

A Study on Use of Library Resources by the Students of Women's Arts and Science Colleges in Chennai

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Abstract

Library resources are essential in graduate studies to conduct a successful research, demonstrate academic scholarship and gain recognition for creative thinking. Hence, this study evaluated the use of library resources among graduate students from Womens Arts and science colleges in Chennai. This study also throws light on the purpose of visiting the library and the satisfaction level of the students using library resources. Most of the students satisfied about the availability of basic resources like book, journal internet connectivity, and automation in the college library.

Keywords: library, resources, Arts and science college, purpose, satisfaction

INTRODUCTION

Libraries should develop adaptable resources and facilities through preparatory programs that can adequately prepare any woman for undergraduate or further studies. The library should be a hub of immense potential for pursuing higher education, supported by abundant resources, facilities, and services. It should also provide a chance for women to enter the field of higher education. The library should be furnished with high-quality information sources to facilitate comprehensive development and support the readiness of women communities for academic endeavours. A library is a paramount and essential institution that has a profound influence on an individual's education, future, empowerment, and growth. Libraries should be furnished with exceptional resources and should provide user-friendly facilities and services to enhance the potential of women and their communities, so facilitating their future aspirations. A library should establish study centres to expedite the development of creative and technical abilities, therefore creating employment chances for women who currently lack access to such resources.

A strong correlation exists between libraries and institution of higher education. The relationship is analogous to that of fish and water, body and heart. Indeed, libraries serve as the central hub of higher education, as they are underpinned by the resources and services provided by libraries. The reason for this is that libraries offer a wide range of information sources and services to fulfilling the information needs of students in higher education. The students rely on the library for information resources and services to pursue academic success and engage in research activities. Indeed, it is an indisputable reality that budgetary limitations or the unavailability of necessary information sources in the local area prevent any individual or student from accessing all the accessible information sources at regional, national, and international levels. Conversely, a library has the capacity to gather nearly all obtainable sources of information in order to fulfil the information needs of different customers. Furthermore, no book or e-book available in the market adheres to the academic curriculum mandated by Indian or foreign universities. Accordingly, students should consult more than two or three books in order to gather the necessary material for examinations, seminars, or assignments.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This study compared the perceptions of library use and services among this institution's Chinese business students (n = 71) in 2016 with those of Song's Chinese students (n = 24) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2004. The researchers requested that international business students (undergraduate and graduate) evaluate the perceived significance of five library service topics: personal study place, public computers, electronic resources, group meeting space, and virtual reference. Students (n = 149) evaluated the personal study area as the most significant library service (4.34; fairly important) and virtual reference as the least significant library service (3.33; neutral). (Michalak and Rysavy, 2018). Kumar, &Naik (2019) examined the utilisation, awareness, and perceptions of library services and facilities, specifically focussing on first-grade college libraries in Bangalore. A survey was conducted on a sample population of 295 students from three colleges. Results indicate that 84.8 percent of pupils utilise

the library consistently. There is significant awareness on the availability of print-based informational resources. The primary activities of users at the library include reading textbooks (83.9%), newspapers (67.1%), sourcing information for research or project work (65.8%), and completing class assignments (65.3%). Students identified significant obstacles to the successful utilisation of the college library, including insufficient computer/Internet access (75.6%) and a deficiency of current materials (60.7%). **Osinulu (2020)** investigated the understanding and utilisation of electronic information resources (EIR) among students at the College of Health Sciences in Sagamu, Nigeria, in 2020. The results revealed that a limited number of respondents utilised EIR for academic objectives. Nonetheless, insufficient computers, inconsistent power supply, and sluggish internet speed were recognised as significant impediments to utilising EIR. It was recommended to upgrade infrastructure, adopt suitable social media platforms to enhance awareness, and foster collaboration between librarians and faculty members to instruct students on the usage of specialised databases. Keywords: Electronic information resources, awareness, utilisation, undergraduates, students, health sciences. **Shashikant K. Bagewadi (2022)** has gathered data on the use of library resources and to solicit feedback on library collections and services from the Science students of Bangurnagar Arts, Science and Commerce College, Dandeli. The current study demonstrates the effective use of library resources by science students. To assess the library's resources, services, and facilities from both the library's perspective and that of its users, as well as to determine the amount of resource utilisation by students. **Kashyap (2022)** has analysed the utilisation of e-resources among students from the Arts, Social Science, and Science streams, as well as to evaluate their preferences about e-resource usage in Raipur city. The principal findings of the study indicate that the computed value is $2 (df=2) = 5.32$, while the tabulated value is 5.991. Consequently, the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted, and the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is rejected, signifying no significant difference in the utilisation of e-journals among students in the Arts, Social Science, and Science streams. The e-book was identified as the most favoured electronic resource among Arts, Social Science, and Science students in Raipur city.

