

INFORMATION NEEDS AND INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF FACULTY OF MALLA REDDY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, TELANGANA: A STUDY

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Abstract

Information needs and seeking behavior refers to the way user search and utilize information for improve their knowledge. To understand Engineering college faculty behavior we sought to understand literature searching experiences and skills of the faculty in Malla Reddy Institute of Technology & Science, Telangana. The survey information, of seeking behavior in sample study among the engineering faculty to examine the purpose of visiting the library is evaluated to find the satisfying level of the services of the library. The findings of the survey help the library professionals providing better sources and services to the user community.

KEYWORDS: Information Needs, Information Seeking Behavior, Engineering faculty, Library Resources:

INTRODUCTION:

Understanding information needs and seeking behavior of Faculty is top priority in the information service delivery of any academic library. The responsibility of library is to lend its services equivalent to those behaviour response by understands the information needs and information seeking behaviour of its users.

Information needs are indication of a knowledge gap which needs to be satisfied. The teacher is the transporter of learning. Teacher words “one can only take a horse to the canal but cannot force it to drink, similarly the student or user can be taken to school or college to learn but cannot be forced to learn except if the teacher is well trained, well knowledge in core curriculum content than child improvement can be possible by apply suitable methods and

strategies to promote all-round development of the learners to permit them be converted into countable to national progress” (Chukwu, 2011).

Information needs and seeking behaviour concerned gender and involves personnel reasons for seeking information. The information needs and way of seeking behaviour may differ between female and males. The way which needed information is being sought. Various factors like time spend for searching information, knowledge about information sources, interest area, the way of expressing to his needed information etc decided to their information seeking behaviour

Malla Reddy Institute of Technology & Science Library an Overview:

Malla Reddy Institute of Technology & Science is one of the premier Engineering Institute Under the Malla Reddy Group of Institutions was established in 2005 approved by AICTE, New Delhi, Accredited by NBA and Permanently affiliated to JNTUH, Hyderabad..

The College offers Bachelor of Technology with Specialization in Civil Engineering, Computer Science Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering and Information Technology, Master of Technology with specialization with Embedded Systems & VLSI Design, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Wireless & mobile Communications and Highway Engineering, with Transportation engineering and Master of Business Administration Course. Students in various specialization mentioned above are around 4000 Nos. The average visit to the library is around 800 Nos per day for seeking information.

The library has around 29000 volumes of Books and subscribes 164 National & International Print Journals. The library automated with KOHA Software and WEB OPAC also implemented. Apart from the print resources the Malla Reddy Institute of Technology & Science library had procured quite a number of e-resources. The college is also a member of DELNET (Developing Library Network) through which the students and the faculty can access the information from different College members of DELNET.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Ashish kumar(2013) has conducted the study to assessing the information need and information seeking behavior of research Scholars. The purpose was to study the information needs and information seeking behavior of social science scholars of MBPG College and also know the awareness level of library tools and technical used by researchers

Doraswamy.M (2009) has conducted the study to identifying the level of frequency of information sources of 5 engineering colleges were affiliate to Acharya Nagarjuna University.

Jaspal and Venkatarao (2011) surveyed the information seeking behaviour of students at Devsamaj College, Chandigarh, India. The study revealed that the majority of the students

were not aware of e- resources. Instead the students used search engines as a major source to access information to update their knowledge in their subject

Kaur and Rama Verma (2008) in their study students and faculty members with regard awareness about electronic journals. Majority of the users (69.15%) were not aware of the library e-resources and INDEST Consortium (77.63%).

Doraswamy (2009) collected data from 95 faculty members of Velagapudi Ramakrishna Siddhartha Engineering College (VRSEC) Library; Vijayawada through questionnaire conducted a study on the utilization of digital resources

Sahu A.K et.al(2014) in their study observe that majority of scientists from R &D institutions & industries were publishing their research outputs in peer revised and high impact fact forces journals. And 69.52 % of 1101 of scientists preferred for publishing in international publications.

Bhatti (2010) has conducted the study Information needs and information seeking behaviour of faculty members at the Islamic University of Bahawalpur, 88% of respondents indicated their purposes of seeking information for teaching purpose, 68%t for literature searches, 43% to borrow books or journal articles, 54% percent of faculty members consult the library for research and 43% for keeping their knowledge up to date, and 27% visit the library for reading newspapers and magazines .This clearly show that majority of the Faculty use the library resources or seek for information for teaching.

