

Information Seeking Behaviour of B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. Students in Lucknow: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

The major purpose of this study was to examine the Information Seeking Behavior of B. Tech. and M.B.B.S. students in Lucknow. The aim of the study was to broaden our understanding of information seeking to personality and approach in to psychological characteristics can shed light on variability and patterns in information seeking behavior. Information seeking behavior is expressed in various forms, from reading printed material to research and experimentation. Specifically the study made effort to determine the sources consulted and the general pattern of information on gathering system by the student level of study and course of study on the students' information seeking behaviors.

Keywords: *Information Seeking Behaviour, Survey, Students, Lucknow.*

Introduction

The aim of the study was to broaden our understanding of Information Seeking Behavior (ISB) by linking patterns of information seeking to personality and approach into psychological characteristics can shed light on variability and patterns in Information–Seeking Behavior.

The present era is the era of information and knowledge revolution. Many electronic resources are available in the library. The increase in information available on the Web has affected information seeking behavior.

Innumerable types of information, in a large variety of containers and in many different locations, are all available in one place.

In the modern society, the types of information and the media which present them have become manifold and multifarious, offering men and women a vast selection.

Information seeking behavior involves personal reasons for seeking information, the kinds of information which are being sought, and the ways and sources with which needed information is being sought.¹

Information seeking behavior is expressed in various forms, from reading printed material to research and experimentation. Scholars, students and faculties actively seek current information from the various media available in libraries, e.g. encyclopedias, journals and, more currently, electronic media. .

Abels (2004) ² mentioned that the frequency of use of the Internet in 1998-2000 had greatly increased. At the same time, expenditures on monographs showed steady increase.

There is a universal assumption that man was born innocent or ignorant and should actively seek knowledge. "Information seeking is thus a natural and necessary mechanism of human existence" (Marchionini, 1995) ³. Information seeking behavior is the purposive seeking for information as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal. In the course of seeking, the individual may interact with manual information systems (such as a newspaper or a library), or with computer-based systems such as the Web ⁴.

Information Seeking Behaviours

Information seeking behavior refers to the way people search for and utilize information. Most times student's information seeking behavior involves

active or purposeful information seeking as a result of the need to complete course assignments, prepare for class discussions, seminars, workshops, conferences, or write final year research papers.

The phrase 'Information-Seeking Behaviors' has been defined variously by different authors. The following definitions of Information-Seeking behaviors will however make the concept more clear according to Knikelar⁵ information seeking behaviors refers to "any activity of an individual that is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived needs."

King defined information seeking behaviors "as a manner in which a user conducts himself in relation to a given information environment. It is, therefore regarded as essentially a process of interaction between the user and the rest of the information system."⁶

Review of Literature:

The literature survey reveals that the published literatures in this field are numerous and scattered. It was not possible to record all the literature for this review therefore; few omissions could not be avoided.

Mirian Kakai, R. Ikoja – Odongo and I.M.N. Kigonogo - Bukenya (1998)⁷ investigates in

her studies the information needs and seeking - behavior of undergraduate students of Makerere University. The study makes recommendations of student's information – seeking behavior and use of information resources.

Asemi, A. (2005)⁸ reports a survey on the search habits of Internet users at the Medical University of Isfahan (MUI), a governmental university in Isfahan city, Iran. Efforts are on to find the search requirements related to the use of the Internet information.

Information seeking behavior is an area of active interest among librarians, information scientist, and psychologists. Information seeking behavior results from the recognition of some needs, perceived by the user, who as a consequence makes demands upon formal systems such as libraries, information centers, on-line services or some other person in order to satisfy the perceived need.⁹

Many studies have been conducted to investigate the Information-Seeking Behavior of library users based on their subject interest, occupation, information environment and geographical location.¹⁰⁻¹⁵

Statement of the Problem

B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students in Lucknow are expected to maximally utilize the own institution library as one of their major sources of information. However, noting from observation and from the studies conducted on library use in these institutions, it was established that students do not use most of the library information resources. It was assumed that students could be experiencing technical problems in accessing information resources, coupled with lack of knowledge and awareness of the resources.

