

Information Use Pattern and Resources of Public Library: A case Study

Dr Remy. S

Librarian, T.K.M.C.E, Kollam-691005

Abstract

Public library is an integral part of the community. It has the social obligation to serve the whole community. It is hoped that the findings of the study will certainly will help to improve the functioning and services of the library. In this study, the purpose is to investigate the information use pattern of Public Library, Kollam. Majority of respondents are satisfied with the availability of information sources. The results of the study also indicates that majority (50.51%) of the users are students.

Keywords: Information use pattern, Resources, Public Library, Kollam.

Introduction

Libraries play an important role in the society's communication, education and leisure. Public libraries meet the needs of all members of society, from children to senior citizens, and farmers to highest level officials and house wives to researchers. Public library is considered all over the world as a gateway to knowledge. It provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups. So public library is a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for fostering peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.

Public libraries provide access to information in a wide variety of formats. Library users can obtain information

from books, manuscripts, newspapers and online

Database. Many libraries now provide OPAC catalogues and digital library access. The users can utilize from their home. Most libraries also provide internet access and personal computers for general use by patrons.

As per the Public Library Legislation in Kerala 1989, a three-tier system is followed in the administration of libraries in Kerala viz, the State Library Council, District Library Councils and Taluk Library Councils. Some significant features of the Public library system are:

- State Government and Public support to Public Libraries.
- Non-bureaucratic monitoring system of Public Libraries.
- Vigorous role of non-government organizations.
- Prevalence of reading habit in all sections of the community
- Public Libraries are in the safe hands of literates.

Review of Literature

Sorakananda Rao, P and Chandraiah, I (2017) in a study examined the use pattern of information resources among the Chittoor district Central Library. It was found that majority of the users are students and are visiting for daily newspaper. Majority of the respondents are partially satisfied

with circulation services.

2	Non-Member of Library	63	64.94%
	Total	97	100%

Kavitha, E.S (2015) conducted a study on

information needs and use pattern of research scholars of Periyar University. The study used a survey design. Results showed that 56.0% of respondents were visiting the library daily. 51.8% were accessing the library 1-2 hours. Majority of the respondents always used the library for research purposes.

Objectives of the Study

- To find out the status, age, gender, occupation, frequency and reading hours used by the users in library.
- To find out the purpose of users visiting the library.
- To examine the user’s awareness of digital resources.

Methodology

Questionnaire was adopted as a tool for data collection. A total number of 118 questionnaires were distributed to users and 97 fully completed questionnaires were received. The collected data was analysed using simple percentage method.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data was analysed according to the objectives stated. Results are discussed under various headings.

Distribution of status wise Respondents

Table 1: Distribution of Status wise Respondents

Sl. No	Status wise Respondents	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Library users (Members)	34	35.05%

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents 64.94% are non-members of the library and 35.05% are library users/members. It can be concluded that majority of the respondents are non-members of library users.

Gender wise Analysis of Respondents

Table 2. Distribution of Users-Gender wise

Sl No:	Gender	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Male	70	72.16%
2	Female	27	27.83%

Table 2 shows that 72.16% of respondents are male and 27.83% of respondents are female.

Users opinion based on Age groups

Table 3. Opinions of Users age wise

Sl No:	Age group	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Below 20 years	08	8.24%
2	21-30	37	38.14%
3	31-40	33	34.02%
4	41-50	14	14.43%
5	Above 50 years	5	5.15%
	Total	97	100%

Table 3 shows that majority of the respondents belongs to the age of between 21-30, followed by 34.02% respondents in the age group of between 31-40, 14.43% of respondents between 41.50.

8.24% of respondents are below 20 years and 5.15% of respondents are above 50 years.

Occupation of the Respondents

Table 4. Occupation of the Respondents

Sl No:	Occupation	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Students	8	8.24%
2	Employees	19	19.58%
3	Farmers	49	50.51%
4	Business	15	15.46%
5	Others	6	6.18%

Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents i.e., 50.51% are students, 19.58% of respondents are employees, 15.46% of respondents are business people. 83.24% are farmers. Hence it can be concluded that high percentage respondents are students.

