Research Article

Nature and extent of usage of library facilities by the students of UAS, Dharwad

■ **N. SOWMYA, K.N. MALI** AND **P.S. GANGADHAR**

SUMMARY : The study was conducted during the year 2013 in University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad of Karnataka state. A sample of 60 students of UAS, Dharwad was selected by using the simple random method of sampling. Majority of the students were aware about finding the books by author and title name (86.66%). Most of them (91.66%) were visiting the library for reading the textbooks. Most of the students (95%) were found to be using books frequently. Majority of them (nearly 90%) are found to use the internet for browsing information. Majority of the students are old of 20 years and 23 years. Gender is equal containing both male and female of both UG and PG students. The number of the library's reading chairs, tables and the bright lighting system of the library were bright and adequate for reading (91.66%) and library standby power supply system (86.66%) were also available. Majority of them (nearly 66.67%) were found to be convenient regarding the charges of library services. Majority of the students were interest in agriculture (70%), followed by Home Science (18.33%) and Marketing (11.67%).

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Author for correspondence :

K.N. MALI
Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (KARANATAKA) INDIA
Email: kashi4415@ gmail.com

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Information is an important and key resource for every organization and is essential input for all types of organizations. Libraries are organized information centers as they have limited resources with which they have to satisfy the information needs of the users. Therefore, libraries have to build their collections and facilities to meet user's satisfaction. The agriculture libraries have been serving the nation since the inception of Agriculture Universities and Institutes. Today, there are 29 state Agriculture Universities (SAUs), One Central University, 9 Deemed Universities, 50 ICAR Central Research Institutes and 28 National Research Centers across the country that are providing education and research facilities for development of agriculture in India.

Sridhar (2004) carried out a comparative study of use of OPAC and card catalogue of the library at ISRO. The study examines for the declining use of OPAC by endusers and the associated problems like the present data highlighting, negligible use of Boolean operators and combination searches, too many records tagged, too broad descriptors, etc. It concludes that, moving from traditional card catalogue to modern OPAC has not made subject searching, more attractive and effective (Sridhar, 2004; Tanja and Maja, 2008).

Gowda and Shivalingaiah (2009a) concluded that the preferences of users depended upon the nature of resources available in libraries, while usage of electronic resources depended upon the type of IT infrastructure available in libraries (Gowda and Shivalingaiah (2009a). Sudha and Harinarayana found that non-professional students and female students expressed more involvement in knowing current affairs by their teachers than other respondents. Students from

Kannada medium and students studying in urban area revealed more encouragement by teachers than their counterparts Sudha and Harinarayana (2009); Gowda and Shivalingaiah (2009) in study of use of library facilities and services of a university library disclosed the significant differences in the satisfaction level of research scholars of different disciplines with facilities and services of libraries Gowda and Shivalingaiah (2009b). Pushpalatha and Mallaiah studied use of information resources in chemistry at Mangalore University library and found that Online Public Access Catalogue and assistance of library staff were the primary means to locate needed documents. About 58.92 per cent PG students rated library collection as adequate to meet their information needs, whereas 40 per cent research scholars and 83.33 per cent of the teachers considered at partially adequate (Pushpalatha and Mallaiah (2009). In the year 1986, the Agricultural University in Karnataka started functioning under the name University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) Dharwad with minimum facilities available in Agricultural Research Station. Now the college complex includes education, research and extension. It has become a bee-hive of agricultural activities. The main objective of the study is to know usage of agricultural information sources and ICT tools by the students and staffs. Besides, this study aims to know the purpose of library visit, services offered in the library and also the problems faced by the students and staffs in availing resources in the library.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted during the year 2013 in University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad of Karnataka by following ex-post facto research design. The respondents were selected by taking into consideration UG and PG Students. Out of 60 students, 30 samples considered 15 boys and 15 girls of UG students and in other 30 samples considered 15 boys and 15 girls of PG students. The university was purposively selected, due to convenience of the researcher. Data were collected through face to face interview. One dependent variable like awareness and four independent variables such as age, gender, utilization purpose and resource availability were selected. Structured interview schedule was used to collect the information through personal interview. Data were analyzed by using suitable statistical tools like mean, frequency and standard deviation. The specific objectives of the study were:

– To study the extent of awareness of library facilities by students of UAS, Dharwad.
– To measure the extent of use of library services by the students.
– Problems and suggestions given by the students.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads:

A extent of awareness of library facilities by students of UAS, Dharwad:
Awareness about shelf arrangement:
The awareness about shelf arrangement (Table 1) revealed that majority of the students were aware about finding the books by author and title name (86.66%). This shows that majority of the students were aware about finding the books by author and title name. The findings are in agreement with the studies conducted by of Sasikala and Dhanraju (2011).