NEED OF THE STUDY:

There has been a increasing number of engineering colleges established in the state of Telangana and especially in the Ranga reddy Dist. It is impending at this time to make such a study as so as to identify the information requirement and behaviour of the engineering college faculty, with the hope of finding their problems and find out the solution so that the materials in the library can be put into maximum utilization.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To identify the frequency of library visit by the Engineering Faculty.
- To know the purpose of visiting the library
- To Study the awareness and use of library resources by the Faculty.
- To Study the Motivating factor to seek and collect the information
- To study the nature and type of information required by engineering Faculty

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY:

The scope of the paper limits to the engineering faculty of Malla Reddy Institute of Technology and Science, Telangana only. The Faculty of the study comprised of six

departments Engineering and Technology. The data required for present study was. The secondary sources are various reports, articles, books and journals. The required primary data about MRITS Library is collected from faculty members by questionnaire method. A set of 14 questions of questionnaires issued the Faculty of various engineering Branches. The statistical tools like average and percentage was also used to analysis the data.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS:

Table-1: Gender wise Distribution of Library Users

S. No	Gender	No of Respondents N=184	Percentage
1	Male	108	58.70
2	Female	76	41.30

The gender distribution of Users of the Library can be seen in Table -1 The Table shows that the majority of the respondents are male users forming 58.70 percent. And the remaining 41.30 percent respondents are Female users. Thus the extent of library use by male respondents seems to be more compared to Female users.

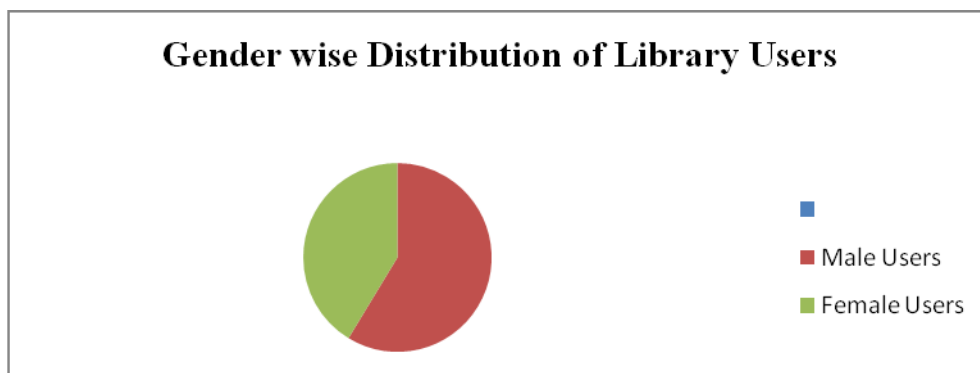
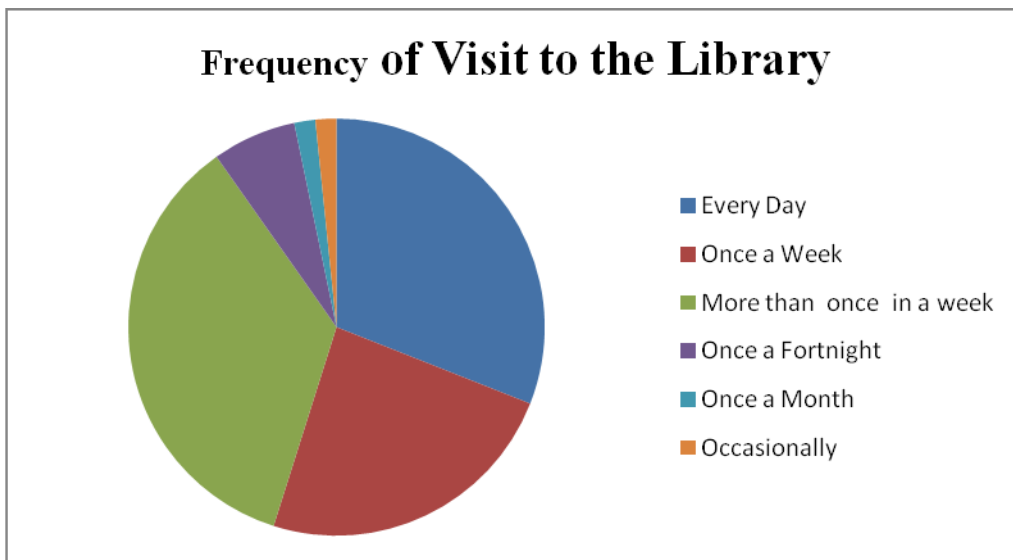


