

Information seeking behaviour of faculty members of Agricultural Universities in Karnataka: A review

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Abstract

The study includes information pertaining to the research methodology, population, sample, data collection and analysis. A comprehensive review of literature covering the period 2016 – 2004. Survey method will be employed to study of Information Seeking Behaviour of Faculty Members of Agricultural Universities in Karnataka. Questionnaire will be framed to collect the feedback from faculty members to meet the objectives of this study. Data collected will be subjected for statistical analysis to prove objectives and hypothesis. This article reviews the literature on the information seeking behaviour. The literature includes journal articles, reports, monographs etc., published inside and outside India, discussing about Information Seeking Behaviour, Agricultural University Libraries, Agricultural Scientists, Crops Research Scientists, Farmers in India, Public Libraries in Karnataka, ICT Environment and the problems faced by the users.

Introduction

The term 'literature review' implies a thorough and exhaustive examination of previous studies carried out and other published works in topic of research under investigation. The Review of literature presented here intends to endow the researcher with pertinent information as to formulate a sound research design and make legitimate decision regarding tools for the investigation in the process of the study. Literature review is normally conducted in order to identify what is already known and what remains to be exposed in the subject of interest. Since effective research is based upon past knowledge, literature review is considered to be a crucial stage for eliminating duplication of work that may have been done earlier as it provides a foundation for conceptual framework, insights into methods and procedures, suggests operational definitions to major concepts and also throws light on interpretations of findings. The present study has two main topics of investigation – the information seeking behaviour and the use of electronic and/or digital information resources in the context of agriculture college libraries. So before attempting to the review, a treatise on the subject is presented here so that the focus on review is well directed.

Literature reviews are important because they seek to summarize the literature that is available on any one topic. They make sense of a body of research and present an analysis of the available literature so that the reader does not have to access each individual research report included in the review. This is important because there is an increasing amount of literature available for any researcher on Library resources, services, Information Seeking Behaviour. The impacts of ICT environment, but library professionals, who cannot be expected to read and assimilate all the information on any one topic. Everyone, who works as a professional duly to be up-to-date with recent developments and ideas that are useful, it is also time consuming for

anyone to assimilate process and decide how to implement all this information.

The researcher has done an elaborative literature survey covering the period 2004 to 2016 by studying/referring primary, secondary and tertiary sources like leading library and information science journals, library and information science abstracts (LISA) and also going through content pages of latest journals. Following are the brief abstracts of the findings and opinions of the previous researcher/scholars listed chronologically in descending order from 2016-2004.

Chatterjee, Kousik and Dasgupta, Sabuj (2016): Agriculture is the backbone of Indian Economy. Farmers maintain their livelihood by selling crops, marketing these items in local market. Information Seeking Behaviour of farmers are considered for proper planning and policy making. Paper proposes to define information seeking behaviour, various aspects, and factors affecting information seeking process. It also describes Information seeking behaviour models by Wilson, Dervin, Elliss and others. Information demand, information needs are explained with the help of literature. Information Seeking behaviour of farmers are described on the basis of literature from 2010-2016 from Indian Perspective.

Shiva Krishna and Kumari, Adithya (2016): This study investigates the impact of information communication technology on information seeking behaviours of users in state Agricultural University libraries in Karnataka. For the present study a well structured questionnaire has been formulated and distributed among the students, research scholars and faculty members of Agricultural Universities in Karnataka in order to ascertain the impact of information communication technology on information seeking behaviours of users i.e. library membership,

time spent on ISB activities, problems faced while seeking information, purposes of seeking information, information seeking habits relevant to academic work, sources most convenient for information seeking, opinion about necessity of training for using electronic (ICT) resources, opinion about direct influence of ICT on study, teaching, research and extension activities, use of ICT based digital resources compare to traditional print resources. The outcome and suggestions of the study would be beneficial to take appropriate measures to improve ISB with the aid of ICT.

Bhattacharjee and Sinha, Manoj Kumar (2016): Information can be defined as a collection of facts organized in such a way that they have additional value beyond the value of the facts themselves. In simple word "information" can be defined as a processed data. Information, in the most restricted technical sense; it is an ordered sequence of symbols that can be interpreted as a message. This study aims to propose an overview of the various models and to find out how models are related to each other. These will serve the information community to illustrate that a number of factors which were responsible for, and contribute to, the different forms of sustainability of digital information services.

Current human information behaviour models do not take the matter of human multiple information task interaction phenomena. Such models are limited to explaining the process of information access and use while carrying out a single task. In 2007, Joint carried out a study to point out those past models of information ownership may not carry over to the age of digital information (Joint, 2007). Thus, this study gives a clear picture of the overview of the various models and shows how models are related to each other. This paper will serve the information community to illustrate that a number of factors to decide the responsibility, and contribution of the different forms of sustainability of digital information services.

Bilawar and Pujar (2016): The study investigates the impact of e-information literacy on information seeking behaviour of university teachers in the state of Maharashtra. Questionnaire method was used to collect data on information seeking behaviour of teachers. The study confirms that teachers are able to evaluate information critically and can classify/compare the information better after undergoing the e-information literacy programme. The paper concludes that e-information literacy empowers the university teachers to enhance e-information search skills effectively and independently for taking informed decisions.

Balaji and Srinivasa Ragavan (2016): The study reveals that information need and seeking information is a need of the hour and it facilitates the faculty members and research scholars to easy access to the

information. The library staff must assist the faculty members and research scholars in locating the information. The online information a system has to be improved, online journal; books and databases should be subscribed and provided for the use.

The findings of the study indicate that the information seeking behaviour of faculty and research scholars are varied. The large libraries will depend on the strength of the collections and available online resources to facilitate the easy access to the information. The library staff must aware how the faculty and research scholar will seek the information and their needs. The reference librarian should help the users in locating the information and their by help the faculty and scholars to improve the seeking behaviour and find the needs of the users of the library.

Nisha and Varghese, Rekha Rani (2016): This study investigate the information seeking efficiency of agricultural scientists working in the research institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Kerala. A structured questionnaire was distributed to explore the information seeking efficiency of agricultural scientists in the digital environment. Data collected were analyzed using the SPSS 21. The present study revealed that agricultural scientists are using simple search option than advanced search option to retrieve information from the digital sources.

