

# INFORMATION USAGE OF NURSING STUDENTS AT GURU NANAK COLLEGE OF NURSING- A STUDY

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## Abstract

This article reports the results of a study conducted on Information use by Nursing students at Guru Nanak College of Nursing, Dhahan- Karelana , Shahid Bhagath Singh Nagar district in Punjab. The study designed with an aim of to explore the information usage among the nursing students. To collect the data from the respondents a closed ended questionnaire was designed based on the objectives of the study. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to the all B. Sc Nursing graduates and received responses from all the students. The response rate was 100%.Results of the study shows that students visit the library occasionally, and the main purpose of visit to the library was for issue/return of books. The study also found that more than half of the respondents' facing lack of time was the major problem to seek information in their college library.

**Key words:** Information use; Nursing students; Punjab.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1Guru Nanak College of Nursing

Guru Nanak College of Nursing situated on Phangwara- Chandigarh high way near to Banga. The college is offering B.Sc Nursing ,Post Basic BSc nursing, MSc nursing and G.N.M and is recognized by Punjab Govt. and affiliated to Punjab Nursing Registration council, Indian Nursing Council and Baba Farid University of Health Sciences. The college has signed a partnership with UBC School of Nursing, Vancouver, Canada and no other college in whole of the Punjab is facilitated with this facility. In order to get a vast knowledge and experience, college sends its students to different hospitals, like Oswal Hospital, Ludhiana, Fortis Heart

and Multispecialty Hospital, Mohali, General Hospital, Sector 16, Chandigarh, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, New Delhi etc

### **1.2Guru Nanak College of Nursing Library**

Guru Nanak College of Nursing has a well stocked, excellent library with efficient and effective information retrieval system within the reach at convenient time. The Library having a vast collection of technical journals and periodicals relating to subjects. It is well equipped with Reference Books, Periodicals, Research Journals and Magazines of International standards in the area of Management, Mass Media, Journalism, Computer Application and Education. The Library is also equipped with Electronic Journals and Educational CDs. To enhance information sources, the Institute has also undertaken institutional membership of several reputed libraries. Most of the activities of the library have been computerized.

### **1.3 Purpose of the study**

There is no study is conducted previously on library & information usage of nursing students at Gurunank College of Nursing. The study is conducted with an aim of to understand the pattern of information and library resources & facilities usage of the B.Sc nursing students in order to provide better services and facilities to meet their demands.

## **2.REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

There are many studies were conducted previously to investigate the nursing students usage of library and their information seeking behavior.

Ajuwon (2003) examined the computer and internet use by first year clinical and nursing students in the University college Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. The study found that 42.6% of the students using computer, 57.4% couldn't. More than 60.7% of the students used internet and e-mail was the popular tool among the nursing students. Cyber cafes were preferred place for students had access the internet. Cheryl Dee & Stanley, E(2005) studied the information seeking behavior of nursing students and clinical nurses. The study used multiple data collection methods like questionnaire, interview and observation. The results of the study explain that nursing students and clinical nurses were most likely relying on their colleagues and books for medical information. The study also found that lack of time was the factor to seek information in library

Honey, M, North, N & Gunn, C (2006) presents the result of the study conducted in New Zealand. The aim of the study was to identify the graduate student's nurse's use of the library. They found that library services were not used by 43% of graduate nursing students. Frank , S & Mc Alona (2007) ex plains the findings of a survey of B. Sc nursing students. The survey founds over half of the respondents (53%) had not attended library skills training

and a significant number of students reported that they lacked confidence in using library facilities.

Wahoush, O& Banfield, L (2014) studied using the information seeking behavior of student nurses and recent nursing graduates using online survey method. The aim of the study was to assess the access to and use of information sources and resources within clinical practice. The findings show that electronic sources of information were the most used resource.