Table-2: Frequency of Visit to the Library

S. No	Frequency of Visit	No of Respondents N=184	Percentage
1	Every Day	57	30.98
2	Once a Week	44	23.91
3	More than once in a week	65	35.33
4	Once a Fortnight	12	6.52
5	Once a Month	3	1.63
6	Occasionally	3	1.63

The data presented in Table-2 indicates the frequency of visit by the users to Library. The data indicates that nearly 35.33 percent of the faculty visit the library more than once in a week to the library. Only 30.98 percent visit the library daily and 23.91 visit once a week. This is followed the students who visit the library Once a fortnight, Once a month and Rarely representing 6.52 percent, 1.63 and 1.63 respectively. However, it is very interesting to note that majority of the respondents are more than once in a week visitors to the library.



Source of Information used for Teaching

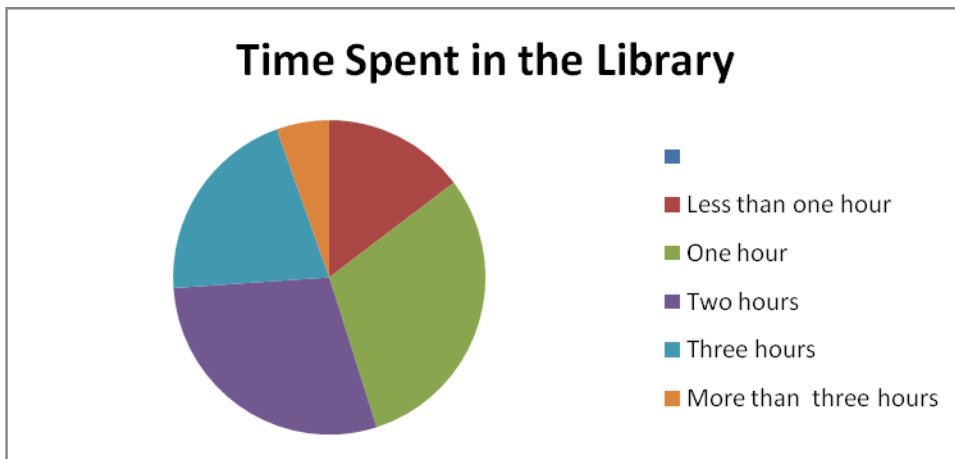
The Engineering teaching faculty must be updated in their subject every movement of their field. They must read and searching information from various sources. It has been identified and classified to give their requirement. The details are presented in table -3

Table- 3: Time spent in the Library

The distribution of faculty members according to their time spent, is shown in Table 3

Time spent	No of User	Percentage
Less than one hour	27	14.67391304
One hour	56	30.43478261
Two hours	53	28.80434783
Three hours	38	20.65217391
More than three hours	10	5.434782609
TOTAL	184	100%

The data presented in Table-4 indicates the Time Spent by the users in Library. The data indicates that nearly 30.43 percent of the faculty spending one hour in their institutional library. 28.80 percent Two hours, 20.65 percent Three hours, 14.67 percent Less than one hour and the remaining 5.43 percent of them are spending More than three hours.



Motivating factor to seek and collect information

The motivating factor affecting seek and collect information has been identified and classified using five point scales such as strongest motivator, fairly motivator, average motivator, weaker motivator, and non motivator with variables. The values are subject to analysis with WAM and Rank Methods and presented in the table 4.

Table -4: Motivating factor to seek and collect information

MOTIVATION	Non Motivator	Weaker Motivator	Average Motivator	Fairly Motivator	Strongest Motivator	WAM	Rank
To prepare for class teaching	0	8(4.3)	26(14.1)	57(31)	93(50.5)	21.13	1
To Guide my students Projects/ research scholars	3(1.6)	12(6.5)	32(17.4)	54(29.3)	83(45.1)	23.33	2
General awareness for new knowledge	6(3.3)	15(8.2)	42(22.8)	52(28.3)	69(37.5)	25.93	6
For participation in seminar/ conferences etc.	1(.5)	14(7.6)	41(22.3)	54(29.3)	74(40.2)	24.4	3
To increase promotional opportunities	9(4.9)	31(16.8)	35(19)	69(37.5)	40(21.7)	30.13	16
To conduct seminars/ summer/ winter school programmes/ workshops etc.	4(2.2)	15(8.5)	38(20.7)	52(28.3)	75(40.8)	24.87	5
To write and publish paper	7(3.8)	27(14.7)	29(15.8)	54(29.3)	67(36.4)	27	7