Enamul Haque et al. (2016): This study will provide the results of information seeking behaviour of the faculty members and research scholars of Agricultural Universities in Bangladesh. Data has been collected for the study by using a set of questionnaire from three Agricultural Universities in Bangladesh. Results shows that most of respondents (Mean 3.06 and rank 1) stated their method of seeking information by discussion of library catalogue and consulting the experts in the field of related disciplines (rank-2), librarians / library staff (rank-3). Secondly most of the respondents seek information for current information, research and writing articles. Sixty four percent faculty members access more documents was references from periodicals and text books. All of the faculty members and research scholars read and write library materials in English and Bengali. Most of the respondents faced problems while them seeking information i.e. inadequate library resources and inadequate physical facilities etc.

Choudhury and Sarmah (2016) Purpose: The main purpose of the paper is to find out information seeking behaviour of the agricultural scientists working in the regional centres under ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani, and Meghalaya. Based on the results of the study, this paper will seek to identify the information needs, information seeking behaviour and also different types of constrains while accessing information by scientists of agriculture field.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A well designed questionnaire was distributed amongst the scientists as a data collection tool along with observations and informal interviews. Overall 79 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 56 questionnaires received back with response rate of (71%). First, they were asked to state their library visit pattern, next purpose of library visit, methods of seeking information and problems while accessing information from the library.

Findings: The study revealed that scientists used to visit not very often to their centre libraries. They mostly visit the library for consulting reference sources and certain extent for getting books issued and returned. It is also discovered that they seek information generally from other sources including their personnel collection and discussing with experts in their field and to some extent discussing with their colleagues outside the organisation. They were not satisfied with their library collections which are not adequate at all and it is also found that while seeking information they have to face different types of difficulties like lack of reading materials, non-cooperation from library staff etc. in their respective institutes. The study findings emphasized the needs to continue accessing and understanding their specific needs to find innovative solutions to gratify the agricultural community.

Originality/value: This study sincerely explores the information-seeking behaviour of scientists in agriculture regional centres under ICAR in northeast region. It also ascertains the realistic situation and the outcome which can be used for redesign the libraries including its sources and services to please the users in the agricultural field.

Tilahun, Enanu and Natarajan (2016): This paper is an outcome of the research study conducted by the authors on information seeking behaviour of undergraduate students of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine of Jimma University, Jimma. Data has been collected through a structured questionnaire that was distributed to randomly select 300 students, wherein 289 of them have responded. The collected data has been analyzed with the latest version of MS-Excel for appropriate statistical procedures. The study revealed that the awareness of the services provided by the library, the purpose and type of information the students were seeking, the accessing of internet facility and use of catalogue card with the satisfaction of the services provided. They are not satisfied with the reading hall and reference service. They also suggested to have more e-resources and more photocopiers for the serving the student community. LIS professionals should take initiative to introduce e-discovery tools for better searching the e-resources together.

Kaushik, Ajay (2016): Information has become the most important aspect of today's social development, as social development depends on the standard of living of

that particular society. The vital factor that affects research is information. The amount and type of information received would directly have its impact on the social development. The present study attempts to understand Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of faculty YMCA Faridabad (India). The study shows that teachers are least concerned with Government documents, dissertation/thesis and proceeding of conferences as source of information. Maximum Teachers (97.4%) are aware about the back volume of the journals. It is also found in the study that maximum teachers were satisfied with the Library collections. Maximum users used circulation service, reference service, computerized service and photo copying service. The present era is called the "Information era." Information has become the most important element for progress in society. To thrive in this modern era, one needs a variety of information, no matter how well versed one is in a field or profession. Psacharopoulos (1982) discusses the necessity of information in the present age. We can reorganize the educational system and redefine scientific research only with the help of information.

Chikkamanju and Kumbar, Mallinath (2015): This study was carried out at First Grade Colleges affiliated Tumkur University, Tumkur. Such as Arts, Commerce and Science College, Tumkur. The studies aim to examine the Information resources and services, facilities, Use of Internet, factors affecting the optimum utilization of N-List services, place of access, purpose of use, types of services, level of satisfaction, training/orientation program and preferred external storage medium for storing information resources downloaded via N-List Services. A stratified random sampling method was used. For this purpose the researchers prepared a well structured questionnaire, observation and interview schedule as a tool for data collection and same has been distributed, collected, analyzed and presented with useful percentage analysis and suitable table for presentation of data. Used SPSS software (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) data analysis and interpretation. The article summarizes the results highlighting the major findings and suggestions.

Kumar and Chandrashekara (2015): The purpose of this study is to identify the information conduit used by the first grade college library users, information sources preferred by them, process engaged for getting the needed information and their library use pattern. A well structured questionnaire was distributed to 40 library users of Government first grade college, Kushalnagar and 32 filled in questionnaires were received, giving an overall response rate of 80%. The study found that 56.25% of the respondents visit the library to update their subject knowledge and 50% of the users visit the library at least weekly once. It was observed that 75% of the respondent's access information in the college

library and 53.13% of them prefer print format as their preferred format of information. The study also found that 37.50% of the respondents opined that the major problem faced by them is the inadequate library infrastructure and other constraints opined by them are low internet speed, power failure, lack of time and lack of awareness of information sources.

Mahapatra (2015): This paper discusses the changing trend of information needs and information seeking behaviour of the agricultural scientists in Odisha. It attempts to depict the information needs in digital environment and how to cope with the situation. The study revealed that 44.44% of library visitors used to access electronic resources 'as and when required' followed by 25.96% access to those resources once in a week. Majority of scientists (76.54%) are satisfied with CAB Direct full text journals followed by Science Direct Full text with 76.54 % and the third category of preference is Springer Link full text journals having 48.14% of responses. It was found that CAB Abstract occupies the first position followed by AGRIS and AGRICOLA. CeRA is used only by 80.24% followed by Krishi Prabha with 22.22% of respondents. One of the crucial aspects of the investigation was to divulge the barriers faced by the scientific members in the ways of information seeking. It was noticed that lack of time is attributed to 80.24% of respondents followed by distance to library with 72.83%.