Hatti, et al. (2023) have investigated the use of electronic resources by students at S.D.V.S Sangh's Shri L. K. Khot College of Commerce, Sankeshwar. The primary findings of this research indicate that students exhibit significant interest in using electronic resources, as they are fundamental to their daily informational needs, particularly for class assignments and updates pertinent to their field of study. Additionally, they require training for the proper use of these resources. **AdaezeNzewi (2023)** examines the role of academic librarians in supporting students in effectively using library information resources to accomplish their academic objectives. The librarian, drawing on their professional expertise, can effectively direct and assist new students in accessing the necessary information resources to accomplish their educational objectives. An analysis was conducted to examine the significance of information resources in facilitating the provision of information services by academic libraries. This study elucidates the aspects of information resources, staffing/human resources, services provided, and infrastructural resources. Lastly, the role of the academic librarian's assistant in supporting new university students in their pursuit of an educational curriculum.

Library Resources

Not only do information sources embellish libraries, but they also shape the services provided by libraries. Only a limited number of written palm leaves, unpublished manuscripts, and printed knowledge sources were accessible in ancient culture. Since the advent of new printing and information dissemination technologies, the world has been modernised in terms of the type of information sources. Consequently, academic, special, and public libraries now offer a wide range of diverse information sources.

Some of the library resources are

Abstracts: An abstract is a concise overview of primary sources that presents the key topics of a book, article, or pamphlet.

Almanacs: The Almanacs offer comprehensive information on contemporary events, advancements, statistics, astronomical phenomena, and diverse data across many disciplines.

Atlases: An atlas is a compilation of maps, plates, engravings, and tables often presented in a single volume. It presents data regarding the geographical and political transformations.

Bibliographies: A bibliography is a methodically organised compilation of printed works and other materials pertaining to a specific name, individual, location, and topic, accessible worldwide. Sources of

this information include particular books, periodical articles, encyclopaedias, textbooks, and other written materials.

Books: Books are a highly significant source of information that is exclusively available in written format. It fulfils the information needs of users about the preparation of examinations, assignments, seminars, discussions, and debates.

Dictionaries: Dictionaries serve as the primary and extensively utilised reference resource in libraries of all kinds. The dictionary serves as a reference source for students, teachers, and researchers seeking specific information. It arranges words in a language in alphabetical order, taking into account their meaning, sound, and definition.

Digital Information Sources: Information sources that are accessible in electronic or digital format. These resources can be accessed on CD-ROMs and the internet including e-journals and e-books. The Digital Information Systems (DIS) are carefully chosen, obtained, organised, controlled, explained, and advertised to consumers.

Directory: Directories are vital sources of information that offer a diverse range of material and direct consumers to several destinations. These systems operate in a manner similar to phone books, providing specific details such as names, addresses, phone numbers, and URLs for associations, corporations, organisations, and similar entities.

Encyclopedias: Encyclopaedias are the central and essential component of reference collections, particularly in academic libraries.