Need of the Study

The nature of information is not easy to describe. Perhaps the most explicit definition in the literature defines information as recorded experience that is used in decision-making. Today, information technology has developed rapidly and has had a huge impact on access to information and on information seeking behavior. Librarian and library-staff have to know and examine the criteria of information seeking and information used by users for providing information services, designing new information systems, intervening in the operation of existing systems, or planning in service programs.

I tried to get the answers from the following questions:

1. What kind of information is sought by B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students?
2. What methods are used for seeking information?
3. What languages are used by B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students?
4. What are the problems of seeking information and how it can be solved?
5. Which are the search engines and browsers are generally used by the users?

Objective of the Study

The aim of the study is to examine the influence of personality and approaches to studying on Information-Seeking Behavior. This will be examined from various view points:

1. To examine information-seeking behavior of B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students in Lucknow.
2. To reveal the use of language of reading materials.
3. To determine the kind of information are used by B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students for seeking information.

4. To study the purpose of information – seeking by B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students.
5. To study the problems faced by users while seeking and use information.
6. To find out the most common search engines used by the users.
7. To find out most common journals used by the users i.e. B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students.

Scope

This survey includes four institutions, i.e. C.S.J.M. Medical University, Era's Lucknow Medical College, I.E.T. Lucknow and Integral University. The questionnaires was distributed to 32 respondent of each institute (total number of respondent = 128) by personal survey. One hundred nineteen (119) students responded to the questionnaire i.e. 93 %.

Methodology

The research is confined to the Lucknow, and this survey includes four institutions, i.e. C.S.J.M. Medical University, Era's Lucknow Medical College, I.E.T. Lucknow and Integral University. The raw data was collected through open and closed ended questionnaires.

The questionnaires was distributed to 32 respondent of each institute (total number of respondent = 128) by personal survey methods of selected medical and engineering institution and its library, and also personal Interview of users with questionnaires through random selection of population.

Data Analysis

The data obtained was analyzed using statistics ways, as this was useful for creating frequency tables for each of the variables. The open-ended questions were analyzed using content analysis. This survey includes four institutions, i.e. C.S.J.M. Medical University, Era’s Lucknow Medical College, I.E.T. Lucknow and Integral University. The questionnaires was distributed to 32 respondent of each institute (total number of respondent = 128) by

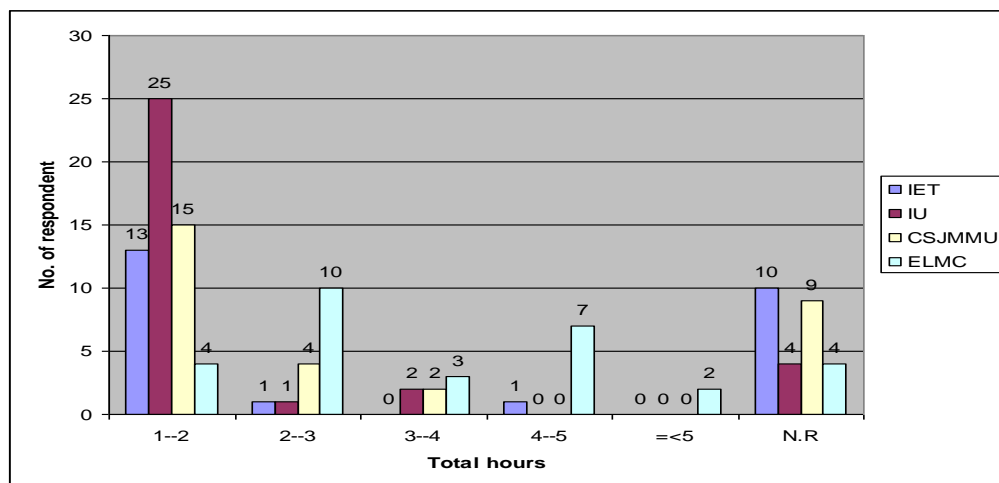
personal survey. One hundred nineteen (119) students responded to the questionnaire i.e. 93 %.

Time spent in the library

The question was asked to the respondents that, how many hours you spend in the library per day. Table -2 shows that the maximum students of all four institutes spend only 1—2 hours (49 %) in an institute library. Thirteen percent spend 2—3 hours, six percent spend 3—4 hours, and very few spend more than 5 hours i.e. (2 %). 23 % respondent gives no response.