Bandi, Ishappa and Ramakrishnegowda, K.C. (2015): This is an attempt made to understand the information seeking pattern among the social science faculty in Mumbai University. A questionnaire designed and circulated personally and also posted to collect the required data for this research, 52 (84%) of social science faculty have responded by filling these questionnaires. Data analysis reveals that 51 (98%) respondents have the Computer operating skills, in which 43 (83%) have learnt computer operating skills by own/self method. Location of their internet usage is 100% at their home and 98% at their respective University Departments. Frequency of Internet usage is daily 47 (90%) and 38 (73%) are started using the internet since more than 5 years. Purpose of using internet was mainly for their academic purpose 51 (98%) followed by e-mail communication 50 (96%). All the respondents are using search engine 52 (100%) to search the information, Google is the most used search engine 51 (98%) followed by Yahoo 31 (60%). The primary difficulties while accessing the Internet are; slow internet speed 31 (60%), Access permission issues 22 (42%) then followed by difficulty in finding relevant information in internet 17 (33%). Among the Internet sources and services usage, email 49 (94%), e-journals 47 (90%), e-books 45 (87%). Accessible to Campus Wide Network is 52 (100%) at their Departments and only 18 (35%) at their respective

homes. Preference to the information sources is highest for Both the Print and Online resources 49(94%). Attending Conference/Workshops 52 (100%) and browsing Internet 52 (100%) were the preferred sources for seeking their information. Approximate time spent in a week in accessing the internet to gather the information was 22 (42%) more than 15 hrs.

Chikkamanju and Ramesha (2015): Adequate knowledge about the information seeking behaviour of users is vital for developing library collections, services and facilities to meet their information needs effectively. The purpose of this study is to identify the information sources used by the junior Lawyers of Mysore court. A questionnaire was distributed to 535 advocates of Mysore court and 470 filled in questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 87.85%. It was found that majority of the practitioners respondents (28.08%). The junior advocate respondents occupy the second position in their overall satisfaction on all legal information.

Sinha, Manoj Kumar (2015) Purposes of Study: Information needs and information seeking pattern of rural public library users are varied on account of their different requirements which might be due to the various demographic, social, cultural and economic factors. Identifying information needs is the first step towards satisfying the needs of library users. An information seeking process involves a number of further steps, including: identifying information sources, consulting the sources and accessing information. Information needs and information seeking behaviour is a kind of communication behaviour, which surely be influenced by many factors.

Objectives and Samples of the Study: This study has been carried out on public library users in order to know the basic information needs and status of information seeking pattern of public library users of Barak Valley, South Assam which comprises of varieties of public library users viz. students, teachers, farmers, business class people, women and elderly people etc. The respondents of the present study are mainly drawn from the rural areas of three districts of Barak Valley where the majority of the people are comparatively having lower level of educational background and they are generally less educated.

Methodology and Research Design: For that purpose, survey method has been adopted by the investigators using mainly schedule which is supplemented by observation and interviews in some cases. The self-designed schedule comprising of 22 questions has been distributed amongst the randomly selected samples. The schedules were distributed amongst the 300 samples, out of which 215 respondents have responded. During data analysis, it has been found that only 139 users are

valid respondents and participated mainly in the survey. So the major part of study reveals result of 139 respondents. The filled up schedules were collected from the respondents for data analysis and interpretations. On the basis of filled up schedule the data has been analysed and tabulated using MS-Excel Software. For data analysis percentage technique has been adopted.

Important Findings and Discussion: The survey finding reveals that majority of the respondents (47.0 %) belongs to the age group of 16-25 years. The study shows that the awareness about the rural/public library was more among the respondents and the highest numbers (34.53%) of the respondents visit public library once a week. It also highlights that most of the respondents (40.29%) prefer to spend at least one hour in the rural public library. The study also reveals the fact that the maximum demand for information from the respondents (88.44 %) were from employment related information. The Television channels (100.0 %) and Newspapers (98.56 %) are two important sources from where the majority of public library users (67.44%) get their desired information needs. Majority of the respondents (86.33 %) say that the information given by various sources are moderate. The study reveals that the majority of the respondents (82.73%) are very much satisfied with the information which are provided by the rural / public libraries available in their locality; and a substantial number of respondents (64.74 %) do not face any difficulties to access right information whereas very few respondents (32.25 %) are getting problems to access right information.

Acheampong, Lawrencia Donkor and Dzandu, Micheal (2015): The study investigated the information-seeking behaviour of crops research scientists in Ghana using the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Crops Research Institute (CSIR-CRI), Kumasi, Ghana as the case study. The study was aimed at ascertaining how the crop research scientists seek information in terms of what information sources they use, type, when, where and the purpose for which they use information as well as how they search for information. Wilson's Information Behaviour Model was adopted as the theoretical framework for the study. The researcher employed a questionnaire to collect data from 73 scientists of the Institute, while three (3) Library staff was interviewed on their approach to meeting the information needs of the scientists. The study revealed that the crop research scientists used information centres/libraries for research purposes and prefer to use journals articles (both print/electronic) but preferred electronic format to other types of materials. The study also revealed that scientists used scientific meetings as part of information sources. The study recommended that scientific information centres/libraries should subscribe to current

print/electronic journals and also train the crop research scientists in information searching and retrieval skills.

Motilal Gamit (2015): This research paper study is about in Agricultural University of Navsari. We are living in the information age. Information is an important national resource. The 21st century of knowledge and hence in information needs knowledge. Due to knowledge explosion and the advancement of ICT, the concept of library shifted from traditional to digital. Information- seeking behaviour differs among user groups. Agricultural University library must under stunt the information needs of faculty in order to address those needs. This study explores the information seeking behaviour of faculty and researchers in the Agricultural Universities of Navsari.

Patel, Urjita (2015): This study investigates the information seeking behaviour of the post graduate faculty members of the four Agricultural Universities named Anand Agriculture University (Anand), Junagadh Agriculture Univeristy, (Junagadh), Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agriculture University (Dantiwada), Navsari Agriculture University (Navsari) in Gujarat. Data was collected through structured questionnaires. The study investigates the information seeking behaviour of the faculty members and attempts to identify the resources used regularly to meet their informational needs, purpose of information seeking, use of information technology for seeking the information, problems faced by faculty members while seeking information. The research concludes that the internet is the best source for updating the knowledge and for information seeking. The study found that their purpose of information seeking was to keep up with latest development in the field and evolving innovative ideas/ techniques. Textbooks are the important resources for teaching and research papers & e-journals are important resources for research. It was also founded from study that information scattered at too many sources and too many classes or administrative work was a problem frequently faced by the respondents. According to the study majority of the respondents were affected by changing patterns of new syllabus.