To Prepare notes for special lectures/public speech etc.	1(.5)	23(12.5)	29(15.8)	57(31)	74(40.2)	24.8	4
To set question papers etc.	12(6.5)	19(10.3)	34(18.5)	54(29.3)	65(35.3)	27.4	9
To set up and use of equipment	9(4.9)	31(16.8)	28(15.2)	47(25.5)	69(37.5)	27.73	10
To check authenticity of available results/information	8(4.3)	27(14.7)	29(15.8)	69(37.5)	51(27.7)	28.27	12
To check and evaluate one's own results	11(6)	24(13)	42(22.8)	68(37)	39(21.2)	30.13	17
To broaden the area of attention and work done in related areas	9(4.9)	31(16.8)	28(15.2)	47(25.5)	69(37.5)	27.73	11
To crystallize board and vague assertions	18(9.8)	41(22.3)	45(24.5)	41(22.3)	39(21.2)	34	21
To evolve innovative ideas/ techniques	11(6)	19(10.3)	41(22.3)	42(22.8)	71(38.6)	27.27	8
To know the information about Govt. decision on Engineering Field	6(3.3)	24(13)	45(24.5)	68(36.9)	41(22.3)	29.2	14
To have visibility among peers and colleagues	22(12)	24(13)	39(21.2)	52(28.3)	47(25.5)	31.6	18
Sharing with the members of the team	14(7.6)	34(18.5)	29(15.8)	47(25.5)	60(32.6)	29.8	15
Broad ending area of attention and reviewing work done in related areas	18(9.8)	29(15.8)	58(31.5)	48(26.1)	31(16.8)	33.8	20
Keeping abreast of latest development in the field	11(6)	17(9.2)	47(25.5)	51(27.7)	58(31.5)	28.27	13
Orienting your work with the existing body of knowledge	21(11.4)	31(16.8)	36(19.6)	49(26.6)	47(25.5)	32.13	19

From the table 4, it is observed that the faculty members are highly motivated to prepare for class teaching, To guide students Project/ research scholars are the ranked 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively for motivating factures and least motivation for to crystallize board and vague assertions. The results here answered the research question above on what motives you seek and collect information

Nature and Type of information required by User

The nature and type of information required by the faculty has been identified and classified using five point scales such as highly required, frequently required, occasionally required, rarely required, and not required with variables. The values are subject to analysis with WAM and Rank Methods and presented in the table 5

Table-5: Nature and Type of information required by User

Nature of Information	Not Required	Rarely Required	Occasionally Required	Frequently required	Highly required	WAM	Rank
Review of Literature (Annual reviews, Year books, state of art reports, recent advances etc.)	12(6.5)	33(17.9)	32(17.4)	38(20.7)	69(37.5)	28.87	7
Theoretical background/ Basic scientific and Technical Information	16(8.7)	23(12.5)	33(17.9)	45(24.5)	67(36.4)	28.53	5
Methods, processes and procedures	11(6)	24(13)	26(14.1)	54(29.3)	69(37.5)	27.1	3
Experimental designs, results and information application	13(7.1)	31(16.8)	29(15.8)	44(23.9)	67(36.4)	28.73	6
Product, material, equipment and apparatus known how information	8(4.4)	34(18.5)	35(19)	40(21.7)	67(36.4)	28.53	4
Information about previous work done in your field	2(1.1)	14(7.6)	43(23.4)	48(26.1)	77(41.8)	24.53	1
Information about current developments in your field	9(4.9)	21(11.4)	36(19.6)	46(25)	72(39.1)	26.73	2
computer programs and model	14(7.6)	42(22.8)	47(25.5)	36(19.6)	45(24.5)	33.06	10

building information							
standards and patent specifications and codes of practice	22(12)	21(11.4)	29(15.8)	68(37)	44(23.9)	30.73	9
statistical data	19(10.3)	51(27.7)	43(23.4)	32(17.4)	39(21.2)	35.4	11
Information about lab procedures	9(4.9)	41(22.3)	71(38.6)	48(26.1)	15(8.2)	35.53	12
scientific and technical news	21(11.4)	29(15.8)	31(16.8)	33(17.9)	70(38)	30	8
Information about Govt. decisions on Engineering Field	22(12)	51(27.7)	56(30.4)	32(17.4)	23(12.5)	37.933	13

From the analyses, it is pertinent to note that for faculty members are highly required for Information about previous work done in their field, Information about current developments in your field, and least preference to requirement in Information about Govt. decisions on Engineering Field ranked 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively and also on the overall. This indicates that Faculty is interest to seek information for research materials. On the lower level, both ranked same as Information about lab procedures and. Information about Govt. decisions on Engineering Field as ranked 12th and 13th respectively. The results here answered the research question above on the nature and type of information required by you.