The IET students spend less time as compare to IU’s students, Like that CSJMMU’s student also spends less time as compare to ELMC. The table shows that self finance institute students spend more time as compare to government funded institute.

Figure-1: Time spent in the library

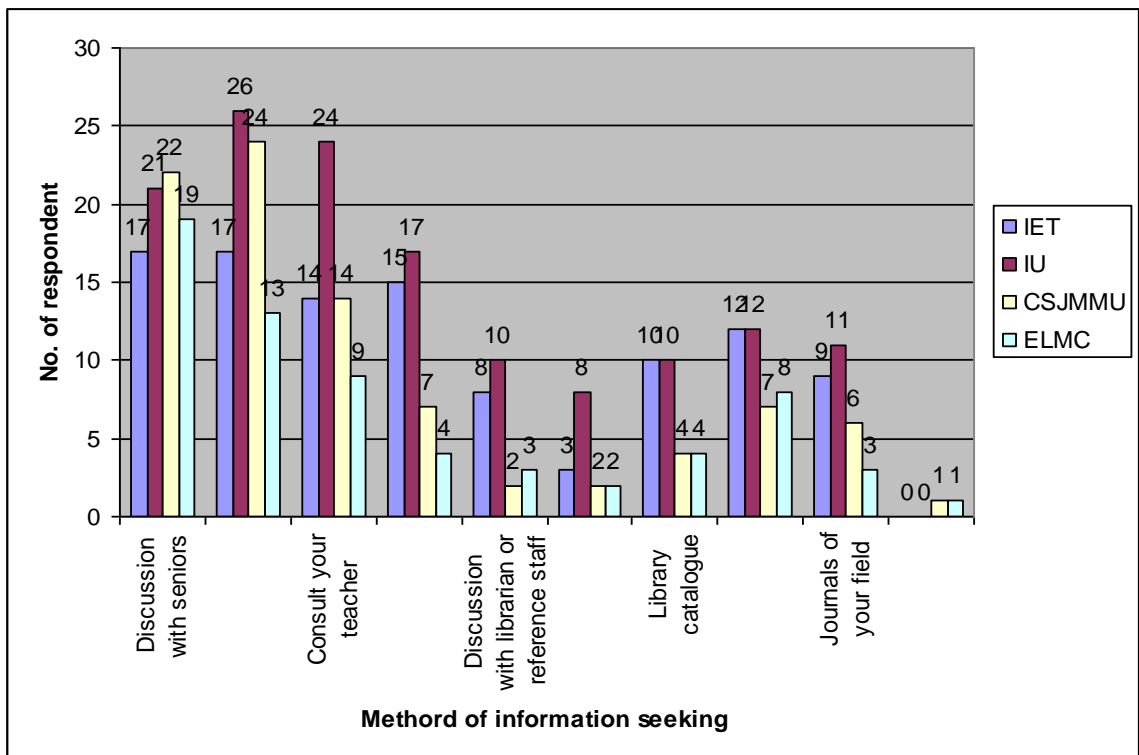


The maximum number of respondent gives the first priority to seek information through discussion with colleagues, second priority is discussion with seniors, consult with teachers is a third priority. Consult with a knowledgeable person is fourth priority, and the fifth priority is to seek the information through review of articles.

Methods of Information-Seeking

A question was asked about the methods used by the B.Tech. & M.B.B.S. students for seeking information.