Satyabati Devi and Dlamini (2014): University students constantly seek information to improve their study. The study sought to understand literature searching experiences and skills of the students of the faculty of Agriculture of the University of Swaziland (UNISWA), Swaziland, of Southern Africa. The purpose of the study was to determine their information requirements and also to determine their awareness of library services available to them. The study collected empirical data on the information requirement of Agricultural students. Data were collected from 165students from the faculty of Agriculture which has 7

academic departments including Agricultural and Bio Systems Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Management, Agricultural Education and Extension, Animal Science, Consumer Sciences, Crop Production and Horticulture. It gives an overview of the findings of the investigation, into the professional factors affecting information needs, information seeking behaviour, and library usage of Agricultural students. It also examines the role of new information environments in the information seeking process and makes recommendations based on the findings. Suggestions related to the future research topics and for the teaching professional development of higher education were presented at the end.

The following studies could be carried out to build onto this study for further improvement of services to meet information needs of the Agricultural student.

- The impact of instruction on the use of library resources and services on Agricultural student performance in their studies.
- Understanding the student formal and informal means of learning about the services the library provides, and the use of its services and resources.

These suggested studies could provide more valuable data which could help in the improvement of awareness programmes which is carried out by the library professionals in the use of the library resources and services.

Lal Payare (2014): Information seeking behaviour is the purposive seeking of information as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal. In the course of seeking, the individual may interact with manual information systems such as a newspaper or a library, or with computer-based systems such as the Web. The study is explored the graduate students information seeking behaviour and their use of information to support their process of inquiry and scholarly activities. While evaluating the library and information services at the disposal of graduates, In this study an attempt has been made to cover all the aspects of library services such as library hours, collection personal's organization of library collection, physical conditions, circulation and reader's services and to know, how the students are seeking information and enhance their skill to get information in the changing scenario?

Sarkhel, Juran Krishna and Khan, Milan (2014): Information seeking is an impressive challenge and it is one of a substantial issue for Information Science. This study was undertaken to determine the information seeking behaviour and library use by faculty members at the Agricultural University in Bangladesh. The overall purpose of the study was to determine what their information requirements and also determine their purpose of library services available for them in the library. The study collected data on the information requirements of faculty members. Data were gathered

from 600 faculty members out of 905 through open and closed questionnaire. Findings indicate that guidance in the use of library resources and services are necessary to help them meet some of their information requirements. Finding also their seeking problems, using searching tools and level of satisfaction overall resources and services.

Oduntan (2014): Transaction log analysis was conducted on the University of Strathclyde library search engine (Supreme) to provide insight into the usage patterns, query characteristics and search patterns on the information retrieval system in a holistic academic context with the goal of identifying areas of improvement for the system. The research revealed that Supreme usage increased during exam period, users' queries were short and users' generally employed key terms search. It was discovered that relationship exists between the query length and results. Furthermore query length, system problem and content organisation were discovered as the causes of query failure; thus leading to functional, technical and operational recommendations to improve Supreme to better support users' information seeking behaviour and presenting a foundation for future research.

Singh, Jaswant et al. (2014): The study was conducted in Ludhiana district to know the information seeking and information sharing behaviour of vegetable growers and to determine the relationship of socio-personal characteristics of vegetable growers with their information seeking and information sharing behaviour. The data were collected by selecting 80 vegetable growers randomly. Findings of the study revealed that about one third of the respondents (33.75%) and nearly one fourth of the respondents (23.75%) had medium and high overall information seeking behaviour, respectively. Private dealers, friends, Kisan Mela and PAU scientists were emerged as the main sources of seeking information. The weed control, plant protection, recommended varieties and fertilizer applications were the major areas for seeking information regarding vegetable cultivation. Most of the respondents shared information with neighbours, friends, relatives and mode of sharing was verbal as stated by 100 per cent of the respondents. Nearly one third of the respondents possessed medium and high overall information sharing behaviour. The plant protection, weed control, marketing, seed treatment and recommended varieties were the main aspects to share the information. Education, operational land holding, land under vegetable cultivation, income, social participation, scientific orientation and mass media exposure were positively and significantly correlated with information seeking behaviour. Age, social participation and cosmopolitans were positively and significantly correlated with information sharing behaviour. Thus it is suggested that farmers should seek

information from reliable sources. They should be motivated to share the information among the other farmers who are engaged in vegetable cultivation.

Lewis, Felcy and Mallaiah (2014): Information is an essential commodity for study, teaching and research. Libraries in engineering institutions play a crucial role in fulfilling the information needs of users. A study on the use of information resources by the students, faculty members and research scholars in the engineering college libraries of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts was undertaken during August 2013. Questionnaire was used as the data collection tool. The responses on awareness and satisfaction level on various library resources were gathered using Likert's 5 point scale. The responses were analysed using two way ANOVA, Tukey HSD, Factor analysis and Fisher's exact test. The analysis showed that respondents do experience inadequacy of information resources in their college libraries. The hypothesis formulated in this connection was proved by the study. Results showed that there were significant differences in the satisfaction level of information resources among the respondents of various categories. There is need to evaluate the library resources, facilities and services regularly to meet the changing needs of the users.

Choudhury and Sarmah (2014): Understanding about the information needs and seeking behaviour of agricultural scientists could play a vital role in gathering their information needs efficiently. Libraries can use this knowledge for reorienting their collections and facilities to adapt them to the needs of the scientific community. The main purpose of the study is to examine different facets of information seeking behaviour, and specifically the information needs and seeking behaviour of agricultural scientists of ICAR Institutes of Meghalaya, use pattern and also different types of constraints faced by them. A survey method along with random sampling technique was used for the study. A well designed questionnaire was used as a data collection tool along with observations and informal interviews. Some of 68 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 65 questionnaires received with response rate of (95.6%). Findings indicate that guidance in the use of library resources and services and mainly updating the Institutes libraries is necessary to help agricultural science information needs and seeking behaviour of agricultural scientists of ICAR institutes in Meghalaya.

