

USAGE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES BY MEDICAL STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS OF IIMSR, INTEGRAL UNIVERSITY LUCKNOW: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Information is very pivotal for students in their learning process and they dwell it into different sources to meet their information needs. The present study employed to gather data from medical students of IIMSR on the various types of information sources they use. The study results that print materials are the major information resource in comparison to other resources (E-resources) used by the medical students, who are daily users in the IIMSR library. Asking help from Teachers and Librarians ranked highest among sources contacted for information. Easy access and availability of information sources in the library were the most aided characteristics when looking for information. Student's objection in getting information resources includes lack of time, location of library and attitude of management. The findings of this study demands increasing of information sources beyond print resources, collaboration between faculties and librarian, periodic updates from the library and guidance in the area of information resources are recommended.

Key words: Information resources, Medical Students, Medical Library, E-Resources

INTRODUCTION

Libraries are responsible for acquiring, preserving and providing access to books, periodicals and other media of information. Knowledge expansion is depends on information. Students enrolled in institutions for the purpose of getting knowledge, which is rendered to them through different sources of information. The library is central source of information for students, that why every institution maintained an excellent stocked library. Usage of information is very important than their availability, because when information is used by students then it will transform into their knowledge and expertise. Appropriate use and processing within the mind combined with the already available knowledge of the user can lead to the synthesis of new knowledge. Information as a process which occurs in the mind when a problem is united with data that can help solves it. Information is part of a process of converting messages received into knowledge. Popoola (2008) stated that productivity in academia is linked to information richness. The richness goes beyond availability to usage and assimilation. The information sources available in any institution must be accessed thoroughly by the users. (1)

The essence of every information resources is in its use and impact on the patrons. This study intends to explore the use of Information Resources by Medical Students of IIMSR through the following questions: (2)

- How often Medical Students use the IIMSR Library?
- For what purpose do Medical Students use the library?
- What are the major information resources used by the medical students in IIMSR?
- What are the factors considered while using information resources?
- What are the major sources of searching for information used by the medical students?
- What are the challenges faced in the process of accessing information resources in Medical Library?
- What is their level of ease with the IIMSR library staff?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to examine the usage of library resources available in Integral Institute of the Medical Sciences and Research, Integral University, Lucknow. The main objective is to know the purpose of visit to the library, familiarity with Information resources availability and internet use, satisfaction and awareness library resources and factors that discourage students from using library resources. The result may help to the librarian to know the extent of degree of level of satisfaction and awareness about available resources and suggestions to improve the library services and their usage. (3)

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LITERATURE REVIEW

The library is the main nucleus of information resources. And with the advent of information technology, information may be now presented in various formats and sources. Library resources are great help for students to meet their information requirements. Textbooks and journals are the most popular sources of information for student course work. Regarding preferred resources of information, Print resources were highly used by nursing students with over 70% using print journals at least once a week Bartha (1995). Dee and Stanley(2005) stated that the choice of print journals has to do with ready availability, ease of access, and reliability of the information, compared to electronic journals which were not readily available Bartha (1995) also found that 73%of nursing students found nursing journals to be most useful. (4)

Research has shown that since mid-2010s medical professional's use of online information has increased exponentially. Verhey (1999)reports an underutilization of the available nursing literature with a reduction in textbook use. Pyne et.al.(1999) stated that there is minimal reliance on print journals while (Willinsky and Maggio 2011) found that 27% of the respondents used PubMed, but the most frequently used sources for health information was Google and Wikipedia. Dee and Stanley's (2005) work affirmed that most health care professional used the internet, particularly Google and Yahoo. According the authors students reported that they used medical research articles from quality database for college assignments. In the work of McCulley and Jones (2014), one of the two students interviewed commented, " I feel more at ease about accessing information and knowing that there is always someone(a librarian) I can ask whenever there is some confusion." (5)

Many studies has shown that medicos try to consult first human resources before turning to the library. For instance, Lathey and Hodge (2001) and Dee and Blazek (1993) found that due to time constraint, many health professionals prefer to obtain information from resources that are convenient, easy to use, and reliable. Connaway, Dickey and Radford.(2011) and Solomans and Spross,(2011)affirmed that convenience, in terms of access to and ease of use of resources and time, has a significant influence on where people seek information. Professional superiors, colleagues, and other health care providers, especially physicians, are favorite resources for medical information. (6)