Figure-2: Methods of Information-Seeking



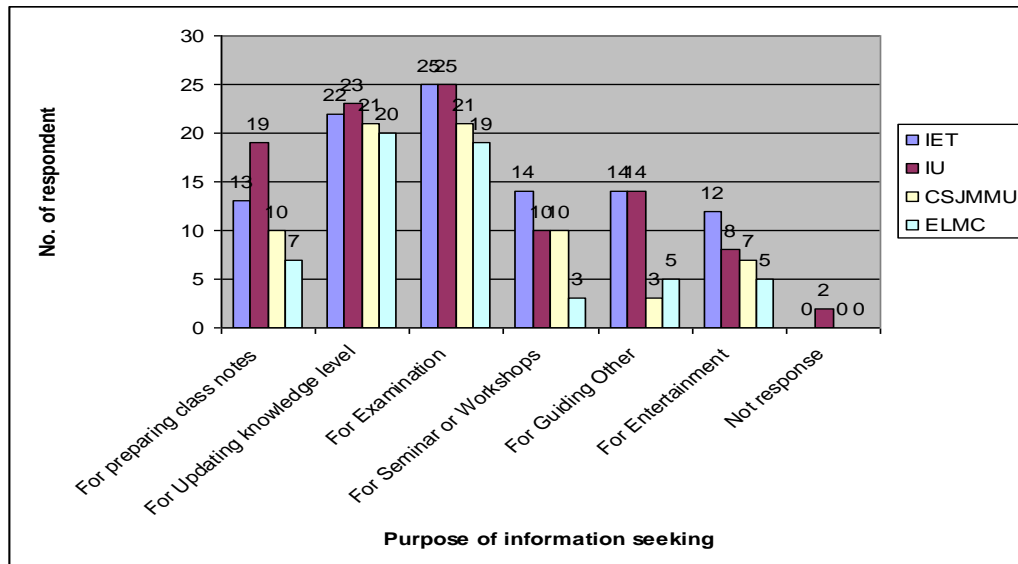
Purpose of Information-Seeking

As shown in figure-3, respondents indicated the purpose of seeking – information. It is clearly seen that the maximum respondent

gives the first priority to seek information for examination purposes, seeking information for updating knowledge level is a second priority, and the third priority is to

seek information for preparing class notes and very few gives no response.

Figure-3: Purpose of Information Seeking

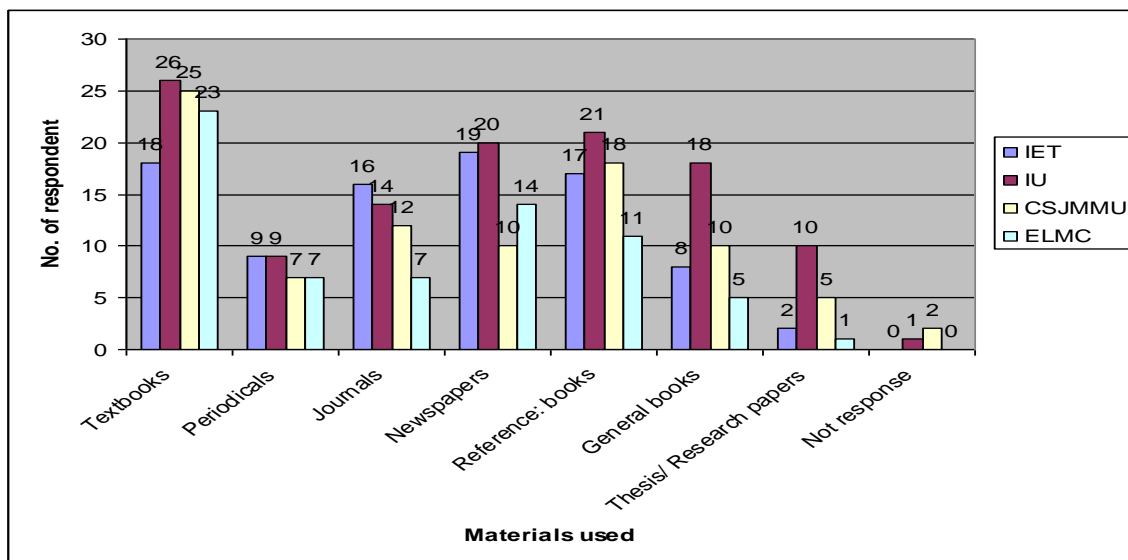


Use of Various Types of Materials

B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students were asked to indicate the type of information sources which they used to seek information. For seeking information, textbooks were the most popular type of information source among all respondents. Respondents give second rank to use of reference books, and journals have third choice.

The student of IET's preferred newspapers for seeking information while IU's use textbooks, IET's give second preference to textbooks while IU's give second priority to newspapers. CSJMMU's and ELMC's students use textbooks as a main information source. CSJMMU's give second rank to reference books while ELMC's give newspaper as a second priority.