Frequency of Library visits

Table 5. Frequency of Library visits

Sl no:	Frequency	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Daily	10	10.30%
2	Once in a week	48	49.48%
3	Occasionally	31	31.95%
4	Once in a month	8	8.24%

Table 5 shows that 49.48% of respondents visit library once in a week, 31.95% of respondents visit occasionally and 10.30% of respondents visit library daily. 8.24% of respondents visit once in a month.

Reading Hours in Library

Table 6 Reading Hours in Library

Sl	Reading Hours	No: of	Percentage
no:		republish	(%)
1	One hours	35	36.08%
2	Two hours	26	26.08%
3	Three hours	23	23.71%
4	Three & above	13	13.40%

Sl	Purpose	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Read daily Newspaper	43	44.32%
2	Read Periodicals	11	11.34%
3	Borrowing of Books	14	14.43%
4	Reference Purpose	23	23.71%
5	Others	06	6.18%

Table 6 represents the highest i.e. 35 (36.08%) are reading one hour daily. The least percentage i.e. 13 (13.40%) of respondents are reading 3 hours and above in a day in the library.

Purpose of visiting Library

Table 7. Purpose of visiting Library

Sl No	Purpose	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Read daily Newspaper	43	44.32%
2	Read Periodicals	11	11.34%
3	Borrowing of Books	14	14.43%
4	Reference Purpose	23	23.71%
5	Others	06	6.18%

Table 7 shows that majority i.e. 44.32% of respondents are visiting for reading daily newspapers, while 23.71% are visiting library for reference purpose, 14.43% responded for visiting library for borrowing books, 11.34% of respondents visiting library for reading periodicals and 6.18% visit for other purposes. It may be concluded that majority are visiting library for reading newspapers.

Awareness of Digital Information Resources

Table 8: Awareness of Digital Information Resources

Sl No	Awareness	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	97	100%

2	No	00	0%
	Total	97	100%

Table 8 shows that all the respondents (100%) are aware of digital information resources.

Findings

- Majority of the respondents (64.94%) are non-members of the Library.
- Majority of the respondents (50.51%) are students.
- Majority of the respondents (36.08%) spent one hour time in Public Library.
- Majority of the respondents (49.48%) visit library once in a week.
- Majority of the respondents (44.32%) are visiting for reading daily newspapers.
- All the respondents are aware of Digital information resources.

Suggestions

- More computers with latest specifications should be installed.
- Electronic resources like audio visual materials, CD ROM collections have to be purchased.
- Wi-Fi facility should be provided for users.
- To request the Government for more funds.

Conclusion

Public Library is a dynamic institution providing access to all kinds of information to the general public, hence it is known as peoples university. Presently public libraries are used mainly as just reading rooms or time pass

centres and not seriously as libraries where people frequent them for quenching their intellectual curiosity for knowledge development. Libraries should act as agents of pertinent knowledge carriers and resource repositories to address the intellectual, social, professional and academic needs of all age groups of the public. So public libraries should be developed by providing adequate funds for modernise the public

libraries by the Government to develop the quality of services.

Reference

1. Laila T. Abraham, Role of Public Libraries in Non-Formal Education in Kerala. *KELPRO Bulletin*, 14 (2) (2010) 60-67.
2. Pradeepa Wijetunge, The Role of Public Libraries in the Expansion of Literacy and Lifelong Learning in Sri Lanka. *New Library World*, 101 (3) (2000) 104 - 111.
3. Ghosh, Maitrayee, The Public Library System in India: Challenges and Opportunities. *Library Review*, 54 (3) (2005) 180-192.
4. Kulasekaran, P, Public Libraries Department: An overview. Regional Seminar on Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 held at World University Centre, Chennai. (2006) 31-39.
5. S. Mohamed Esmail and V. Uma, "Use Pattern of Information Sources by Undergraduate Students of Engineering Faculty in Annamalai University", *Indian Journal of Information Library and Society (IJLIS)*, Vol.17, pp.17-26.
6. Gopalakrishnan S, Babu B Ramesh, Gopalakrishnan S (2007), Information Use Pattern by the 9999Academicians: A Case Study



of NIFT Centre in India. Vol.46 (2) pp. 63.80.

7. Maheswarappa B.S. "Information Use Pattern of Post Graduate Lady Students of Gulbarga University, Gulbarga" Annals of Library and Information Studies Vol. 48(3) (2001) pp. 93-106.