In this study 65 agricultural scientists were surveyed of ICAR Institutes of Meghalaya. This study indicates that majority of agricultural scientists used to visit their Central Institutes Library once a month while some of respondents never visit the library and not a single respondent visit the library on daily basis. The main purpose of their visiting the library is for consulting the reference books, getting books issued

and returned; reading journals and also for updating their knowledge but very less respondents visits the library for using e-resource, preparing research etc. Library collections of their institutes found to be mostly not adequate at all but some of them found it partially adequate but nobody found the collection fully adequate. It is also found that most of the agricultural scientists facing problems like lack of reading materials in the library, lack of time, lack of accessing information, others like internet, access of journals etc.

Naganna, N. and Kumbar, Mallinath (2014): Information usage studies are like part of library professionals from twentieth century to identify the effective usage of information resources available in their libraries. This study investigates the information use pattern by the students of Agricultural Science Colleges in Karnataka. A well structured questionnaire has been formulated and distributed among the students of Agricultural Colleges in Karnataka in order to ascertain the information use pattern i.e. purpose of visit to the library, purpose of use of information sources, access and use of e-journals, preferred file formats, databases use pattern and role of library in promoting information resources. The findings of the study would put light on the important data and insight into the current state of practices of students and their understanding about information use pattern. The outcome and suggestions of the study would be beneficial for them to take appropriate measures to improve their information use pattern.

Kumar, Anil et al. (2014): The present study has been undertaken to assess the Information Seeking Behaviour by the Research scholars & Faculty members: A survey study of Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra in the disciplines of Life Science. A well structured questionnaire was distributed among the research-scholars and teachers of seven departments viz Botany, Bio-Chemistry, Biotechnology, Zoology, Microbiology, Home Science and Institute of Environment Studies under the Life Science in K.U.K. The responses were gathered from 121 users (50 Teachers and 71 Research Scholars). The findings of the survey reveal useful facts about the Information Seeking Behaviour by Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra. 28.92% of the respondents were always use the information by the library daily, and same 28.92% sometimes with the requirement of information by the subject of interest. In fact 22.31% of the respondents were always uses the information weekly, 3.30% sometimes with the statement. Only 16.52% of the respondents were always uses the information twice in a week. On the basis of the findings, it was suggested that in order to improve the speed of Internet should be increased and the respondents can speedily access the information and utilize the information by the important work i.e. research work, education work, writing

paper/presenting paper, administrative work, entertainment and also their download relevant materials. So provide better provision for the library should organized training programme for the information professionals so that they can know about different search interface, latest changes of the journals site and develop sophisticated searching and retrieval skills or techniques. Most of respondents were suggested that Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra should take necessary steps to utilize the library must take improve the internet, and aware the students about E-Journals & E-resources available in INFLIBNET.

Kumari, Sonia et al. (2013): The present study attempts to understand about Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Teachers of NIT, Kurukshetra. Total 142 questionnaires were distributed among the teachers out of them 114 Teachers responded back. Maximum teachers visited the library to issue books, used periodicals, journals and reference material for different purposes but their frequency of visit vastly varies while maximum of them (53.5%) never used audio-visual material as a source of information. The study shows that teachers are least concerned with Government documents, dissertation/thesis and proceeding of conferences as source of information. Maximum Teachers (97.4%) are aware about the back volume of the journals. It is also found in the study that maximum teachers were satisfied with the Library collections. Maximum users used circulation service, reference service, computerized service and photo copying service.

Prabha, Kumud (2013): Libraries and information systems are designed and built with the primary objective of meeting the information needs of a group of people who constitute their clientele. In the past, information systems and services were developed based more on 'literary warrant' rather than 'users warrant'. In fact, the key to the aims, directions and contents of any and all information activities is the users.

There are several kinds of conclusion to be drawn from this: first, it is clear that in the early part of the period, the studies were essentially system studies, rather than person-centred studies. Not only that; they lacked any common theoretical underpinning and were predominantly descriptive. They used different methods, different scales for describing behaviour and relatively crude forms of statistical analysis. Consequently, very little of lasting interest can be found in them. This is not to say that descriptive, system studies are necessarily useless - several ideas for possible studies come to mind, which would compare the situations then and now:

- Given the extent to which the university library studies found that the public library was a source of supply when materials were not available in the university library, what has been the effect on

undergraduates of the past fifteen years of reduced public spending on both university and public library systems?

- In the same context, how has undergraduate book-buying changed over the same period, and what strategies are teachers using to help students overcome the problems of supply?
- So far as university researchers in all fields are considered, what means have they found to gain access to the literature, when so many journals have been cancelled, and what role is electronic communication with fellow researchers playing?
- What would a study of the major public reference libraries now reveal, compared with the other studies?

Kumar, Ashish (2013): In this study an attempt is made to investigate the Information Need and Information Seeking Behaviour of Social Science Researchers of M.B.P.G. College, Haldwani, Uttarakhand. The survey was conducted of the research scholars to know the answer of questions such as collections of library, overall effectiveness of the library, organization of the material, services of the library, use of internet, search engines, information resources, need of information, purpose of information etc. A questionnaire was circulated to 98 research scholars and 80 filled-in questionnaires were returned. The Library is the most preferred place for 50 % users who daily visit the library for their research related need, whereas subject expert and librarian is the most preferred informal information source, 90 % Research Scholars use internet and only 10% are not aware of the benefit of the internet. Interestingly, 60% user agreed that e-journals are the best source of information but interestingly majority of the users (70%) feel that electronic for miss not convenient. There are good percentages of users (50%) who are satisfied with the services of the library but others wish for improvements. The study recommends orientation programmes for research scholar to make awareness of e-resource and better utilization of the library services; it is also recommended that library should join some consortium for more resources and services.

Dzandu and Henry Boateng (2013): This study seeks to unravel the challenges students encounter when seeking for information with emphasis on the search process for effective information search activities. Survey data was collected from 190 postgraduate students in University of Ghana. The study revealed that not all the students adhered strictly to Wilson's 8-step information search process all the time and as a result one out of three of the students were never satisfied with their information searches. Satisfaction with search results was significantly tied to adherence to the search process ($r=0.200$, $p<0.05$), the person who conducted the search ($F=26.3$, $df=8$, $p<0.05$) but not the

level of use of the library system. The academic environment mostly influenced the information needs of the students and yet their search efforts were challenged mostly by constraints within the university environmental particularly inadequate technological infrastructure. The study concludes that the use of Wilson's information search process leads to satisfaction with search outputs. Recommendations have been made to enhance information search activities of students and information seekers in general.