Table 1: Awareness about the method followed for shelving books
(n=60)

Methods of shelving books	No. of students aware	%	Not aware	%
By author	52	86.66	8	13.33
By ISBN number	25	41.66	35	58.33
By title	52	86.66	8	13.33
By call number	15	25	45	75

Awareness about the importance of the library catalogue:
Findings of awareness about the importance of the library catalogue (Table 2) revealed that highest per cent of students (80%) stated that they had searched the books in print to identify books of their choice in the library collection. It shows that most of the students were aware of the purpose and importance of the catalogue. However, the remaining students also needed proper knowledge about the proper use of the library tools like catalogue. The results are in conformity with the findings of Sasikala and Dhanraju (2011).

Table 2 : Awareness about the purpose of catalogue (n=60)

Type of source consulted to know the availability of a title	No. of students aware	Percentage (%)
Books in rint	48	80
Internet	36	60
Library catalogue	35	58.33
Bibliography	18	30

Search capabilities:
Findings of search capabilities (Table 3) revealed that majority of them were capable of searching library catalogue by title and author name (90%) followed by the subject (71.66%) and by publisher (61.66%). These findings are of great value to the library management in designing library orientation and user education programmes. The findings are in agreement with the studies conducted by of Sasikala and Dhanraju (2011).

Table 3 : Catalogue search capabilities (n=60)

Search option followed	No. of students capable	%	Not capable	%
By title	54	90	6	10
By publisher	37	61.66	23	38.34
By subject	43	71.66	17	28.34
By author	54	90	6	10

Means of finding required books from the library:

With regard to means of finding required books from the library (Table 4) revealed that majority of the students had searched the books shelves personally (98.33%) and the students searching the books with the assistance from library staff was 45 per cent. This shows that majority of the students searched books shelves personally. The results are in conformity with the findings of Sasikala and Dhanraju (2011).

Table 4: Method of finding a book (n=60)

Method of finding a book	No. of students	Percentage (%)
Searching the book shelves personally	59	98.33
Self-guided search using subject guides	33	55
With the assistance from library staff	27	45
With the assistance from co-students	36	60

Extent of use of library services by the students:

General information:

Findings of the general information revealed that majority of the students were 20 years to 23 years old. Gender was equal containing both male and female of both UG and PG students.

Subject interest:

With regard to subject interest (Table 5) revealed that majority of the students were interested in agriculture (70%), followed by home science (18.33%) and marketing (11.67%). This indicates most of the students were interested in agriculture.

Table 5: Subject interest (n=60)

Subjects	No. of students	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	42	70
Marketing	7	11.67
Home science	11	18.33
Total	60	100

Frequency of visit made:

Findings of frequency of visit made (Table 6) revealed that highest per cent of the student (58.33%) were visiting the library many times in a month and there were also students who visited few times to the library during one month (nearly 15%). This shows that many students visited library regularly and some may not visit library. The results are conformity with the findings of Pushpalatha and Mallinath (2009)

Table 6: Frequency of visits made to the library for one month (n=60)

Frequency of visits	No. of students (n=60)	Percentage (%)
Never visited	0	0
One visit	0	0
Few visits (2-10)	9	15
Several visits	16	26.66
Many visits(>20)	35	58.33
Total	60	100

Purpose of visiting the library:

With regard to purpose of visiting the library (Table 7) revealed that the highest per cent of them (91.66%) were visiting the library for reading the textbooks and low per cent of them (31.66%) of the students were visiting library for net surfing. This shows that majority of them came to library for reading textbooks and few came for net surfing. The findings are in agreement with the studies conducted by Biradar (2009).

Table 7: Purpose of visiting the library (n=60)

Purpose of visiting	No. of students	Percentage (%)
Recreational reading (news papers and magazines)	46	76.66
Borrowing/lending	48	80
Consulting reference material (education and research)	43	71.66
Preparing for competitive exams	33	55
Photocopying relevant materials	24	40
Reading text books	55	91.66
Net surfing	19	31.66

Most frequently used sources of information:

Findings of most frequently used sources of information (Table 8) revealed that most of the students (95%) were found using books frequently followed by reference books (71.66%). and newspapers (68.33%). Among other sources, Internet (38%), periodicals (40%), e- journals (nearly 18%) and online data base (13.33%) were preferred by the students. This shows that most frequently used source of information was textbooks. The results are in conformity with the findings of Parvathamma and Reddy (2009).