Figure-4: Types of Materials

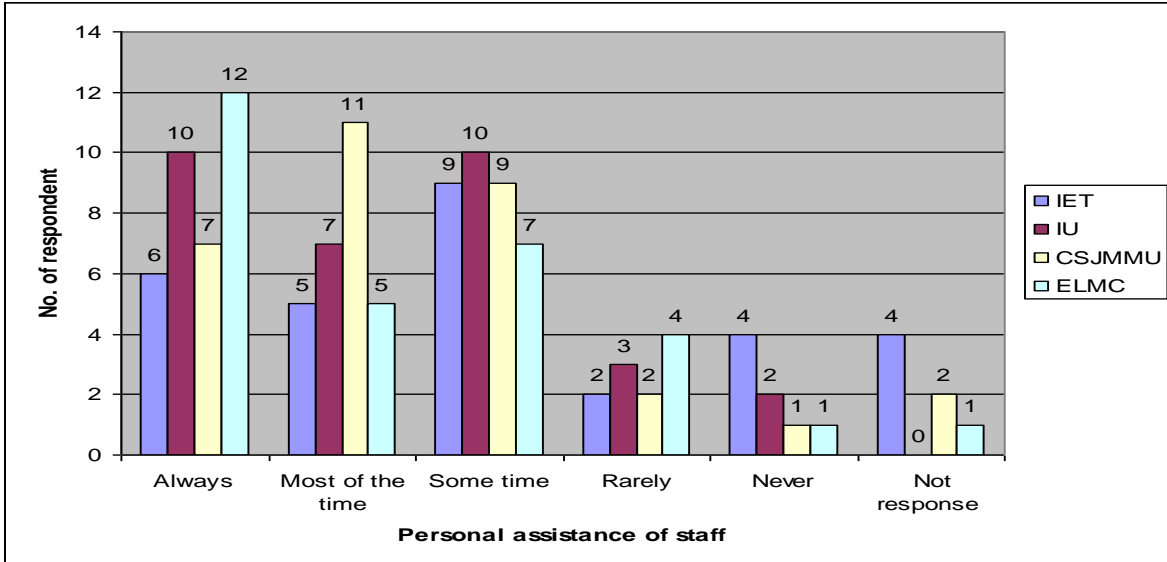


Personal Assistance of Staff

The question was asked about the personal assistance of library staff the respondents

was so confused and gives same priority the option always and some time with 29 %. 6 % gives no response.