### 3.OBJECTIVES

The study was conducted based on the following objectives:

- To know the frequency and purpose of visit to the library
- To know the time spent in the library for seeking information
- To know the form of material prefer to use
- To identify the information channels used for seeking information
- To trace out the problems faced by the respondents in using library

### 4.METHODOLOGY

Students registered B. Sc Nursing at Guru Nanak College of Nursing, are selected by the investigator for the present study. The total strength of the all 4 years B. Sc nursing were 200 only. The population is small to study the investigators adopted census method for collecting the data from the respondents. The data were collected with the help of a structured questionnaire prepared in a very simple English language. Through a pilot study suggestions and modifications were received from the respondents. The questionnaires were distributed to the students personally to collect the related data from the respondents. The investigators received responses from 200 respondents. The response rate was 100%. Every effort was made by the investigator to get reliable data from the respondents.

### 5.ANALYSIS

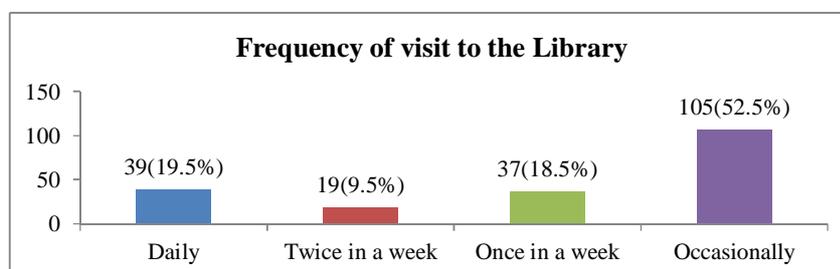
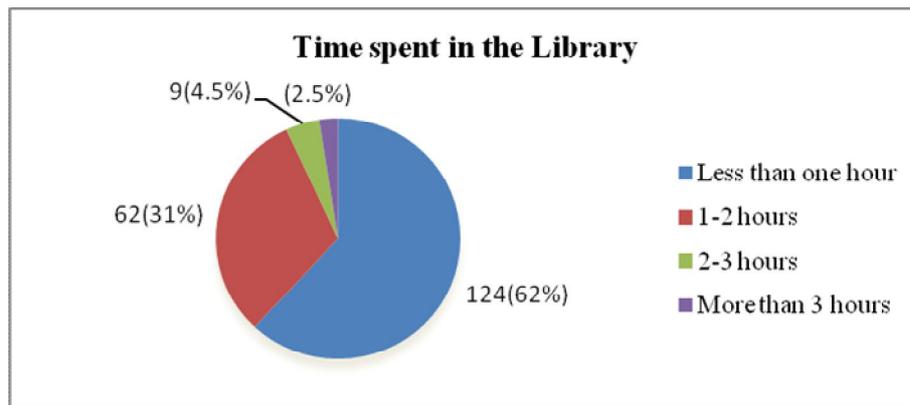


Figure-1

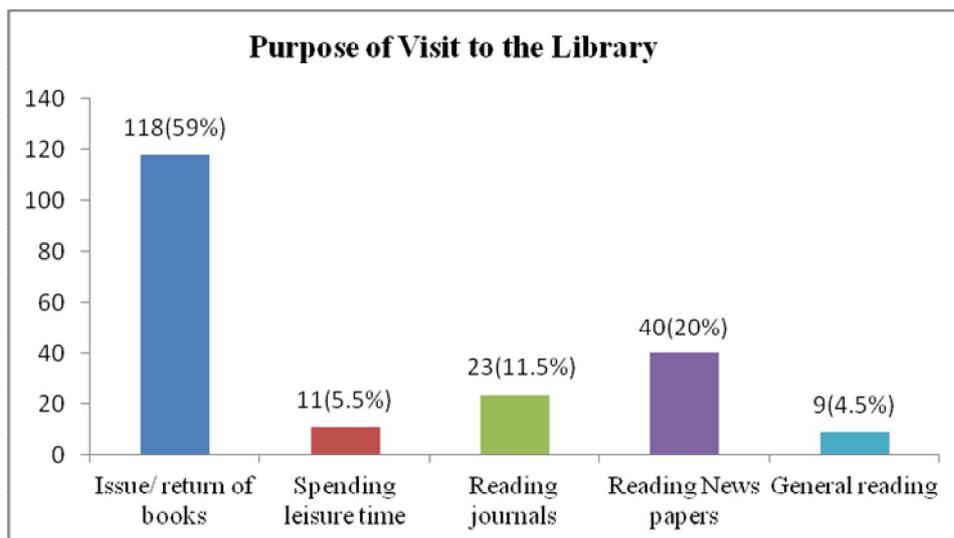
Figure -1 shows the frequency of visit to the college library by the B. Sc nursing graduates. The data from the above figure clearly depicts that majority of the respondents 105 (52.5%) visit the library occasionally, followed by daily 39 (19.5%), once in a week 37 (18.5%) and twice in a week 19 (9.5%).