Extent of usefulness of library tools and services:

With regard to extent of usefulness of library tools and services (Table 9) revealed that majority of the students (85%)

Table 8: Preferred document categories (n=60)

Type of documents	No. of students	Percentage (%)
Books	57	95
Periodicals	24	40
Newspapers	41	68.33
Reference books	43	71.66
Library OPAC	8	13.33
Online databases	8	13.33
E-Journals	11	18.33
Internet	23	38.33

stated that they could find and used the library books always using the library tools and services and few of the students (28.33 %) never searched for the required book. The findings are in agreement with the studies conducted by Sasikala and Dhanraju (2011).

Table 9: Extent of use of library tools and services (n=60)

Extent of use	No. of students	Percentage (%)
Always	51	85
Many times	31	51.6
Some times	24	40
Occasionally	15	25
Rarely	24	40
Never	17	28.33

Use of internet:

With regard to use of internet (Table 10) revealed that highest per cent of them (nearly 90%) were found to use the internet for browsing information and only 10 per cent of them were not using internet. This shows that electronic media was more required for the students for browsing information. The findings are in agreement with the studies conducted by Pushpalatha and Mallinath (2009).

Table 10: Use of internet (n=60)

Response	No. of students	Percentage %
Yes	54	90
No	6	10
Total	60	100.00

Problems and suggestions given by the students:

Students response on physical facilities of library:

Findings of students response on physical facilities of library (Table 11) revealed that the number of the library's reading chairs, tables and bright lighting system of the library were adequate for reading (91.66%) and library standby power supply system (86.66%) was also available. This shows that majority of the students were satisfied by the library. The results are in conformity with the findings of Georgina uchey oyedum (2011).

Table 11: Students response on physical facilities of library (n=60)

Statements	Agree	%	Disagree	%
The number of the library's reading chairs and tables are adequate for reading	55	91.66	5	8.33
The lighting system of the library is bright for reading	55	91.66	5	8.33
There is a library standby power supply system	52	86.66	8	13.33

Suggestions to improve physical and academic facilities of library:

With regard to suggestions to improve physical and academic facilities of library revealed that provide good WIFI connection, Xerox facility should be made available till 8 '0' clock night, provide free net facility for study purpose, increase more number of chairs and tables especially in exam times, repair the windows so that one can close it; when needed, AC is required for summer season, put mesh net to the windows to avoid mosquito because of safety of health, improve system of issuing books.

Increase the number of photocopies of textbooks, arrange books, journals properly as per the date of publication, increase the number of books available for SC/ST students, increase the time of borrowing of books, make more available recent magazines, journals and books related to competitive exams, increase the number of staff members and provide Kannada magazines.

This shows physical and academic facilities should be improved in the library of UAS, Dharwad to increase interest by the students about the library for reading purpose and to increase academic activities.

Charges on library services:

With regard to charges on library services (Table 12) revealed that highest per cent of them (nearly 66.67%) were found to be convenient and only 33.33 per cent of them were not convenient in charges on library services. This showed cost of the services was very high compared to other university libraries.

Table 12: Charges on library services (n=60)

Response	No. of students	Percentage %
Yes	40	66.67
No	20	33.33
Total	60	100.00

Findings of the suggestions given by the students revealed that reduce the charges on Xerox facility and internet facility. This shows that charges to be reduce on Xerox facility and give free net connection to the students for study purpose. The results are conformity with the findings of Walmiki *et al.* (2010).

Conclusion:

In conclusion, one could argue that based on the findings

of the study physical facilities could always influence the use of libraries in the universities. Thus, there is need for improvement of physical facilities in Dharwad Agriculture University library for effective use. Without adequate number of seats and bright lighting systems users would always find it difficult to achieve any meaningful academic work in the university library. Therefore, additional seats and tables as well as bright lighting systems that do not produce heat should be made available in the university library in order to boost the library usage of the Dharwad Agriculture university library by the undergraduate students.

Authors' affiliations :

N. SOWMYA AND P.S. GANGADHAR, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA) INDIA
Email: Sowmyagowda12@gmail.com

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