Dealing with the issues of barriers to information searching methods, Miller et al. (2010) concluded in his study that lack of equipment, inability to access equipment, lack of time and inability to utilize

technology as key challenges. These results are compatible with those of Tanner et al.(2004) who noted that medics do not necessarily recognized the need to look beyond their immediate work environment for information resources; they use one another as the first source of professional information, and are limited by computer technology skills and accessible electronic information database, a 21st century digital divide. Spenceley, et al. also found that lack of competency in searching, inadequate computer technology skills, and lack of interest are individual challenges. Lack of time, combined with lack of library access and database or computer access are obstacles (Bertulis2008; Dee and Stanley 2005) (7)

METHODOLOGY

The targeted sample group was the medical students and faculty members of IIMSR to check their frequency and usage of library and information sources, their purpose of using the library and the factors considered in using information sources, what are the constraints and limitations to the use of library resources. Students and faculty members enrolled in Medical Faculty of IIMSR were included in this study. A total number of 300 questionnaires were distributed among group, out of which 243 responses were received.

Faculty members assisted in the administration of the questionnaire to achieve high response rate. The questionnaire was both type, paper based and online and it was electronically analyzed. (8)

ANALYSIS

The results were analyzed using frequency counts, tables and graphs. Table 1 describes the response rate by group of MBBS students, Physiotherapy students, and faculty members. Response rate of 81% shows across all three groups.

Table 2 shows that the majority of the population use the library daily(N=89,3.6%) or between two and 4 times a week (N=78,32.1).Meanwhile only 8 (3.2%) and 7 (2.9%)used the library monthly and occasionally respectively. The finding of the study shows that medical student use the library often.

Table 3 present the purpose of use of the library by respondents. The study depicts that to read the notes hit the top list with 189(77.8%) and it is followed by using the library for the purpose of doing their assignment with 165(167%) respondents. Some of the respondents also used the library to get information about case studies with 145 (59.7%) responses. While, 76(31.3%) respondent accepted that they visit the library in order to get relax. (9)

Table 1: Distribution of the respondent by category. (9)

Groups	No. of distributed Questionnaire	No. of returned	Response rate
Faculty Members IIMSR	100	70	77%
MBBS Students IIMSR	100	80	80%
Physiotherapy Students IIMSR	100	86	86%
Total Responses	300	243	81%

Table 2: Frequency of use of Library by response (9)

Times of Use	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	89	36.6
2-4 times a week	78	32.1
Once a week	50	20.6
Fortnightly	11	4.5
Once in a month	8	3.3
Occasionally	7	2.9
Total	243	100

Table 3: Purpose of using the library (multiple responses) (9)

Purpose of Use	Frequency	Percentage
To do self study	189	77.8
To complete assignments	165	67.9
To get information about case studied/interventions/patient diagnosis	145	59.7
To borrow Library Book	130	53.5
To prepare ahead for class	128	52.7
To use Past projects	112	46.1
To get information about scholarships/Grants/Jobs	108	44.4
To read newspapers/magazines	104	42.8
To socialized with friends	98	40.3
To do group discussion/tutorials	89	36.6
To relax	76	31.3

Table 4: Frequency and degree of use of information resources (multiple responses) (9)

S.No.	Information resources	Frequency used		Rarely Used	
		Frequency	percentage	Frequency	percentage
1.	Books	145	59.7	98	40.3
2.	Journals	104	42.8	139	57.2
3.	Dictionaries	117	48.1	126	50.6
4.	Newspapers/Magazines	108	44.4	135	53.9
5.	Internet resources	123	50.6	120	49.4
6.	Online data bases	120	49.4	123	50.6
7.	Medical Records/Case notes	96	39.5	147	60.5
8.	Manuals	88	36.6	154	63.4
9.	Online workshop/conferences	94	38.7	149	61.3
10.	Handbooks	86	35.4	157	64.6
11.	Reports	84	34.6	159	65.4
12.	Abstracts /Index	83	34.02	160	65.8
13.	Biographies	82	33.7	161	66.3
14.	CD-ROM Database	80	32.9	163	67.1

The above table illustrates the various information resources used by medical students and faculty members. The frequently used section combines responses of very high and high while rarely used combines responses of low and very low. Books 59.7% and journals 50.6% top the list of most frequently used resources. CD-ROM Databases 32.9% is the least frequently used resource. (10)

Table 5: Factors considered in using information resources

Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Ease of Access	214	88.1
Availability in the library	210	86.4
Availability of computer and Internet to access-resources	186	76.5
Up to date information sources	184	75.7
Colleagues comment/suggestions	165	67.9
Timings/duration require to access	130	53.5

Table 5 depicts the factors by respondents when using information resources. 214 (88.1%) respondents considered ease of access as the first factor to consider in using information resources. This was followed by 210(86.4%) and 186(76.5) respondent who considered availability of information resources and availability of computer and Internet to access e-resources as an important factor. (11)

