

Contribution of library professionals from Vidarbha in the publication on library and information science

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ABSTRACT

Information is the product of the human brain in action. It may be abstract or concrete. When an individual begins to think, a variety of images and sensations flash across his mind. This makes some information to accumulate in his mind and his memory retains some pieces of knowledge. However, in Webster's Third New International Dictionary the meaning of the term 'information' is given as "the communication or reception of knowledge or intelligence; something obtained or received through information; the process by which the form of an object of knowledge is impressed upon the apprehending mind so as to bring about the status of knowing." Information is a metaphorical designation for an amorphous mass of ill-defined different activities and phenomena. Further, he thinks "information as the name of some stuff. This substance is squeezed from books like water from sponge and can be stored and pumped around"

INTRODUCTION

Library professionals act as mediator between the generator of information and users of it. Selection, collection, organization and finally dissemination of the required information to the needy users without wasting their valuable time are the basic responsibilities of the library professionals. Librarianship is a profession and it is necessary for the members of any profession to involve in different activities of professional development such as keeping abreast of the latest development in the profession by reading professional literature; participating in seminars, conferences, workshops and contributing to professional knowledge in the form of books, articles, theses etc. in order to become successful practitioners and thereby raising the status of the profession in the society. The extent of involvement in the professional development activities reveals their professional zeal and interest in the profession. Therefore, apart from the basic responsibilities mentioned earlier to be shouldered by the library

professionals to develop the library, they are equally involved in the generation of information.

Library and Information Science are one of the fast developing subjects in the universe. The information generated on this subject is published in various forms of documents. It means that the library professionals have shown keen interest in the publication of information besides the dissemination of it.

Growth of LIS schools, fast research activities, modernization in the traditional librarianship are some of the reasons behind the explosion of information in library and information science field.

In the present study, the attempt has been made to analyse the work done by the library professionals from Vidarbha in terms of publication of information on library and information science. Vidarbha is divided into eleven districts, which are grouped into two divisions for the purposes of revenue collection. These divisions are Amravati and Nagpur.

Objectives:

The following objectives were set up for the study.

- To identify the library professionals from Vidarbha, who have contributed their thoughts on library and information Science in the form of the documentary sources.
- To identify the most productive authors amongst the library professionals in Vidarbha.
- To examine the relation between the experience and information generated by the professionals.
- To study the impact of gender on the generation of information.
- To find out the geographical impact on the generation of information.

METHODS

The contribution of library professionals from Vidarbha, in terms of publication of information in the field of library and information science was studied. Basically, the study is based on the primary data, collected through the selected available documentary sources *i.e.* books, journals and conference proceedings published in library and information sciences, as well as, directly from the library professionals through well structured and designed questionnaire. Through the available documentary sources, 217 library professionals were identified who have been contributed their thoughts in the form of publications.

The well structured questionnaire was distributed amongst the 217 library professionals along with the list of their individual contributions. Every contributor was requested to send the bibliographical details of the contribution made by him which is not being given in the list attached with the questionnaire. Through this process, the additional information

of the identified contributors was acquired. The bio-data of the contributors received through the questionnaire helped to achieve the third objective of the study. Sufficient time was given to the respondents to furnish the information. 217 respondents gave response to the questionnaires.

Moreover, the specially structured gradation system for information generation by the library professionals was designed, which is based on the points per publications suggested in the 'UGC Regulation No. F.3-1/2009 dated 30th June 2010 for minimum qualifications for appointment and other service conditions of University and College Teachers, Librarians, Director of Physical Education and Sports for the maintenance of standards in higher education and revision of pay scales' under Table VII in category III titled 'Research and Academic Contributions' This self-structured gradation system is named as, 'Information Generation Indicator' (IGI). The points are given in the ranges from 0.5 to 4 to each category of publication. These points are given in Table A.

The data collected through these processes is analyzed and presented in tabular as well as in graphical forms to come to the conclusion. In order to achieve the last three objectives given above, Chi- square test was applied.

Hypothesis :

Based on the aforementioned objectives, the following hypotheses have been drafted.

