Vol 4 Issue 3 Sept 2014 ISSN No :2231-5063

# International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

# Golden Research Thoughts

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**RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595** **ISSN No.2231-5063**

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Golden Research Thoughts
ISSN 2231-5063
Impact Factor : 2.2052(UIF)
Volume-4 | Issue-3 | Sept-2014
Available online at www.aygrt.isrj.net

# USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT

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**Abstract:-**This purpose of this paper is to examine the use of information resources and services in public libraries. A well structured questionnaire was used to collect the data and finds that majority of the users of public library are belonging to lower and middle income group and are student, unemployed youth and employees in private sector. Also newspaper and magazine are the most frequently used sources for reading .Book lending services and reading room services are most frequently used services in public libraries.

**Keywords:**Public Library, Users, Information resources, Information services

## INTRODUCTION

Information is an important and key resource for every organization and is an essential input for all types of organizations .Libraries are organized information centers as they have to satisfy the information needs of the users ,therefore ,libraries have to build their collections and facilities to meet user satisfaction.

A public Library is a library which is accessible by the public and is generally funded from public sources and may be operated by civil servants. Taxing bodies for public libraries may be at any level from local to national central government level." The public library is an excellent model of government at its best. A locally controlled public good, it serves every individual freely, in as much or as little depth as he or she wants."Public libraries exist in most places in the world and are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population.

Public Libraries are distinct from research libraries, school libraries, or other special libraries in that their mandate is to serve the public's information needs generally, as well as offering materials for general entertainment and leisure purposes. Public Libraries provide free services such as preschool story times to encourage early literacy .Public libraries are typically lending libraries, allowing all users to take books and other materials off the premises temporarily; they also have non-circulating references collection. Public Libraries primarily focus on popular materials such as popular fiction and movies, as well as educational and nonfiction materials of interest to the general public; computer and internet access are also often offered.

## DEFINITION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES:-

According to UNESCO manifesto, the definition of a public library is as follows:
1.Public libraries are financed for the most part of public funds.
2.They charge no fee from users and yet are open for full use by the public.
3.They are intended as the auxiliary educational institutions providing a means of self education which is endless.
4.They house educative and informative materials giving reliable information freely and without partiality.

## OBJECTIVES:-

1-To identify the category of users.
2-To know the frequency of users visit in library.
3-To know the time spent in library.
4-To identify purpose of users visit to the library.

5-To know about the information resources most frequently consulted.

**METHODOLOGY:--**

Keeping in view the objective of the study method of survey has been chosen using questionnaire as a tool to collect the required data. This was supported by personal interview. Though the questionnaire was structured, few of the questions were open ended. Questionnaire was collected after allowing proper time. A survey of user community in District Central library and its branch libraries in Solapur district was undertaken with the help of questionnaire in regional language, Marathi.

In Solapur District there are 11 talukas namely Akkalkot, South Solapur, Karmala, North Solapur, Pandharpur, Barshi, Mangalvedha, Madha, Malshiras, Mohol, and Sangola. In Solapur District there are 163 public libraries of Class "A" and Class "B". Simple random was adopted to collect the data out of which 80 public libraries was taken consideration to collect data. In each library, under the study, 5 visitors were requested to fill the questionnaire. Number of questionnaire distributed were 400 out of which 282 responded with a response rate 70.5%. Care was taken to collect questionnaire to get good sample of 282.Personal interview were also conducted with some of the sample to get clear picture of data.

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:-**

The problem of the present study is "Use of information resources and services in public libraries in Solapur District (Maharashtra)" and collected data are organized and tabulated by using statistical method, tables and percentage. The chapter focuses on the analysis and interpretation of the data collected through questionnaires and personal interview method has been followed for the purpose.

**Table no.1: Profession Vs Frequency of visit to library:-**

| Profession | Total | % |
|---|---|---|
| Student | 93 | 32.97 |
| Unemployed Youth | 74 | 26.24 |
| Employed in private sector | 31 | 10.99 |
| Government Sector | 52 | 18.43 |
| Retired Person | 14 | 4.96 |
| Housewife | 18 | 6.38 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Table no.1 reveals that among 32.97% , 26.24% & 10.99% respectively are the student, unemployed youth and employed in private sector .It indicates that the student, unemployed youth and employed in private sector are the major users of the public library (70%) while 18.43% users are the employees in Government Sector whereas 6.38% users are the housewife.

**Table no.2: Educational Qualification of users**

| Educational level | No. of Users | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Primary | 13 | 4.60 |
| 10 standard | 24 | 8.51 |
| Pre-University | 96 | 34.04 |
| Bachelors Degree | 85 | 30.14 |
| Post graduate degree | 31 | 10.99 |
| Technical Degree | 13 | 4.60 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Table no.2 reveals that 64.18% of users are having completed either Pre-university (10 years + 2 years) or Bachelors Degree while 10.99% users are completed post graduate degree. Only 04.6% of the users are with technical degree.

