

The Usage of Library Resources among Undergraduate Students in S.E.S College, Kannur

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ABSTRACT

The study is about the usage of libraries among undergraduate students. In this study, simple random sampling is used. Total strength of 1125 students, from them a sample of 230 students was distributed and 180 responded. The study is about knowing the borrowing of library resources, usage of e-resources and social networking sites and the ratio of students visiting the library. Statistical analysis is used in this article. The findings are most of the students use libraries for using social networking sites. Some students are using the library for usage of photocopy service, scanning, and other services. Only less students are using library for their academic purposes. Online resources are available but majority are not using. Suggestions of this study is that students should be aware of library facilities. The curriculum should include the uses and facilities provided by the library in this digital era.

KEYWORDS: S.E.S College, Library, Services, Digital, Kannur University, Digital.

INTRODUCTION

A well-maintained and organized library gives the benefits of the universities and academic institutions by facilitating access to trustworthy information and scholarly resources. Most educational institutions maintain their own libraries to support their curriculum-based learning and teaching and are useful for research scholars. The libraries are more considered for the underprivileged students so that they also get educational materials and equitable access. The development of library services and facilities in this day and age has evolved into the integration of information technology, which has led to changes in information resource distribution, access, and library organization. A library's relevance and significance lie in its provision of verified knowledge sources that are carefully selected and methodically organized. In libraries, not only for books but also well-selected periodicals, journals and magazines that support continuous development in learning and academic areas are offered. Additionally, libraries offer readers access to numerous reference materials like encyclopedias, atlases and other

specialized materials, providing them to discover accurate and in-depth information on a wide range of topics. The modern library developed progressively alongside human society; it did not appear quickly. Libraries have been vital to the preservation and transfer of information from one generation to the other. The libraries are the earliest phase of human civilization; however, we never know the exact origin and location of the libraries. Library services as well as resources must adapt to the ever-changing needs and seeking out of information of their users. Academic libraries must be constantly identified, learn and create methods that successfully meet the requirements of the community. Conducting a user survey is important for identifying information needs and evaluating changes in information behavior and monitoring patron satisfaction with library services and resources. User satisfaction is the most crucial criterion for assessing the caliber and success of library services. Traditional libraries are currently facing significant challenges due to the fast growth of digital information. Traditional libraries must constantly update their holdings and implement new technology and services to meet the digital era. One way to find what users anticipate from the library and how satisfied they are with the materials and services is through the user survey.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

S.E.S College was established in 1981 and affiliated with Kannur University. The primary objective is advancing higher education opportunities for rural communities. The institution is uniquely situated on the top of the hill. [It](#) offers a very calm and healthy environment that supports academic interests and intellectual development. The natural environment creates a perfect learning atmosphere which promotes students' overall development and academic success. Physics, chemistry, maths, economics, English, BBA and Bcom are the undergraduate programmes offered by the college. The college offers a postgraduate course in journalism and mass communication in addition to the undergraduate programmes, reflecting its dedication to both basic and advanced education. Only undergraduate students are chosen as participants for the current study.