Figure -2



The above figure-2 represents the respondents time spent when they visit the library. The data in the figure reveals that majority of the respondents 124(62%) spent less than half an hour when they visit the library.31% of the respondents opined that they spent 1-2 hours, 4.5% 2-3 hours and 2.5% more than three hours.

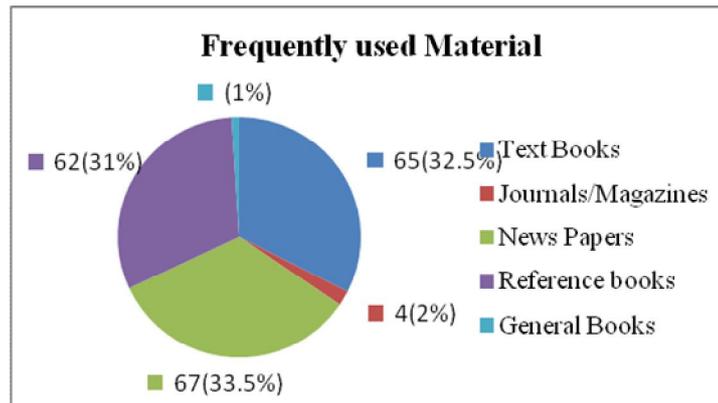
Figure-3



The figure-3 explains the data relating to purpose of visit to the library by the nursing graduates. Majority 118 (59%) of the respondents opined that they visit the library for issue/

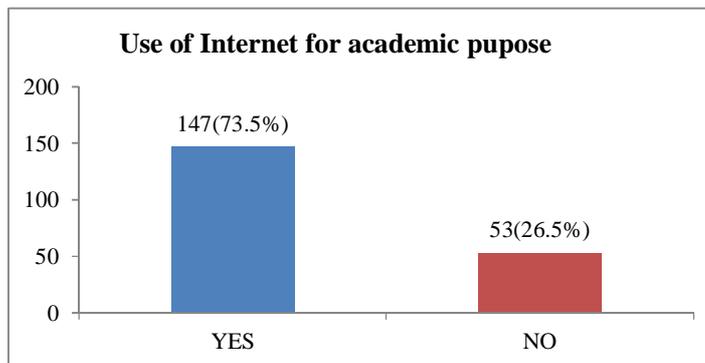
return of books, followed by 40 (20%) for reading news papers, 23 (11.5%) for reading journals, 11 (5.5%) for spending leisure time and 9 (4.5%) for general reading.

Figure-4



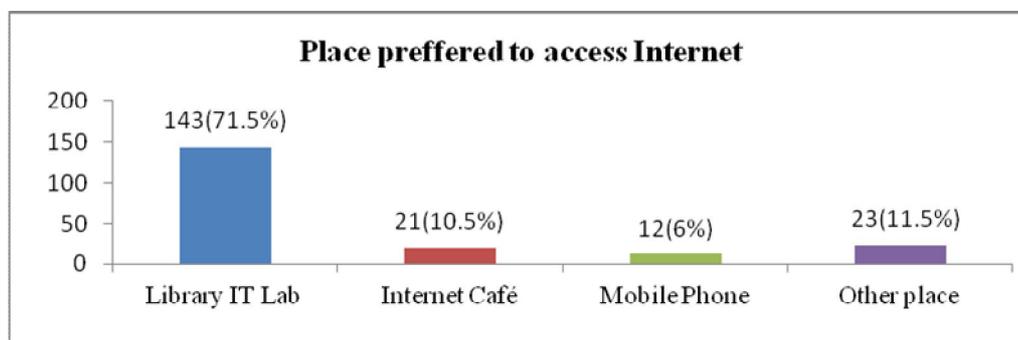
The above figure giving the data relating to frequently used material in the college library. It shows that majority 67 (33.5%) of the respondents using news papers, followed by 65 (32.5%) text books , 62 (31%) reference books and 1% general books. This shows that students are interested in reading daily news from the news paper.