Pareek and Rana, Madan (2013): This study was undertaken to determine the information seeking behaviour and library use by research scholars at the Banasthali University. The overall purpose of the study was to determine what their information requirements and also determine their awareness of library services available to them. The study collected data on the information requirements of researchers. Data were gathered from 100 researchers out of 150 through open and closed questionnaire. Findings indicate that guidance in the use of library resources and services is necessary to help researchers meet some of their information requirements.

In this study 100 research scholars were surveyed of Banasthali University. This study investigates that IT based library services are being less utilized compared with print sources by the research scholars. Researchers use a variety of information sources for their research. Books and e-journals are considered mostly. Researchers perceived the Banasthali University Central Library play a effective role in meeting their research needs, they also prefer to consult research guide and library first. It was also noted that there was little awareness of e-resources available in library, less use of document delivery services.

Nikam and Manjunatha (2013): This study attempts to investigate the impact of information technology on the information seeking behaviour of scientists of Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute (CSRTI), Mysore, India. In this study questionnaire method was used for data collection. A total of 110 questionnaires were distributed to the Sericulture Scientists of CSRTI and 105 filled-in questionnaires were returned with an overall response rate of 95.45%. The findings show that highest numbers of scientists have awareness on using computer and its facilities for storing and retrieving information. The print copy of journal articles is given prime preference by most of the scientists. Effect of electronic dissemination of information on information gathering habit of scientists is very different compared to what it was in the last five years. Use of e-resources has very high impact on gathering and use of information and hence, the scientists find it very easy to use the information in their field. Nearly 72.4% of scientists spend 30 minute

to 1 hour with in a day for searching information without taking anybody's assistance. Abstracting and indexing services are highly preferred library products and 67.62% of scientists are satisfied with the present library services at 75% level.

Oluwafemi, Emmanuel Sunday et al. (2013): The study evaluates how the graduate students behave towards seeking knowledge they need for academic activities in the institution. The study used exploratory qualitative research design. The population of the study was the graduates of University of Agriculture Abeokuta (UNAAB) for 2010/2011 session. An in-depth semi structured interview was explored to examine their information seeking behaviour. The study revealed that inaccessibility and ease of use were the major factors affecting the choice of information resources by the students and that the influences of people like lecturers and lead scholars in the institution shape and reshape the approach of students to information seeking behaviour. It was also observed that e-journals, agricultural CDROMs, handbooks and reference materials were the important sources of information to these students. However, lack of time, unawareness, information overload and epileptic power supply were the challenges hindering their information seeking. The study concluded that the information seeking behaviour of these students was more organized than being random and the use of internet do not improve the information use skills of the students. Thus, it was suggested that librarians should trigger their ability to validate sources of information that the students utilized to improve their relevancy, and they should train the lead scholars that the students consulted when they need information.

Sarasvathy et al. (2013): A Library is said to be effective and to develop its collections, services and facilities to meet the information needs of its users only if there is vital role of users' information need and information seeking behaviour. The purpose of the study is to identify the information channels, information sources and the user's skill level in library use and computing I T based sources and facilities. 1500 questionnaires were distributed in the month of November and December 2013 to all students irrespective of disciplines and 1350 (90%) filled questionnaire were received in return. Though the library said to be effective, it was found that books were ranked 1st as information sources and personal collections were first consulted as first as information channel.

Kumar and Tholkappian (2013): Information seeking behaviour is the human activities with respect to searching various sources, channels including use of that information. The terms, information seeking behaviour, information searching behaviour and

information using behaviour are synonymous terms. A survey was taken among Information seeking behaviour of women's educational institutions library users in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu.

The successful operation of any library depends to a large extent on the choice of library collections. The choice of the collection is supposed to meet the need and requirements of the patrons. As a result, librarians should be aware of how the library users seek information, the problems they faced while seeking information or information scattered in too many sources, materials unavailable, and lack of time, etc.

Manikandan et al. (2013): This study examines the impact of information technology on information seeking behaviours of users of selected stated university of Tamil Nadu. A questionnaire was prepared and distribute among the faculty, research scholar students of the sample universities the result of the study provides the information about the respondents opinion recording their information gathering habits, usefulness of training programme, ICT facilities in their library and made of obtaining journal articles for their study and research.

Kumar, Parveen (2013): This paper reports the results of a study of the information seeking behaviour of faculty members of BPS Women University. Data were collected by using a questionnaire. Google.com was used for searching information by respondents. The majority of respondents faced the common problem while seeking information, that is, unavailability of information. Significant findings are reported with the biggest changes because of increased utilisation of electronic methods for searching, sharing, and storing scholarly content, as well as for utilising library services.

More investment is recommended in infrastructure, equipment and staff training so that the faculty members may get sufficient facilities. The rise of social networking sites has undoubtedly influenced the information seeking behaviours of faculty members. New tools such as, Google Books, open access archives and repositories are also likely to change the ways that researchers access and use technology.

Thanuskodi (2012): Adequate knowledge about the information needs and seeking behaviour of users is vital for developing library collections, services and facilities to meet their information needs effectively. The purpose of this study is to identify the information channels used by the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University faculty members, information sources preferred by them, methods employed for getting the needed information and their library use pattern. A questionnaire was distributed to 20 Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University faculty members and 18 filled in questionnaires were returned, giving an overall

response rate of 90 percent. It was found that respondents used various sources for acquiring the needed information. Books were ranked as the most important source for teaching and research purposes, followed by law reports and statutes. Respondents preferred to first consult their personal collection before resorting to other information providing sources and agencies. The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and CD-ROM were the most frequently used IT-based sources and facilities. E-mail was the most popular among the Internet-based services and applications. On the whole, respondents perceived Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University library collections, services and facilities as adequate to meet their information needs effectively.