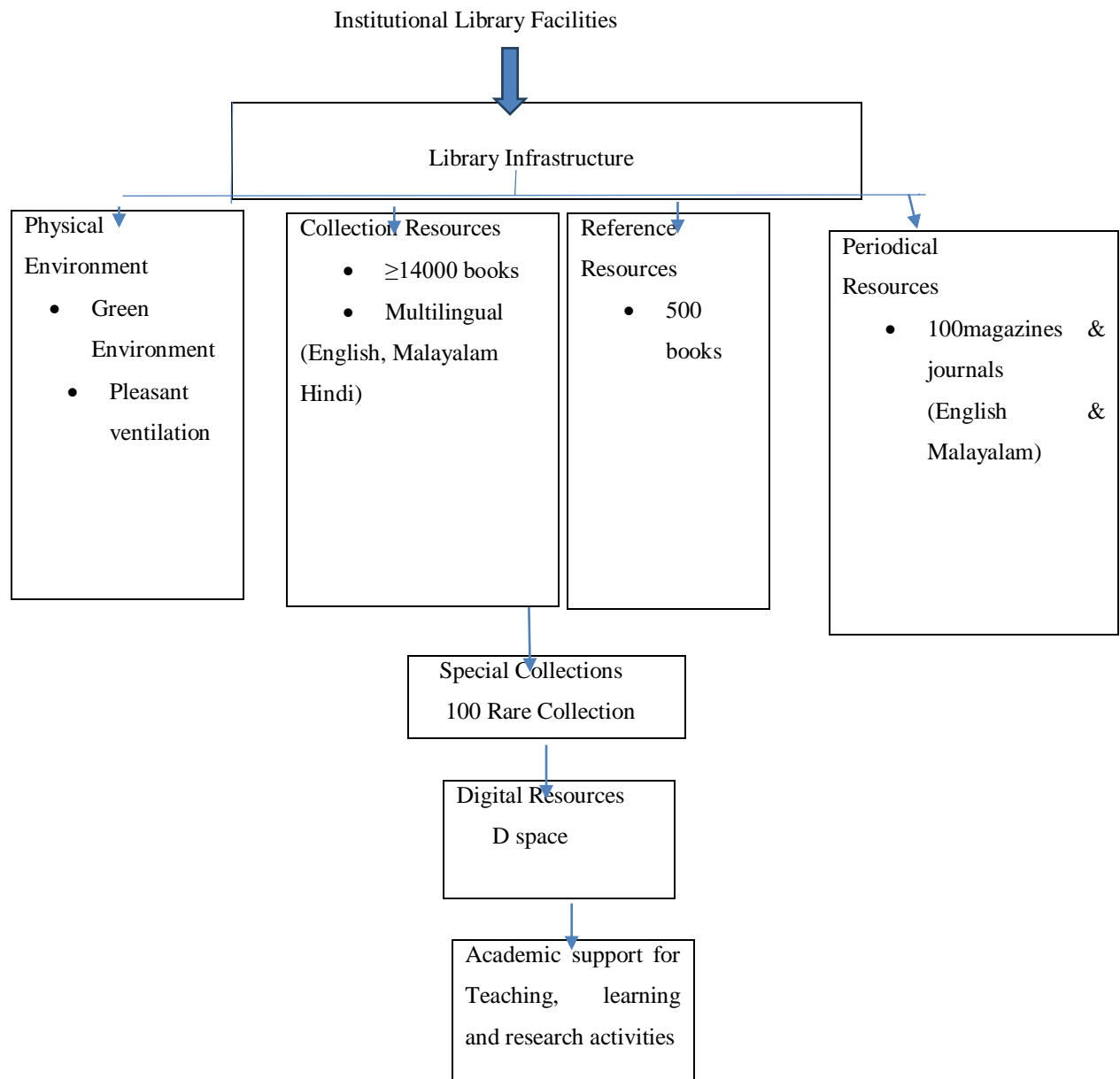
ABOUT LIBRARY

The college library has advanced infrastructure that efficiently promotes research and academic activities. It offers a green outdoor environment with adequate ventilation, making it convenient and ideal for learning and academic work. Over fourteen thousand books are available in the library and provided to students. The documents cover a variety of academic purposes. The languages covering are English, Malayalam and Hindi. More than five hundred books are available in the reference section. Additionally, the library has a rare collection of books – more than a hundred books with substantial and scholarly importance. Furthermore, one hundred journals and magazines are available in both Malayalam and English languages, enhancing access to current and relevant academic resources. Digital resources are also available in the library. Reprographic services and interlibrary loan services are also offered.

Digital Resources

Libraries are undergoing dramatic changes from print repositories to digital knowledge systems in the current information environment. Nowadays there is a trend growing of converting books, journals and magazines into electronic media like e-books, e-journals and e-zines. In the academic and scholarly groups the information is produced, stored, accessed and shared completely differently. Users can access scholarly content irrespective of their

location because of digital and virtual libraries, which make it easier for information to be distributed globally. Even from remote or underdeveloped regions, e-resources can easily be obtained through digital repositories and internet-based services. This increased accessibility supports the needs of students, researchers and educators around the world and helps to expand knowledge. The D space is providing for students. These are described in a diagram.