**Table no.3: Reason for visiting Library**

| Reason for visiting Library | No. of Users | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| For Reading Newspaper &Magazine | 152 | 53.90 |
| For reading Novels | 46 | 16.31 |
| For reading general Knowledge | 22 | 7.80 |
| For information collection for Research | 12 | 4.25 |
| For Searching information about employment | 29 | 10.28 |
| For Compititative Exam preparation | 16 | 5.67 |
| For Other reference sources | 5 | 1.77 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Table no.3 reveals that 53.90% users are visit public library to read newspaper and magazine .It indicates that majority users visit library for reading newspaper and magazine while 10.28% users visit library for searching information about employment. Only 4.25 % users visit library for information collection for research and 5.67% users visit library for compititative examination preparation.

**Table no.4: Encouragement by Library Staff for reading**

| Encouragement by Library Staff for reading | No. of Users | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 183 | 64.89 |
| No | 99 | 35.10 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Table no.4 indicates that 64.89% users get Encouragement by library Staff for reading while 35.10% users reveals that they did not get encouragement by library staff.

**Table no.5: Better environment for reading in Library**

| Better environment for reading in Library | No. of Users | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 183 | 64.89 |
| No | 99 | 35.11 |
| Total | 282 | 100% |

Table. No. 5 shows that 64.89% users get better environment for reading in Library while 35.11% users not satisfied with environment for reading in library.

**Table no.6: Quality of reference books**

| Quality of reference books | No. of Users | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Good | 79 | 28.01 |
| Better | 143 | 50.70 |
| Not good | 60 | 21.29 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Table No.6 reveals that 28.01% users suggest that the quality of reference books is good. While 50.70% suggest that there is a better quality of reference books in library. Only 21.29% users indicate that the quality of reference book in library is not good.

**Table no.7: Provision of Xeroxing**

| Provision of Xeroxing | No. of Users | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 175 | 62.05 |
| No | 107 | 37.95 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Table No.7 indicates that 62.05% users have provision of Xeroxing while 37.95% users did not get provision of Xeroxing.

**Table no.8: Use of Catalogue**

| Use of Catalogue | No. of Users | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 93 | 32.98 |
| No | 189 | 67.02 |
| Total | 282 | |

Table No.8 indicates that 32.98% users use catalogue for book searching while 67.02% users did not use catalogue for book searching.

**Table no.9: Reason for not visiting Library frequently**

| Reason for not visiting Library frequently | No. of Users | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Library working hours are inconvenient | 126 | 44.68 |
| Library is far away from my home | 22 | 7.80 |
| Lack of adequate collection of books | 25 | 8.86 |
| I collect required information from other sources | 2 | 0.70 |
| Services given by library are not satisfactory | 49 | 17.37 |
| Not at all | 39 | 13.82 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Table no.9 reveals that 44.68% users have library working hours are inconvenient for reason for not visiting library frequently, 7.80% users told that library is far away from their home, 8.86% users give reason that due to lack of adequate collection of books while 17.37% users did not get satisfied with services given by library where as 0.70% collect required information from other sources.

**Table no.10: Use of information resources:-**

| Information resources | Response | % |
|---|---|---|
| Encyclopedia | 12 | 4.96 |
| Dictionary | 10 | 3.54 |
| Yearbooks | 11 | 3.90 |
| Newspapers | 91 | 32.26 |
| Magazine | 71 | 25.17 |
| Novels & fictions | 17 | 6.02 |
| Children's book | 9 | 3.19 |
| Biography | 15 | 5.31 |
| Critical books | 21 | 7.44 |
| Atlas, Maps | 3 | 1.06 |
| Internet Sources | 4 | 1.41 |
| Manuals | 2 | 0.70 |
| Projects | - | - |
| Govt. Publications | 10 | 3.54 |
| Travel Guide | 6 | 2.12 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Among the many information sources in the libraries newspaper, magazines and fictions are most frequently used information resources, where as internet sources, Encyclopedias, Yearbooks & manual are least frequently used by users.

**Table no.11: Frequency of use of library services**

| Library services | No. of users | % |
|---|---|---|
| Book lending services | 144 | 51.06 |
| Reference services | 21 | 7.44 |
| Reading room services | 79 | 27.65 |
| Photocopying Services | 19 | 6.73 |
| Internet services | 15 | 5.31 |
| Translation Services | 4 | 1.41 |
| Total | 282 | 100 |

Table no.11 shows that 51.06% users frequently use book lending services of library while 27.65% users use reading room services .Reference services frequently used by 7.44% users whereas 6.73% users use photocopying services. Internet services and Translation services respectively used by 5.31% and .1.41% users. This indicates that most popularly book lending services used by users.

**CONCLUSIONS:-**

1.Majority of the users of public libraries under study are men within the age group of 21-40 years.
2.Majority of the users visit library at least once in a week.
3.Majority of the users of public library are belonging to lower and middle income group.
4.Majority of the users of public libraries are student, unemployed youth and employees in private sector.
5.Majority of the users of libraries are having completed either Pre-university or Bachelors Degree.
6.Majority of the users visit library for reading newspaper & magazine.
7.Majority of the users spent time less than one hour in the library.
8.Users get more encouragement for reading by library staff.
9.Majority of the users get better environment for reading in library.
10.Majority of the users suggested that the quality of reference book in library is better.
11.Majority of the users get provision of Xeroxing.
12.Majority of the users did not use catalogue cards for searching books.
13.Library working hours are inconvenient is the main reason for not visiting the library most frequently.
14.Newspaper and Magazine are the most frequently used as sources for reading.
15.Book lending services and Reading room services are most frequently used services in public libraries.

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