Natarajan (2012) Purpose: The study reports the most important aspects of Information seeking behaviour of the students, for whom the library and information centres are being maintained. It deals with the libraries of management institutions in National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi. A detailed questionnaire has been circulated and the data analyzed in relation to the availability of information services, the frequency of visits to the library, the gender wise distribution of questionnaire, the nature and type of information required, the major information services used, the purpose of information seeking and the level of satisfaction. **Methodology:** Questionnaire is used to collect the data from the students using libraries of management institutions. **Findings:** It is found that most of the students use the library daily and the resources are utilized effectively. Internet is used as the major source of information. The respondents are satisfied with the library facilities and services. Future implications: The study can be further extended to larger number of library users from different management institutions of the country. Social implications: It acts as a guide to the library professionals to educate the users even in digital environment. The types of collection may be increased from local to national and international level in all subjects and as per the discipline. **Keywords:** Information seeking behaviour, e-journals, OPAC, management institutions, information needs. **Paper Type:** Survey cum Research

Narayanamma and Narasimham (2012): Library is considered as the heart of any institution or organization, especially in academic institution. The all round development of the institution or organization depends on the library. Therefore, the college library should have a good collection of all types of information sources according to the requirements of the users. At the college level, library is the main source of information which can really help in building up a bright future for the students. Besides having a good collection, the library should also be able to provide the

students with other facilities like internet etc, from which they can access plenty of information for their academic and research activities

Frequency of Visit to the Library The respondents from science groups visiting the library reported low, when compared to arts & commerce. The students of science subjects have to spend reasonable time in laboratories. Therefore these students get a little time in any working day to use library sources. It is found that there is a scope to improve the visits to the Library by the respondents. The library managements should initiate such measures which encourages the user to visit the library regularly.

Purpose of Visit to the Library Most of the Respondents visit the library for borrowing class books and text books. There is no significant difference between Science and Arts & Commerce groups.

Documents usually read in the Library The usage of periodicals is reported low. To improve the use of periodicals by users the library should initiate necessary steps. More than 80% of respondents read books in the library, a promising feature and the usage of periodical literature by arts and commerce is far ahead compared to Science groups. But the usage of periodical by users is to be improved on priority basis.

Awareness of Information services in the Library The awareness on reference service is reported to be more in Science group, but the Bibliography and Reprographic service is not up to the mark. The Bibliographic services are useful for preparation of assignments, Projects etc. Hence the conducting awareness program, on bibliographic services to help the users to use the available literature in library.

Opinion on Importance of journal articles for Academic purpose About 86% of respondents felt the necessity of articles in periodicals for academic purpose. It indicates that the number of users using the available information in periodicals to fulfil their academic pursuits, a note worthy feature. Most of the respondents expressed their satisfaction towards the collection available in library. Still there is scope for librarian to develop the collection in a balanced way, keeping the interest of users in mind, Further the users are asked to express their opinion on various types of collection. The users gave good response to text books and reference books.

Balasubramanian and Ramasamy (2012) the purpose of this study is to investigate the information needs, seeking behaviour, purpose of seeking information and barriers met during seeking information by the faculty members working in private engineering colleges in and around Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The questionnaire was distributed randomly those who are working in private engineering colleges. Among 600 faculty members 504 respondents responded. Analysis showed that majority of the faculty members prefer World Wide

Web as main source for accessing of information. 201 faculties visited the library once in a week. Just 19.25% of respondents spend more than half an hour time in the library. 312 respondents depended on the World Wide Web as the main sources for various information. majority of the staff i.e. 478 respondents seeking information for preparing class notes. 409 respondents are having membership in special library. The faculty faced the common problem while seeking information i.e. unavailability of resources and information overload on gathering information from World Wide Web.

Jayaraman et al. (2011) Information is an essence of research. Agricultural University Libraries play an important role in providing information to the users. The users seek for information in different patterns. In the present study, the authors have made an attempt to know the information seeking patterns of the Under Graduate Students, Post Graduate Students and Ph.D. Scholars in Agriculture and Faculty Members of various Agricultural College Libraries of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Tamil Nadu. The questionnaire method was adopted to collect data. About 80% responses have been received. The study identified various modes of literature search, purpose of visit, type of information gathered, frequency of library visit and time spent in the library. The chi-square test was applied to find out the significant relationship on the opinion of the users among the colleges. The result shows that there is significant difference among the users of different colleges of TNAU in the preference of various channels of Agricultural information, modes of literature search, purpose of visit to the library and time spent in the library.

Satish Kumar et al. (2011) Analyzes the information needs and information seeking behaviour of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) scientists working in nine life science laboratories in India. Data collected from 443 scientists employing structured questionnaire were analyzed using the latest version Σ -PLOT. Results revealed that DRDO life science scientists depend greatly on their respective library/information centres. Scientific journals have been ranked at the top for obtaining specific information and keeping up-to-date. Concludes that the working culture of the individual requiring information, the importance placed on getting it, the facilities available for seeking it, the knowledge about these facilities, the judgement of their value and the probability of getting what is wanted affects information seeking behaviour.

Kumar, Devendra (2010) the paper focuses on the analytical study of information-seeking behaviour among agricultural scientists in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, India. Their preferences regarding various formats of

information sources (formal, informal and electronic information sources) have been explored through quantitative survey. This study employed a structured questionnaire which was distributed to scientists in various teaching and research departments of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, as selected for the study.

Biradar et al. (2009) Survey of 101 (84.16%) students belonging to agriculture Science College, Shivamogga to study the frequency, purpose of visit to the library and the usefulness of agriculture science periodicals reveals that 77.22% of respondents visit library every day. About 88% students visit library to read journals and magazines followed by visits to borrow books (87.12%). It was found that a large number of users use books followed by periodicals. As far as usefulness of periodicals is concerned users opined that The Indian Journal of Agriculture Science (62.92%) and Karnataka Journal of Agriculture Science (60.67%) are the most useful journals. Concludes that emphasis needs to be given for subscribing online periodicals through e-consortia.

Fathima, Nishat and Ahmad, Naved (2008) Study of data collected from 60 students by administering questionnaires on their information seeking behaviour at Ajmal Khan Tibbiya college, AMU, indicates that guidance in the use of library resources and services is necessary to help students meet their information requirements. Finds that textbooks and journals are the most popular sources of information for the students course work.

Singh and Satija (2007) this paper is an outcome of the research study conducted by the authors on information seeking behaviour of agricultural scientists working in ICAR institutions of Delhi and Punjab agricultural university, Ludhiana. Data has been collected through the structured questionnaire and analyzed with the help of latest version of MS-Excel for appropriate statistical procedures for the description (i.e., frequencies, percentage, means and standard deviations etc). Study discusses the findings of various strategies and procedures adopted by the agriculture scientists in meeting their information requirements. The agriculture scientists were asked to rank the information sources in on the basis of I, II and III in the order of priority. The survey result shows that agriculture scientists have expressed great dependence in meeting their information requirements on their institutional library/information centre. The library/information centre is the most preferred source (72.05%) of the respondents for all categories of agriculture scientists. On the other hand for accessing information, agriculture scientists highly depend on the library collection, followed by the personal collection, collection of their supervisor and of their colleagues.