LITERATURE REVIEW

Gurumurthy, K. & Padmamma, S. (2023). Workflows and operations in libraries have been similarly impacted by the emerging ICT trend. A comprehensive review of the literature on using library resources and services is done in this paper. Reviews of published literature from 2010 to 2022 revealed that the use of library resources, including books, journals, theses, and databases, is growing more widespread in this technologically advanced era. Academic libraries are the primary source of information for researchers and teachers, so library resources have a big influence on their work. Most patrons depend on library resources, which also have a lifelong impact on their reading preferences. **Naik, L. & Kumar, Kishore S. (2019),** examined the usage, knowledge, and attitudes of library

services and facilities in Bangalore's first-grade college libraries. 295 students from the three colleges made up the sample population. The most popular things people do in the library are read textbooks (83.9%), newspapers (67.1%), and sources for projects or research (65.8%). **.Oriogu, C. D., Chukwuemeka, A. O. & Oriogu-Ogbuyi, D.C. (2018)**. The purpose of the study was to assess faculty awareness, which encompasses how staff and students at Afe Babalola University College perceive and utilize information resources and services. The survey method was used in the investigation. A random sample of one hundred academic staff members who utilized their college libraries was taken. The study was led by five research topics, and a standardized questionnaire was used to gather data. The results demonstrated that the majority of respondents did not use the library's electronic databases, CD-ROM databases, OPAC, e-books, or e-journals. The results also demonstrated that the kids were well aware of the library's information offerings. **Verma, M. K., & Lalrokhawma. (2018)**. Stated that "the degree to which the library is able to meet the demands of the user" is the definition of user satisfaction. As service-oriented organizations, libraries' primary goal was to satisfy users' information needs by offering pertinent information resources and services. Therefore, it is crucial to offer users dependable and pertinent information resources as well as high-quality services that will meet their needs. **Wanyonyi et al, (2018)** declared that libraries should constantly prioritise the requirements of their patrons, provide all necessary services under the appropriate sections and departments, gauge patron satisfaction, and have sufficient and high-quality print and electronic information resources. As a result, user happiness is a significant phenomenon, and it is crucial to comprehend user wants. **Illangarathne, S. K. (2017)** numerous previous studies have been carried out to assess user satisfaction, determine the factors that influence it, and determine user expectations. The efficiency, core people process, environment, user satisfaction, flexibility, and capacity of the library were the main criteria employed in the performance evaluation of the new framework that was suggested. The study discovered a strong correlation between library performance and patron satisfaction with services offered and service delivery efficiency.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ✓ Determine the purpose of use of library resources and services by undergraduates.
- ✓ Determine the maximum students using the library resources.
- ✓ Determine the frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates
- ✓ To know the barriers faced by students in accessing and using library facilities.

METHODOLOGY

In this study only S.E.S College under Kannur University is taken total 1125 students in various departments among undergraduate courses of Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, English, Economics, BBA, Bcom and one post-graduation course of mass communication and journalism. From these, undergraduate students of Arts are taken in this study. Simple random method is used. Total Sample of 230 students are distributed and 180 responded.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Data analysis an important stage in research where the collected data is examined, organized, and explained to answer of research. Here to know the usage of library, data is analyzed and output is examined.

The purpose of use of library resources and services by undergraduates

Table 1

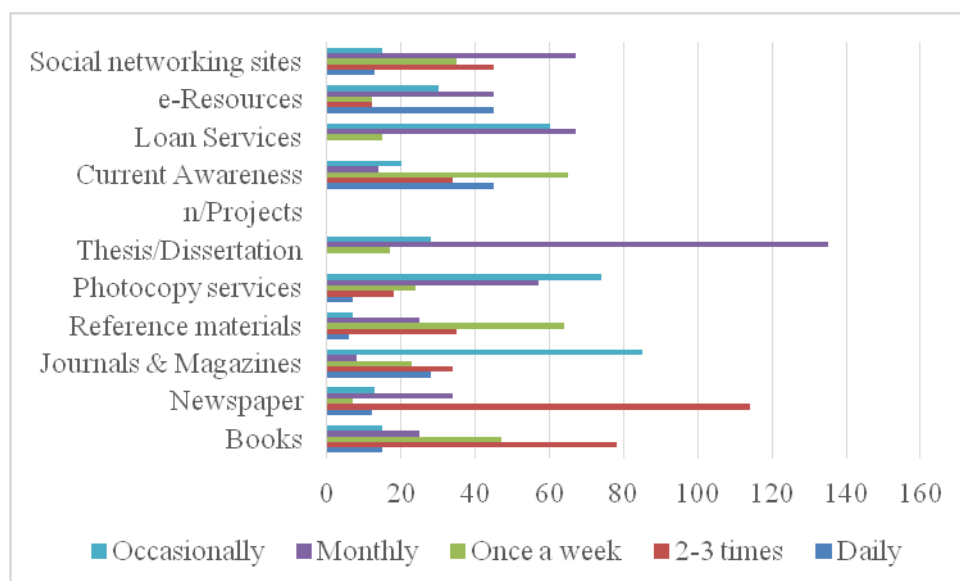
S No	Purpose	Number of Students	Total Percent
1	Borrow/return/renew books	136	37.56
2	To use social networking students	129	35.63
3	Get Information from both print and online resources	40	11.08
4	Read my lecture notes for test and examination	32	8.83
5	Study	25	6.90
Total		362	100