Source of Information Used For Teaching

The teaching faculty must be updated in every movement of their subject field. They must read and searching information from various sources like books, reference books, journal articles etc. it has been identified and classified using five point scales such as High Dependence, Frequent Dependence, Occasional Dependence, Rare Dependence, and No Dependence with variables. The values are subject to analysis with WAM and Rank Methods and presented in the table 6

Table-6: Source of Information Used For Teaching

Requirement	No Dependence	Rare Dependence	Occasional dependence	Frequent Dependence	High Dependence	WAM	Rank
Books (other than handbooks/ reference books)	0	0	7(3.8)	68(37)	109(59.2)	17.73	1

Reference books	0	15(8.2)	15(8.5)	40(21.7)	114(62)	19.93	2
Thesis and dissertations	2(1.1)	32(17.4)	44(23.9)	39(21.2)	67(36.4)	28.2	9
Conference Proceedings	8(4.4)	34(18.5)	29(15.8)	48(26.1)	65(35.3)	27.67	8
Current reading materials such as periodicals/ journals	7(3.8)	38(20.7)	43(23.4)	49(26.6)	47(25.5)	30.73	10
Technical/ R & D reports	6(3.3)	20(10.9)	35(19)	41(22.3)	82(44.6)	25.27	4
Standards and patent specifications	5(2.7)	35(19)	54(29.3)	55(19)	35(19)	31.47	12
Official documents in engineering departments	10(5.4)	15(8.2)	25(13.6)	50(27.2)	84(45.7)	24.6	3
Reprints and preprints from fellow professionals	5(2.7)	25(13.6)	36(19.6)	41(22.3)	77(41.8)	26.13	6
abstracting the indexing sources/ journals(including online/ CD-ROM)	4(2.2)	19(10.3)	36(19.6)	75(40.8)	50(27.2)	26.93	7
Personal collections	16(8.7)	12(6.5)	75(40.8)	32(17.4)	49(26.6)	31.1	11
Trade catalogues	19(10.3)	16(8.7)	71(38.6)	41(22.3)	37(20.1)	32.73	13
Audio/ Video recordings	8(4.6)	16(8.7)	34(18.5)	48(26.1)	78(42.4)	25.33	5

The data in table 6 above shows the WAM rating of the Faculty on the information sources utilized for seeking information and the items were highly dependent by the Engineering faculty on Books, reference books and official documents in engineering departments are preferred as high dependence and secure top ranks as 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Standards and patent specifications and Trade catalogues are least priority among them. The results here answered the research question above on what extent do you depend on the sources for getting relevant references of your requirement

Use of the library services

Use of The Library services are identified and classified using five point scales such as Most Required, Required, Somewhat Required, not Required, and Not at all Required with variables. The values are subject to analysis with WAM and Rank Methods and presented in the table -7 use of the library services

Table-7: Use of the library services

Library Services	Not at all Required	Not Required	Somewhat Required	Required	Most required	WAM	Rank
Loan of Books	0	0	14(7.6)	64(34.8)	106(57.6)	18.4	1
Reference Services	2(1.1)	16(8.7)	39(21.2)	59(32.1)	68(37)	25.13	4
Bibliographical services	12(6.5)	37(20.1)	64(34.8)	58(31.5)	13(7.1)	35.27	11
Current Awareness Services	6(3.3)	19(10.3)	36(19.6)	57(31)	66(35.9)	26.27	6
Selective Dissemination of Information	7(3.8)	24(13)	62(33.7)	57(31)	34(18.5)	31	9
Interlibrary Loan	16(8.7)	19(10.3)	54(29.3)	52(28.3)	43(23.7)	31	10
Journals/ Periodical Circulation	0	4(2.1)	16(8.7)	58(31.5)	106(57.6)	19.06	2
Abstracting and Indexing Services	8(4.3)	21(11.4)	68(37)	48(26.1)	39(21.2)	30.87	8
E- Resources Access	0	8(4.3)	24(13)	57(31)	95(51.6)	20.87	3
Reprographic Services	4(2.1)	11(6)	50(27.1)	59(32.1)	60(32.6)	26.13	5
CD- ROM Database Search	7(3.8)	25(13.6)	52(28.3)	52(28.3)	48(26.1)	29.53	7