- Library professionals from Vidarbha are more interested to contribute the publication individually rather jointly.
- Experience and geographical factor affects the generation of information.
- Gender factor is infusing the research publications of

Table A : Information generation indicators

Sr. No	Sources of contribution	Point assigned to	
		First author	Co-author
1.	Book		
	Text Book	2.5	2
	Reference Book	3	2.5
2.	Journal		
	Foreign Journals	4	3.5
	Indian Journal Published from out of Maharashtra	3.5	3
	State Journal	1.5	1
3.	Research papers in conference proceedings		
	International conference	2	1.5
	National conference	1.5	1
	State conference	1	0.5
	Regional conference	0.5	0.5
4.	Articles in composite book	0.5	0.5
5.	Thesis	4	

the library professionals. Both men and women library professionals are not equally good at information generation. Men library professionals are more productive in the form of information generation than women library professionals

Limitations:

During the work, while collecting the required data from various sources, the researcher has come across the various barriers. Most of the barriers were overcome by the researchers. In spite of that some limitations are still there that should be mentioned here. As mentioned earlier the researchers has identified 217 LIS professionals who have contributed their views on library field in various documentary sources under study.

In many identified documents, the addresses of the contributors were not being given. Still the attempt has been made to search it from various available sources. However, through these sources, the addresses of 262 LIS professionals could be searched. In remaining, 55 cases due to following reasons, the bibliographical details of additional publication, if any, could not be collected to achieve the third and fifth objectives of the study.

- Some contributors are not alive these days. Therefore detail information like experience of such professionals could not be collected.

- In few cases the addresses of the contributors were changed because of their superannuation or due to shifting to another organization.

Moreover, in few cases it was observed that at the time of contribution the authors were students of any LIS department.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Amravati region comprises of five districts *viz.*, Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Washim and Yeotmal, 93 LIS professionals were identified who have contributed their ideas in 274 literatures. Amongst 93 LIS professionals, it is evident that 71 were male and 22 were female. It is further revealed that from 274 identified literatures, 10 were books that are published by 5 professionals. Similarly 29 professionals contributed 62 articles in journals and 184 research papers were presented by 77 professionals in various seminar/ conferences on regional, state, national and international level. Moreover, from this region 4 professionals have contributed their views through 9 articles in various composite books. Similarly 9 research scholars from this region were honored with Ph.D degree.

As mentioned earlier, from Amravati region 274 literatures were identified. Out of 274 publications, 186 were in English and 88 were in Marathi. As far as number of books is concerned, it is observed that out of 10, 4 books were in English language and remaining 6 were in Marathi. Similarly in case of articles in journals, 62 articles were written from this region, and amongst 31 each were in English as well as in Marathi language. Further,

184 research papers were published in conference proceeding by the professionals from this region. Out of these, 134 were in English and 50 were in Marathi language. Similarly, as far as articles in composite books concerned all the articles were published in English language and out of total 9 Ph.D theses, 8 were in English and only one is in Marathi language.

Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondiya, Nagpur and Wardha are the six districts which come under Nagpur region from where 162 LIS professionals were identified, who have contributed their ideas in 585 documents. In these 162 LIS professionals, 100 were male and 62 were female. It was found that from 585 identified documents, 79 were books that were published by 26 professionals. Similarly, 79 professionals contributed 146 articles in journals and 304 research papers were presented by 95 professionals in various seminar/ conferences on regional, state, national and international level. From this region, 21 professionals have contributed their views through 33 articles in various composite books. Similarly 23 research scholars from this region were honored with Ph.D degree.

Further, from Nagpur 585 documents were identified. As mentioned earlier, 79 books were being published from this region, out of which 63 books were in English language and remaining 16 were in Marathi. Moreover, out of 146 articles in journals, 101 were in English and 45 were in Marathi language. 263 research papers from this region were in English language and 41 were in Marathi language. So far as articles in composite books are concerned all 33 articles were in English. 23 Ph.D theses were also in English Language.

Second objective of the present study was to identify the most productive authors amongst the library professionals in Vidarbha. Keeping this objective in view, ten most prominent library professionals was identified in all over Vidarbha who have shared their views in various documentary sources considered in the present study. For preparing the rank, list of most prominent authors 'Information Generation Indicator' (IGI) was developed. The predetermined score to each of the documentary source suggested is given in Table A, keeping in view its levels. On the basis of this IGI system the list of five prominent contributors from each region as well as ten most prominent contributors from all over Vidarbha was prepared.

The third objective of the study was to examine the relation between the experience and information generated by the professionals. Experience factor plays pivotal role in the generation of information. It is generally observed that the creativity in human being is increased with his/her experience. The publication activity may not be exception to it. The Information Generation Indicator was used in the present study to ascertain the prominent contributors in library field in Maharashtra. It was observed that the IGI of the professionals was concentrated in between the score 0.5 to 18. It means that the experience factor was not playing any crucial role in

generation of information or publication. Chi-square test was applied and found that there was no significant effect of experience on IGI.

The fourth and fifth objectives of the study were the impact of gender on the generation of information and to find out the geographical impact on the generation of information, respectively. After analysis it was observed that the impact of gender as well as geographical situation was not found on the generation of information.

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