Gazetteers: A gazetteer is a kind of geographical dictionary or directory that includes the names of significant locations, nations, countries, cities, towns, villages, islands, mountains, seas, lakes, rivers, railway stations, airports, business centres, and industries.

Handbooks and manuals: Handbooks and manuals are essential reference materials regularly utilised in higher education and research organisations. Handbooks offer comprehensive information on essential concepts, facts, and terminology related to a specific subject.

Indexes: An index is a methodically organised list that contains sufficient information specifically about the entry of significant names and terms referenced in a book or document. It enables users to retrieve and locate the necessary information pertaining to their academic pursuits.

Journals: Journals are compilations of scholarly research papers authored by qualified experts in an academic or professional domain. An editorial committee, comprised of peer group members, evaluates such papers to determine their suitability for publication.

Patents and standards: Patents and standards are widely seen as crucial repositories of technological knowledge. The information included within patterns may not be accessible in other sources. Indeed, roughly 33% of the scientific and technological knowledge produced globally is exclusively found within patent filings. Patents are issued by governmental authorities.

Year books: An annual year book is a compilation of up-to-date information on the preceding year, presented in descriptive and/or statistical format. The written work offers a thorough and concise description of the topic matter.

Objectives

- To know the purpose of using library resources by the students
- To study the level of usage of different types resources available in the college library
- To investigate the satisfaction level of students among the library resources

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, an effort is made to evolve a suitable methodology for the research. The present study has been conducted using questionnaire based survey method. A well designed questionnaire is used as principal tool for the collection of data. A total number of 1400 questionnaires were distributed to the students of selected Arts and Science Women's colleges in Chennai, 1090 questionnaires were fully completed and utilized this study. In this research study, secondary data have been collected from annual reports, the library records, online information resources, sources from bibliographies, conference proceedings, library science journals etc. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Type of college

College type	No. of respondents	Percentage
Government	154	14.13
Government Aided	533	48.90
Self financing/Private	403	36.97
Total	1090	100

Source: Primary data

The above table describes the type of the colleges studying selected women students Arts and science colleges in Chennai. In the selected 1090 respondents, around half of the selected respondents (48.90%) were studying in the Government aided colleges, followed by 36.97% of them selected from self financing colleges and 14.13% of selected women students studying in Government colleges.

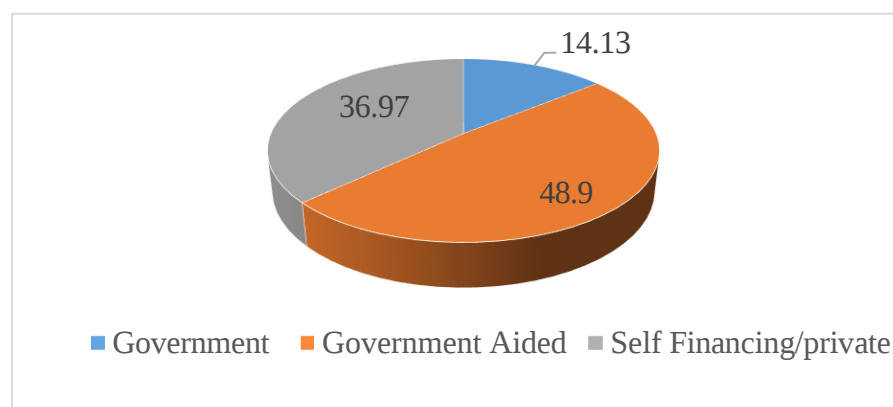


Figure 1: Type of College

Table 2: Discipline of the study

Department	No. of respondents	Percentage
Arts	284	26.06
Science	255	23.39
Commerce	368	33.76
Management	183	16.79
Total	1090	100

Table 2 explores the selected students discipline of the study. 33.76% of the students are preferred and studying in commerce department, 26.06% of them preferred Arts subjects, 23.39% of the students preferred to study in commerce discipline and 16.79% of the students studying in Management discipline. It is observed that most of the students (33.76%) studying in Commerce discipline.