Satija and Singh (2006) Information seeking behaviour is an essential component in designing and developing of need based information centres for meeting the information requirements of users. The study undertaken is an output of doctorate research in the field of agricultural sciences scanned in Indian context. The study covers various facets of information seeking behaviour of agricultural scientists and their conceptual meanings. It includes about forty researches undertaken by Indian researchers in the field of agriculture and its allied areas. The findings of the studies are grouped into information needs; user's characteristics; information seeking; and information seeking behaviour.

Patitungkho, Kingkaew and Deshpande, Neela J. (2005) this article reports the results of a study of the information seeking behaviour of faculty members of Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok, Thailand. Data were collected by using a questionnaire from seven faculties in Rajabhat Universities. Results show that most of respondents (forty one percent) stated their method of seeking information by consulting a knowledgeable person in the field. Two hundred and thirteen respondents (82 percent) seek information for preparing lectures. Fifty-four percent of faculty members access more documents as references from a book. It is revealed that most of the faculty members (57 percent) used textbooks. Seventy four percent of respondents read information materials in Thai and twenty four percent read materials in English. The Internet had been almost universally adopted; they trace materials from the library via the Internet. Google.com was used for searching information by respondents. They use frequently e-mail for communication. It is found that 42 percent of respondents use the ERIC (Education Resources Information Centre) database. The majority of respondents faced the common problem while seeking information i.e. unavailability of information.

Gammanpila and Yapa (2004) A survey was carried out to ascertain information needs and information seeking behaviour of the users of libraries participating in the AGRINET. A mailed questionnaire with structured and open-ended questions was used as the research instrument. The results revealed that agricultural scientists in Sri Lanka were actively engaged in research work Teaching/training, management/administration, and extension were the other main functions they Performed Their primary areas of research interests were entered on their fields of specialization. Plant protection, plant breeding and plant sciences were their main subject specialization. The main purposes of seeking information by agricultural scientists were to support research work in progress and to keep pace with the latest developments in their fields of interests. The main current awareness

and search techniques used to learn about new publications were literature searching, SDI service, library indexes and acquisition lists of the libraries. Due to lack of facilities to access Internet it was considered as the least important current awareness service. The agricultural scientists in Sri Lanka were heavily dependent on formal sources compared to informal sources. The formal sources such as; periodicals/journals, abstracting and indexing journals and books are still popular among agricultural scientists as sources of information in all three approaches; to keep up with current developments, for specific search and for comprehensive search. The major problem faced by agricultural scientists in seeking information was the inadequacy of information sources in their libraries. Incompleteness of journal periodicals, Outdateness of books and journals, non-availability of important bibliographic and reference tools were considered major shortcomings of these libraries. The results also revealed that newly introduced information sources such as CD-ROM databases, databases on disk, online databases had been popular among agricultural scientists in the country. Of these three information media, 43.8% of respondents had used CD-ROM databases followed by 22.8%, databases on disk and 13.3%, online databases. The results indicated that the AGRINET services had not been totally used by its users and they were unaware of the important services provided by the AGRINET, the sole network of agricultural libraries in Sri Lanka.

Karunarathne Studying the information-seeking behaviour of users is very important for librarians and information services providers while planning and designing information services for their clientele. Information-seeking patterns can vary according to the user's educational background, subject disciplines, psychological environment, personal relations in the library and the setting of the library. Demand for information in the field of management studies has increased due to the improvement of managerial participation in both government-sector and private-sector industries. A number of universities have established separate departments for conducting courses on Management Studies and the libraries of these universities too have given emphasis to providing the information required in the field of Management Studies. In this context, this study explores the nature of the information-seeking behaviour of users who are engaged in teaching and learning management disciplines in the universities of Sri Lanka. The findings made in this study reveal that the resource collections in the university libraries are not qualitatively and quantitatively adequate to fulfil the demands experienced in Management Studies. IT-related facilities and document delivery facilities should be developed while improving awareness programmes for users.

Considering the above factors, the university libraries have to design and implement more comprehensive resource collections and facilitate the users with new ICT-related information services. The content of the resource collection should be covered with fully structured resources rather than semi-structured resources. Awareness programmes should be designed and implemented to encourage the users in exploring their information through self search.

Conclusion

The studies undertaken by the researchers in different parts of the world in various aspects has shown us many clues about the users varied categories. The studies in the traditional context reveal on the use of the library and its resources. Researchers and teachers mainly depended on primary sources and students and also teachers depended more on textbooks. The library has been the main source of access to information in the general study of information seeking behaviour of the users. The studies on use of catalogue and use of classification systems have been rare even though there are separate studies available on catalogue use studies.

The advent of electronic and digital information resources has primarily changed the seeking pattern from browse and access to search, browse and access. The CD-ROM databases were the first change in this paradigm. Then came online information retrieval services that amounted to extensive and systematic search formulation and retrieve the resulted document references. The Internet and World Wide Web besides search involved interactions and browsing preceded by search but the search became rather random and not structured like in the age of online or CD-ROM era. So the studies on the use, access, use pattern, information seeking behaviour, and study of the existing system, behaviour model, etc., use of different methods and techniques in the browsing. The studies have been of scientists, technologies and social scientists and also more on the academic community and academic libraries. So the studies are found to be one of important group of users on whom many studies have been conducted to analyze their information seeking behaviour in different information environment. Studies of the social scientists concerning their behaviour in the digital information environment can be considered as an emerging area of study in the field of Library and Information Science. Since recent past, as the review shows, researchers are found to give more emphasis on this area taking into consideration of different user groups.

The review of literature reveals that a number of studies have been conducted on information needs and information seeking behaviour of users belonging to various subject groups and various levels such as faculty, research scholars and students. However, there is no systematic study reported on the information

needs and information seeking pattern by the faculty members of agricultural universities in Karnataka (India). Covering all the 6 agricultural universities of Karnataka and all the disciplines coming under agricultural sciences namely veterinary science, dairy science, fisheries and horticultural sciences.

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