with Masters Degree and NET is a qualified degree for doing research in their respective subject. The information is used for writing research articles (18.2%), for administrative progress (16.7%), for facts and statistical use (14.4%), Information for preparing project proposals (13.6%) and for special lectures and academic activities (12.1%). Large numbers of respondents are opined that the electronic information resources are required by them is online databases (15.5%), thesis and dissertations (13%), e-journals and social networks (12.4%) and e-books (11.2%).

The study finds that the information required by the faculty members and research scholars are varies and they need information for writing research articles, for administrative works and for preparing project proposals. They are also in need electronic resources like e-books, e-journals and online databases for their academic and research activities.

6. REFERENCES

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