Table 1 reveals that most of the students are coming to the library for borrowing books for 37.5% are utilizing this facility. Second most is using social networking sites 35.63% of students are using. 11.08 percent are aware of online resources. Only 8.83 percent are coming for lecture notes and for preparing examinations. 8.83 percent students are studying from library for their examinations. Only 6.90 percent students come to library for studying. Almost all students are using the library, maximum 37 percent are coming for reading the books.

Frequency of use of Library resources and services by the undergraduates

Daily minimum of 15 students are reading books, minimum of 12 students reading newspaper regularly. 28 students reading magazines and journals. 25 percent students are using e resources and current awareness daily. 2-3 times a week majority students are utilizing the facilities of social networking sites, current awareness sites, newspaper reading. Least using is e resources weekly. Majority of all students are utilizing the library facilities once in a week most leading is current awareness 65 percent and using reference material is 64 percent. Dissertation and thesis are using monthly a percent of 135 students, social networking sites and loan services are active once in a month by 67 percent. Least is journals and magazines. 60 percent loan services are active occasionally only. 85 percent comes for reading magazines and journals occasionally, 65 percent are using occasionally loan services. Some of 38 percent students are not using loan services and e recourses. Few of not using social networking sites, newspaper reading.

Chart 1 Frequency of use of library resources and services by the undergraduates



Barriers faced by students in library

The major barrier is that there is only limited access to e-resources. Due to the lack of funds, no more subscriptions are possible for e-journals, e-books, and academic databases. In addition, the limited number of computers in the library restricts students' ability to access digital material effectively. Another problem is that many students lack the necessary skills to use e-resources and databases effectively. Furthermore, the students are facing difficulties in searching and retrieving relevant information from scholarly databases for effective utilization. Additionally, it is identified that many volumes are not updated to meet their curriculum and research requirements of students. These challenges affect the optimal use of library resources and services.

FINDINGS

Most of the students are using libraries for social networking sites, reading books and journals. Some students are using the library for usage of photocopy service, scanning, and other services. Libraries facility of loan services are more active. Only less students are using library for their academic purposes. Online resources are available but majority are not using. The main functions of libraries include providing a place for people to meet friends, obtain information, check out and return books, and read lecture notes for tests and exams. This finding implies that undergraduates continue to utilize the library's primary function, which is to study. However, the results regarding the location of use showed that undergraduates prefer to use the university main library, with very few using the library remotely. This implies that the university libraries might not have all the tools and materials required to allow undergraduates to access information within the library's domain from anywhere in the world. Limited access of e-resources and less number of computers availability is the main challenges facing by the students.

SUGGESTIONS

Academic libraries require improved technological infrastructure to effectively support students' learning and research activities. Increasing the number of computers available in libraries is essential to ensure equitable access to digital resources. In addition, high-speed internet connectivity is necessary to facilitate efficient access to online academic materials. Libraries should expand their collections of electronic resources, including e-journals and e-books, to meet the evolving information needs of students and researchers. Furthermore, training programs should be organized to enhance students' skills in using online resources for academic purposes. Special attention should also be given to educating users on the effective use of the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) for locating and retrieving library materials.

CONCLUSIONS

In this study majority of students are depends upon the library for their education activities. Most implementing services is loan services and photographic services. The majority of respondents would rather consult books and journals. As students progressed in their academic levels, they spent more time in the library, and older students spent more time there as well. The results showed that students spent more time reading their own books, lecture notes, magazines, and newspapers, even though the majority of respondents only spent one to four hours a day in the library. Based on their understanding of the library and its procedures, the students' answers were generally quite subpar; many of them were unable to use the basic retrieval tools. The majority of them confirmed that they were unaware that the library had reserved collections and were unable to use them.

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