Figure-5: Personal assistance of staff

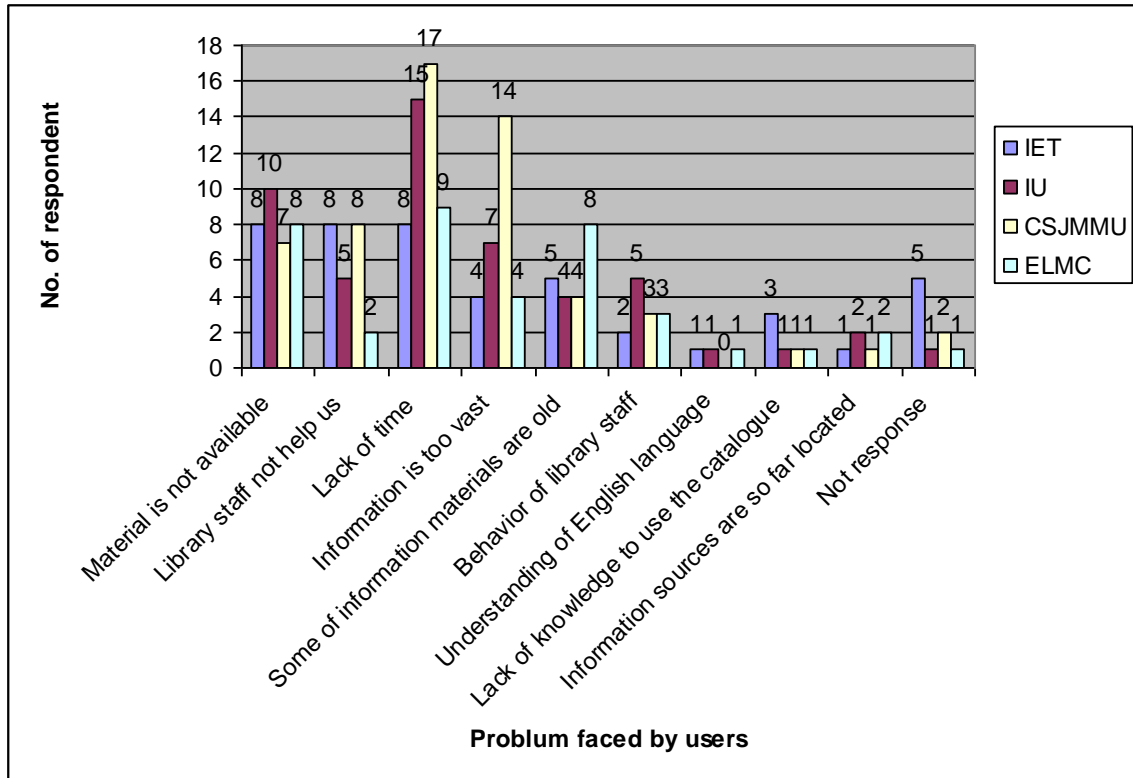


Problems Faced by Users

The respondents were asked to mention the problems they faced while seeking information. Table 13 shows that the majority of respondents give the first

priority lack of time i.e. 41 %, second priority was not availability of materials. 28 % says that information is too vast and 8 % gives no response.

Figure-6: Problems faced by users

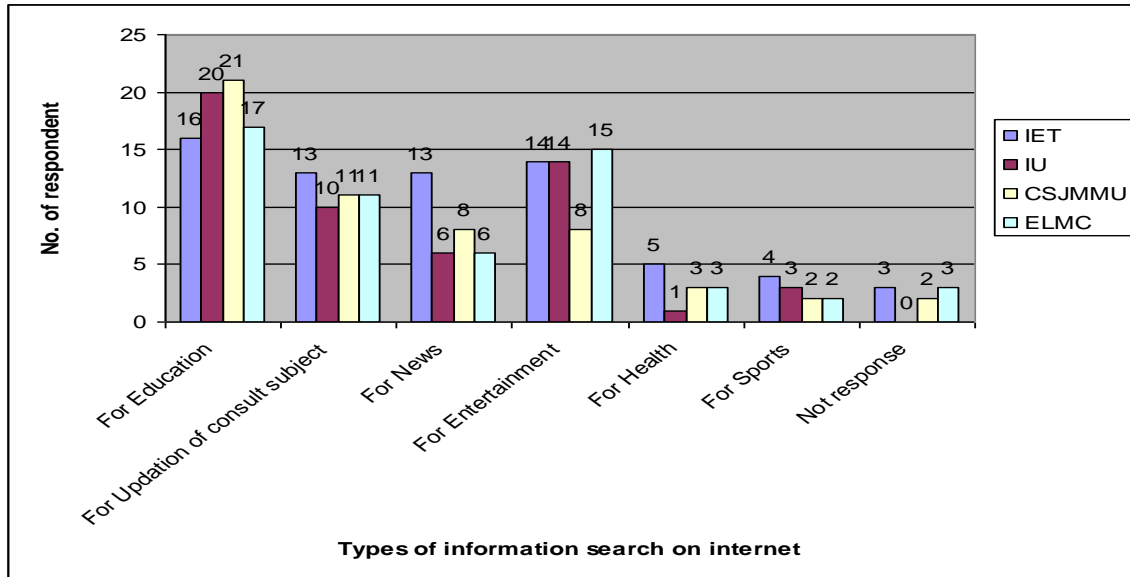


Information Search on Internet

According to table 16 the maximum number of respondent i.e. 62 % use internet for

educational purpose, 43 % respondent use for entertainment, 38 % use for updating of consult subject and 7 % gives no response.