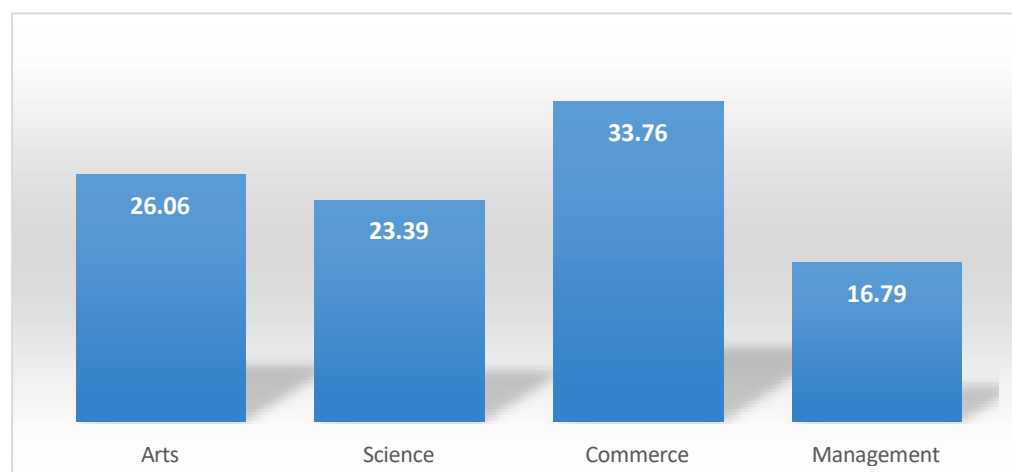


Figure 2: Discipline of the study

Table 3: Purpose of visiting the Library

Purpose	No. of respondents	Percentage
Preparing class notes	920	84.40
To read newspapers/magazines	723	66.33
Writing research paper	650	59.63
To borrow/return books	1045	95.87
To study reference sources	350	32.11
To Use Internet	476	43.67
To Use CD-ROM database	158	14.50
To Refer Journals	103	9.45
To Refer Thesis/projects	238	21.83
Research work	297	27.25
Others	126	11.56

In the selected 1090 students, most of them visiting the library for borrowing and return the library books (95.87%) and preparing class notes (84.40%). 66.93% of the students are visiting the library to read newspapers and magazines, 59.63% of them going to library for the purpose of writing research papers, study reference sources, 43.67% of them using internet, 27.25% are visit for research work, 21.83% are coming to the library for to refer thesis and projects, 14.50% are visited for to use CD's, 11.56% are visited for other purpose and 9.45% of the students visiting the library to refer journals.