Figure-5



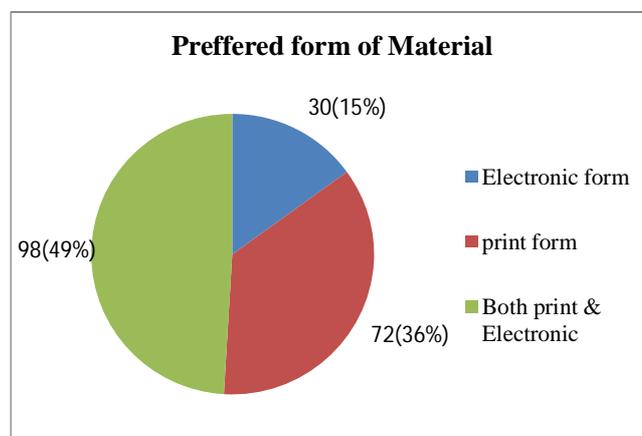
The present study also aimed at knowing about the extent of use of internet by the students collecting information for exam preparation, writing assignments and presenting seminar purpose. From the above figure- the responses reveal that all most 147 (73.5%) opined that they use internet for academic purpose, 53 (26.5%) responded they can't use the internet.

Figure-6



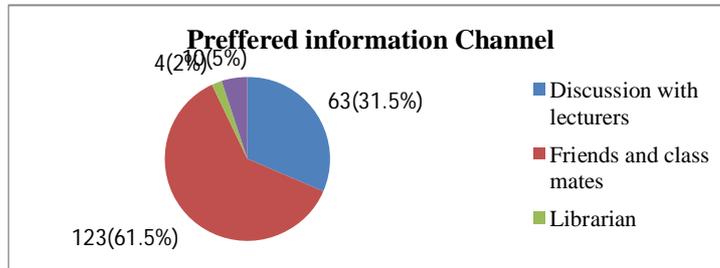
To know the places preferred by the nursing graduates accessing internet one question was asked. The responses are presented in the above figure-6. It clearly demonstrates that majority 143 (71.5%) of the respondents are preferred to access internet at the Library IT lab, followed by 23 (11.5%) at other places, 21 (10.5%) at internet café, 12 (6%) in their mobile phone.

Figure-7



The above figure explains the form of materials preferred by the nursing graduates. The data in the above chart shows that majority of the respondents 98 (49%) opined that they preferred both print and electronic form of material. 72 (36%) of the respondents print only and 30 (15%) electronic only.

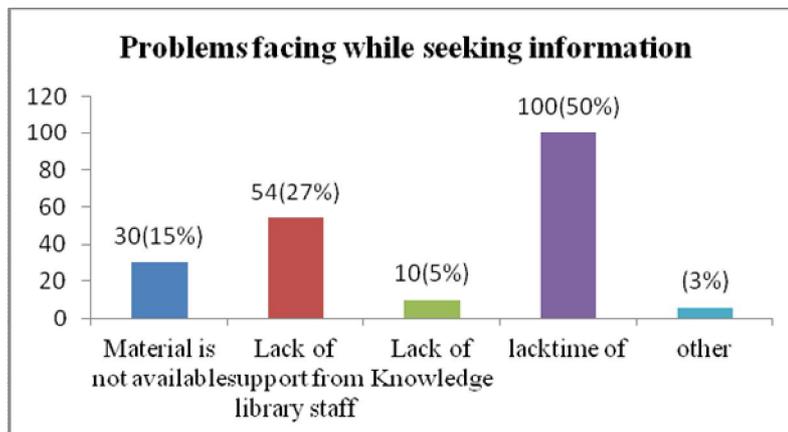
Figure-8



To know the channels of information preferred by the nursing students the question was posed.