Table 6: Respondents relationship with the library staff

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Very good	95	39.1
Good	78	32.1
Very poor	56	23.0
Poor	14	5.8
Total	243	100

Table 6 represents the level of satisfaction with the services of library staff and librarian. Table 7 shows that the relationship of the librarian and medical students are cordial. Pooling together very good and good, as well as very poor and poor, the results indicates that 173(71.2%) respondents have a good relationship with librarian and library staff. (12)

Table 7: Major sources of searching for information (multiple Choices)

Major Sources	Frequency	Percentage
Ask from colleague	178	73.3
Help from Library staff	170	70.0
Use library catalogue(OPAC)	168	69.1
Check for alternative material	152	62.6
abandon the search	124	51.0

Table 7 shows the major sources of searching used by the students and staff. Respondent frequently ask colleagues (73.3%). Asking library staff 170 (70%), or using the library catalogue 168(69.1%) rated almost similarly. 124 (51.0%) responded that they will abandon the search. (13)

Table 8: Challenges faced in accessing information sources

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of time	140	57.6
Location of the library is too far from hostel/Academic Block	168	69.1
Attitude library staff	52	21.4
Some of information sources are not relevant to my study	114	46.9
Information sources are difficult to access	112	46.1
Lack of training on how to effectively used the information resources	87	35.8
Little or no knowledge about availability of resources	98	40.3
The atmosphere is not conducive for studying	136	56.0
Lack of Internet access to access online information	86	35.4
Resources		

Table 8 shows that challenges most often faced in accessing information resources by the students and faculty members of IIMSR is location and distance of the medical library from the hostel and academic block as indicated by 168 (69.1%), followed by lack of time 140 (57.6). On the other hand lack of training on how to effectively use the information resources was not ranked as one of the greatest barrier 87 (35.8%) nor was lack of internet access to access online information resources 52 (21.4%). (14)

DISCUSSION

This study results that the most frequently used resources are books, journals. These are primary print materials and confirm what was said by Cogdill (2003), Berta(1995). Print material is highly used because in all three departments there is inadequate internet service for use in the departmental library, this is reflected in the 76.5% of respondents who rank internet access as one of the major factors when choosing which information resources to use because two of the department (Physiotherapy and nursing) are undergoing installation and /or renovation of their departmental library along with computerization. Frequent use of the internet 42.8% and online resources 42.0% corroborates the work of (Dee and Stanley, 2005).CD-ROM Database are the least frequently used because the format is becoming less popular and because of absence of adequate computers in two out of the three departments. Biographies followed the least used because they have no relevance to their professional work except for leisure time. Ease of access tops the list of reason measured in using a resource, as also found by Connaway, Dickey & Radford,2011;Solomons and Spross,2011), followed by availability of sources in the library. Duration of time required to locate material is rated high and this has also been discovered by others as they found medical students complain lack of time. (15)

The response on frequency of use of the library shows that 82% of medical students and faculty members of IIMSR are active users of the library, visiting daily indicates the importance of library to medical students. The level of relationship with the library staff is also quite high at 39.1%, indicating that the students and faculty members know the benefits in seeking assistance from the library staff. This coincidence with the findings of (McCully & Jones2014) but is different to the work of Dee and Stanley 2005) who found that medical students did not know that library staff could help them in locating information. The highest challenge reported by medical students and faculty members of the IIMSR is distance of the Library and location from their hostel and academic

block; this is consistent with other two works (Lathey and hodge2001). Lack of time is the next highest factor affecting use of library. The work shows the level of knowledge about the usage of the internet to access online information seems to be high among medical students, since most of the respondents belong to the new generation who are technology savvy opposing according to (Dee & Stanley2005) who identify lack of information access and computer as significant hindrance to use of information resources. (16)

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

From the above study following are some suggestions and recommendations:

- Medical students should explore more information resources available on the internet and should not rely only on print resources as online information resources are more up to date.
- Medical College library should provide different online or virtual platforms of access for the medical fraternity, so that the barriers of distance and lack of time in coming to library will be reduced.
- Medical students and faculty members of IIMSR should develop personal skill in searching information in library themselves because colleagues may not be fully aware about the best resources available in the library.
- Library orientation should be organized for the medical students in the library time to time.
- Medical students and faculty member needs to sharpen their searching skills in the library beyond asking for assistance from their colleagues and library staff. Also, other information beyond asking should be explored, particularly in moving beyond print resources as the major source of information. Administration should also provide necessary infrastructures for accessing information from the Internet coupled with location and distance of medical library for users, so the resources can be fully utilized by medicos. (17)

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