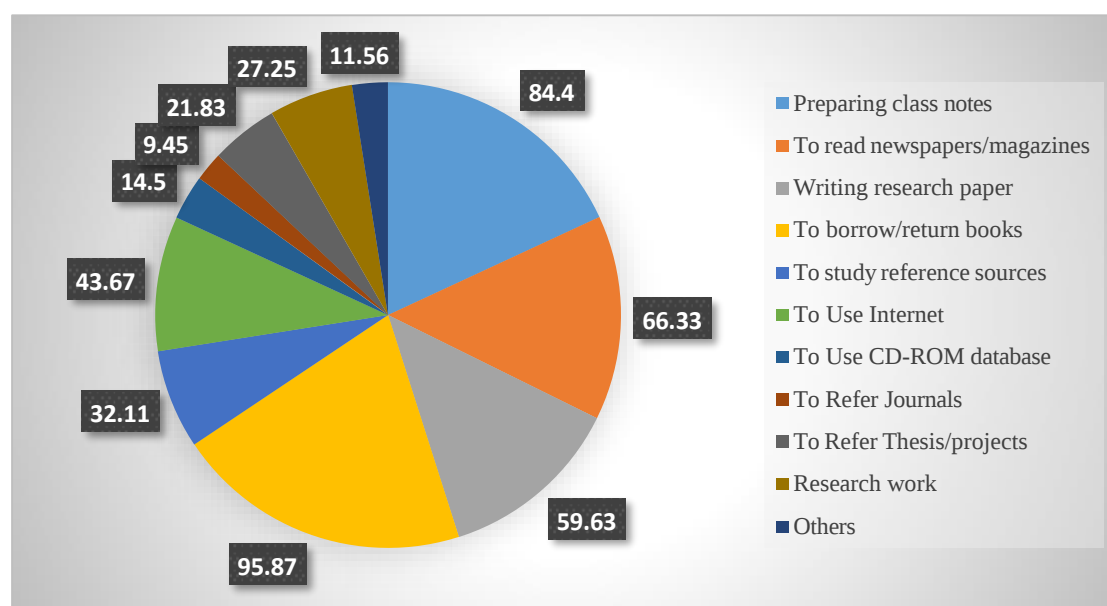


Figure 3: Purpose of visiting the library

Table 4: Perception of respondents towards purpose of visit to the library

Statement	Mean	SD	Rank
To study the reference books	3.95	1.272	1
To meet friends	3.54	1.285	6
To get information	3.62	1.049	5
To barrow /return books	3.93	1.012	2
To photocopy	3.76	1.335	4
To refer books	3.32	1.261	8
To refer journals	3.84	1.113	3
To refer thesis /dissertations	3.43	0.857	7
To refer reports /proceedings	3.27	1.137	9

Source: Primary data

Perception of the respondents towards purpose of visit to the library are displayed in the Table 4 through descriptive measures and are ranked from 1 to 9. Respondents ranked to study the reference books in

the 1st place followed by to barrow /return books in the 2nd and to refer journals in the 3rd place. Respondents also give least preference to refer reports /proceedings followed by to refer thesis /dissertations and To refer thesis /dissertations in the 9th, 8th and 7th places respectively.

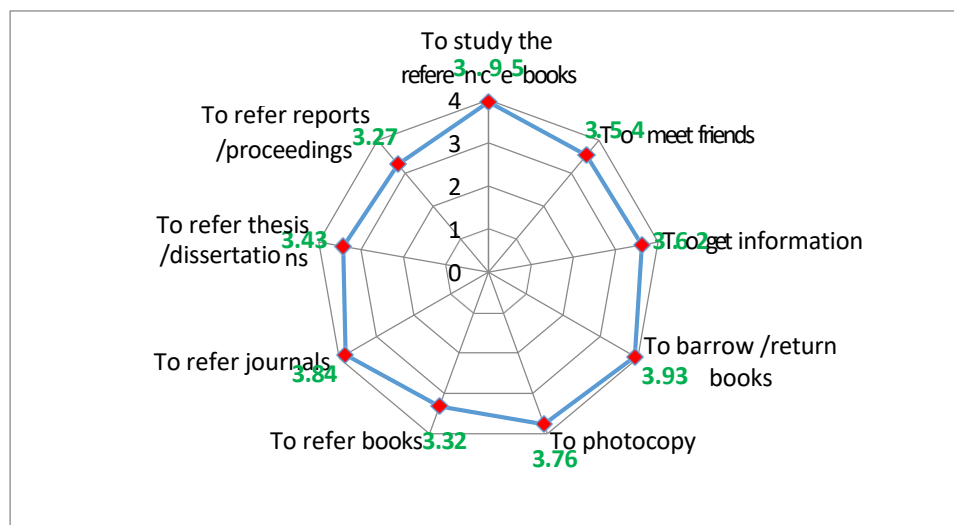


Figure 4: Perception of respondents towards purpose of visit to the library

Influence of department and College type on Satisfaction towards library sources

In this section the influence of demographic variables on Satisfaction towards library sources is identified. One way ANOVA is applied to identify the significant influence of department and College type on Job satisfaction and the results are presented in the Table 4.5.