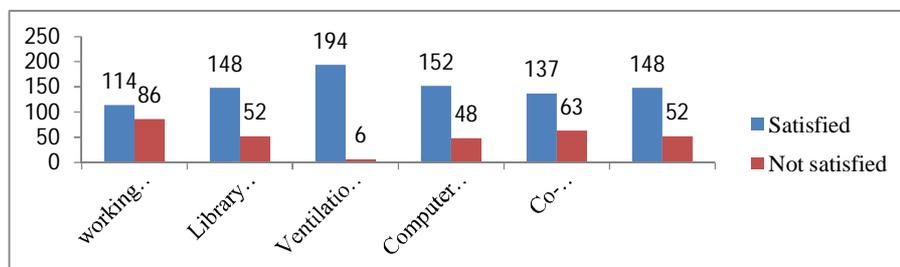
The responses from the above figure -8 explains that majority 123 (61.5%) preferred their friends and class mates as suitable information channel for their information needs, followed by 63 (31.5%) opined that they discuss with their lecturers, 10 (5%) preferred others, and least preference was the Librarian 4(2%). This was very discouraging, as the students don't have knowledge on librarian capability; he was the right person to choose, because librarian has the potential to serve their information needs effectively.

Figure-9



To trace out the problems faced by the respondents in seeking the information in the library one question was asked. The responses presented in the above figure-9. It shows that majority of the respondents 100 (50%) opined that lack of time was the major reason for them to visit the library for seeking information. 54 (27%) opined that lack of support from the library staff was the other reason, 30 (15%) opined that required material not available in the library, and 10 (5%) has lack of knowledge in using the library, 3% has other reasons.

Figure-10



The above figure -10 shows the satisfaction of various facilities and services in the college library. Majority of the respondents are satisfied with the present working hours, Library collection, Ventilation, Computer Lab, Co operation staff and arrangement of books.

## 5.1 DISCUSSION

The study found that more than half of the nursing students visit the college library 'occasionally' and also they spent less than an hour when they visit the library. The purpose of the visit was for issue or return of books. From the observation we found that busy college schedule as well as hectic hospital work was prevent them to visit the library more frequently. This finding supports the finding of Verhey ( 1999 ) where lack of time be a significant factor in searching for information for half of the nursing students.

Internet use among nursing students was quite good as 73.5% opined that they used internet for academic purpose. This corroborates the finding of Ajuwon (2003) study where majority of the nursing students used internet. In the present study students prefer both print and electronic form of information for their course work, this is differs the Wahousho & Banfield (2014) findings. In their study electronic sources of information were the most used resource by nursing students. It is cleared from the findings that most of the nursing students preferred their classmates and friends as channel for information and they feel that they are suitable persons to satisfy their information needs. Participants in this study express lack of time were the major obstacle they are facing for seeking information in the college library. Wakeham ( 1996 ) found that nurses in the United Kingdom were also reluctant to use library due to lack of time. Cheryl Dee & Stanely ,E(2005) study also present the same.

## 6. Conclusion

The results of this study revealed that nursing students have busy academic schedule and hospital work, those reasons prevent them to visit the library frequently. Students in this study preferred both print and electronic form of information. As majority of them using internet in the Library IT lab which is good to meet their electronic information needs. Significant aspect was that Students giving very low priority to consult the librarian for

information. Dee, Ch & Stanely, E (2005) also expressed that the lack of knowledge about librarian capabilities is a troubling, because librarians are uniquely qualified to improve the information seeking capabilities of nursing professionals.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings of the study the following suggestions and recommendations have been made to improve the use of Library and information services and facilities efficiently.

- Orientation programs should be conducted for the students as well as faculty at periodical intervals for promoting effective use of library resources and services.
- Library hour should be incorporate in the time table
- Organizing exhibition and book display program on important dates and important occasion.
- Conducting quiz, essay competitions, and presenting best library user award etc can be helpful to attract the users to the library.
- List of web sites which are useful to the users should be display in the Library Computer Lab
- Library staff should always be proactive to access the exact information needs and seeking behavior of the students.

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