The data in table 7 above shows the WAM rating of the Faculty on the use of the library services for seeking information and the items were most required by the Engineering faculty on loan of books, Journals/ Periodical Circulation and E- Resources Access are preferred as most required and secure top ranks as 1st ,2nd and 3rd respectively . Standards and Bibliographical services are least priority among them. The results here answered the research question above on what extent do you often use the services of the library.

Dependence on information and Interpersonal Sources

Dependence on information and Interpersonal Sources have been identified and classified using five point scales such as High Dependence, Frequent Dependence, Occasional Dependence, Rare Dependence, and No Dependence with variables. The values are subject to analysis with WAM and Rank Methods and presented in the table 8

Table:8 Dependence on information and Interpersonal Sources

Sources	No Dependence	Rare Dependence	Occasional dependence	Frequent Dependence	High Dependence	WAM	Rank
Personal Experiences	5(2.7)	12(6.5)	25(13.6)	55(29.9)	87(47.3)	23	2
Consulting expert in the field	3(1.6)	10(5.4)	14(7.6)	58(31.5)	99(53.8)	20.8	1
Consulting Colleagues and fellow professionals	3(1.6)	10(5.4)	24(13)	75(40.8)	72(39.1)	23.27	3
Result of one's own experience	21(11.4)	35(19)	21(11.4)	26(14.1)	81(44)	30.67	9
Consulting Library staff/a Catalogues/ OPACs	9(4.9)	13(7.1)	31(16.8)	46(25)	85(46.2)	29.4	8
Professional meetings, seminars, symposia and lectures	2(1.1)	29(15.8)	34(18.5)	52(28.3)	67(36.4)	26.6	7
Educational and training courses	12(6.5)	22(12)	28(15.2)	34(18.5)	88(47.8)	25.87	6
Fellow professional outside visit to Industries	7(3.8)	15(8.15)	30(16.3)	64(34.8)	68(37)	25.4	5
Visit to Industries	9(4.89)	13(7.1)	35(19)	41(22.3)	86()	24.67	4

The data in table 8 above shows the WAM rating of the Faculty on Dependence on information and Interpersonal Sources and the items were High Dependence by the Engineering faculty on Consulting expert in the field, Personal Experiences and Consulting Colleagues and fellow professionals are preferred as High Dependent and secure top ranks as 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Result of one's own experience is least priority among them.

FINDINGS:

1. It is observed that the majority of faculty visit the library more than once in a week to the library
2. The faculty spending the time one hour in their institutional library when ever he/she visit the library
3. It is Observed that the Faculty using the library to borrow the books , It indicates that the usages of the library by the faculty are very high.
4. It is observed that the faculty members are highly motivated to prepare for class teaching, To guide students Project/ research scholars are the top 3 ranks for motivating factures and least motivation for to crystallize board and vague assertions.
5. With regards to preference for information source books to list followed by reference books and official documents in engineering departments.
6. It is observed that the faculty of engineering college are mostly required library services are loan of books, Journals/ Periodical Circulation and E- Resources Access are preferred as most required and secure top ranks as 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively
7. It may observed that majority of the faculty are Dependent on information and Interpersonal Sources and the items were High Dependence by the Engineering faculty on Consulting expert in the field, Personal Experiences and Consulting Colleagues and fellow professionals are preferred as High Dependent and secure top ranks as 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively

CONCLUSION:

The user studies have to be conducted periodically by the library professionals to know the expectations of the users. The users were extremely happy to participate in the survey. Based on the findings of the survey, the library professionals can post a proposal for managing authorizes establishing ICT facilities in the libraries. The faculty expectations from the library are to be conveyed through user studies. This is a sample study among the engineering faculty. The existing resources are to be disclosed to the users for proper utilizations,. These types of surveys will help the library professionals providing better sources and services to the user community, and It also helps in gaining better sense of environment in which library operates understanding values, formulating vision statement, setting the strategic goals and in evaluating and reporting. This study shows that studies of this nature help the libraries in obtaining good feedback and thereby upgrade the library services.

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