Null hypothesis H₀1(a): There is no significant influence department on Satisfaction towards library sources

Null hypothesis H₀1(b): There is no significant influence College type on Satisfaction towards library sources

Table 5: Influence of department and College type on Satisfaction towards library sources

Variable	Classification	Mean	S D	F values
Department	Arts	3.33	0.987	4.517** (p=.001)
	Science	3.57	1.236	
	Commerce	3.88	0.924	
	Management	3.65	1.038	
College type	Government	3.34	0.988	5.662** (p=.000)
	Government Aided	3.44	1.183	
	Self-financing/Private	3.83	0.961	

** Significant at 1% level

Significant influence of department ($F=4.517$, $p=.001$) and college type ($F=5.662$, $p=.000$) on Satisfaction towards library sources, H₀1(a) and H₀1(b) are rejected at 1% level.

Department

Respondents in the Commerce department have scored highest mean value of 3.88 and the lowest mean value is scored by the respondents in the Arts department (3.33). It is observed that the library users in the Commerce department are more satisfied with library sources, whereas the library users belongs to Arts department are less satisfied with library sources.

College type

Respondents working in Self- financing/Private colleges have scored highest mean value of 3.83 and the lowest mean value is scored by the respondents working in Government colleges (3.34). It is observed that the library users working in Self- financing/Private colleges are more satisfied with library sources, whereas the library users working in Government colleges are less satisfied with library sources.

Table 6: Satisfaction level about library resources available in the college library

S.No.	Description	HS	S	N	DS	HDS
1	Books	521	278	231	15	45
2	Scientific journals/ Periodicals	91	335	206	217	241
3	Conference/seminars proceedings	152	247	303	332	56
4	Thesis and Dissertations	189	417	196	184	104
5	Reference sources (Dictionaries, Encyclopedia, etc.)	226	357	312	174	21
6	E-Resources (N List, Delnetetc)	192	315	298	191	94
7	Indexing and Abstracting Sources	152	264	207	352	115
8	Internet connectivity	361	364	243	99	23
9	CD/DVD databases	148	239	315	286	102
10	Reprographic (Xerox)	278	342	264	137	69
11	Printer/Scanner	189	387	270	163	81
12	Library automation	267	372	236	156	59
13	OPAC/Web OPAC facilities	253	371	198	183	85
14	Digitization of unique materials (Question paper etc)	320	337	293	93	54

In the selected 1090 students, 521 students highly satisfied on resources available in the library, 335 students are satisfied about scientific journals and periodical available in the library, 332 students are dissatisfied about the availability of conference and proceedings in the library, 417 students are satisfied on thesis and projects, 357 students are satisfied on reference sources, 315 students are satisfied on e-resources, 352 students are dissatisfied on indexing and abstracting service, 364 students are satisfied on internet connection, 315 students neutral on their opinion about CD/DVD databases, 342 students are satisfied on reprographic facilities, 387 students are satisfied printer and scanner sources, 372 students are satisfied about library automation, 371 students are satisfied about OPAC, 337 students are satisfied about the digitization of unique materials like question papers.

Findings

- Most of the selected respondents (48.90%) were studying in the Government aided colleges
- Most of the students (33.76%) studying in Commerce discipline.
- Most of the students visiting the library for borrowing and return the library books
- Students in the Commerce department are more satisfied with library sources
- It is observed that the library users working in Self- financing/Private colleges are more satisfied with library sources, whereas the library users working in Government colleges are less satisfied with library sources.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals that most of them visiting the library for borrowing and return the library books (95.87%) and preparing class notes (84.40%). 66.93% of the students are visiting the library to read newspapers and magazines, 59.63% of them going to library for the purpose of writing research papers. Students from Commerce department are more satisfied with library sources, whereas the library users belongs to Arts department are less satisfied with library sources. It is observed that the library users working in Self- financing/Private colleges are more satisfied with library sources, whereas the library users working in Government colleges are less satisfied with library sources.

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