Figure-7: Information search on Internet

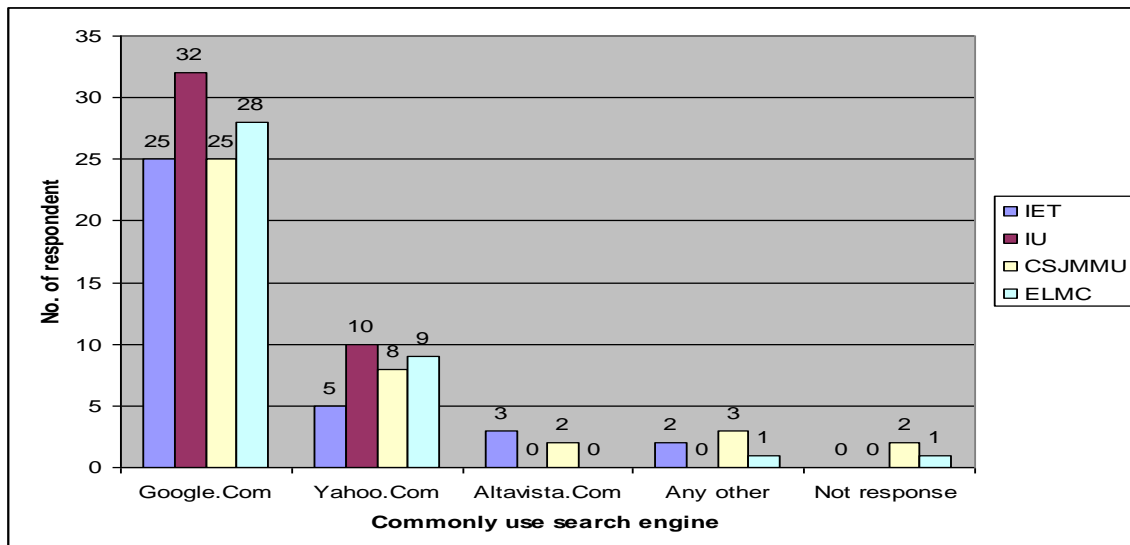


Frequently Used Search Engines

Maximum respondent i.e. ninety – two percent use search engine, especially Google, followed by Yahoo twenty – seven

percent, only four percent use AltaVista, five percent use other search engine. Three percent give no response.

Figure -8: Frequently Use Search Engine



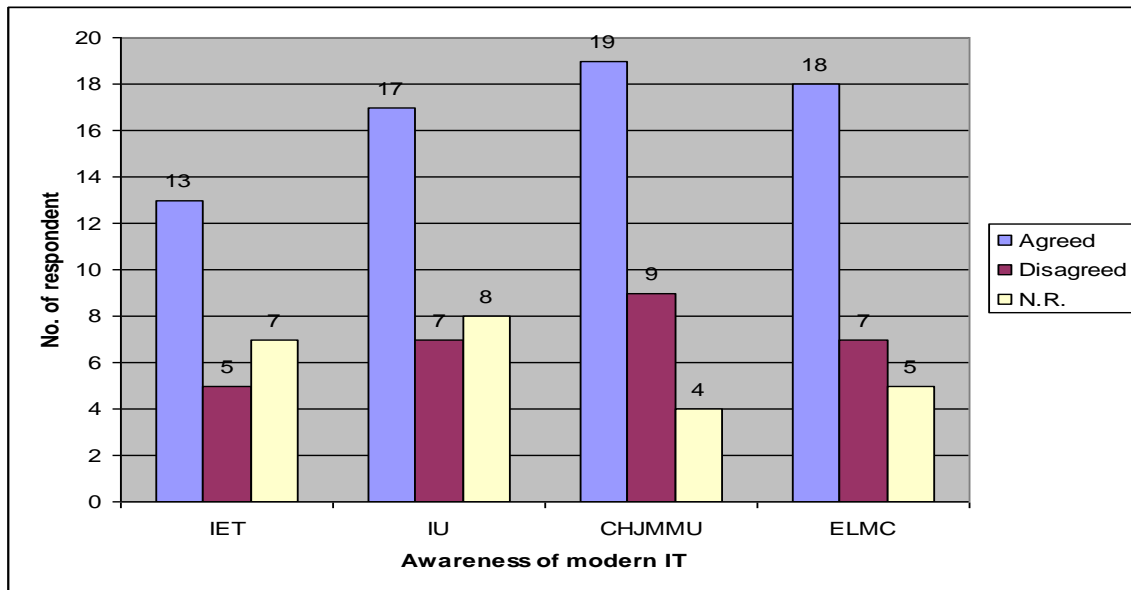
Awareness of Modern Information Technology: The B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students were asked to indicate the

awareness of modern IT. Fifty – six percent respondents are aware to use of modern IT and twenty percent give no response.

The students of IU's i.e. self finance institute are more aware for the modern information technology as compared to IET's i.e. government funded institute, but

it's seen just opposite in medical institutes the students of CSJMMU's are well aware for the modern technologies as compared to students of ELMC's.

Figure-9: Awareness of modern Information Technology

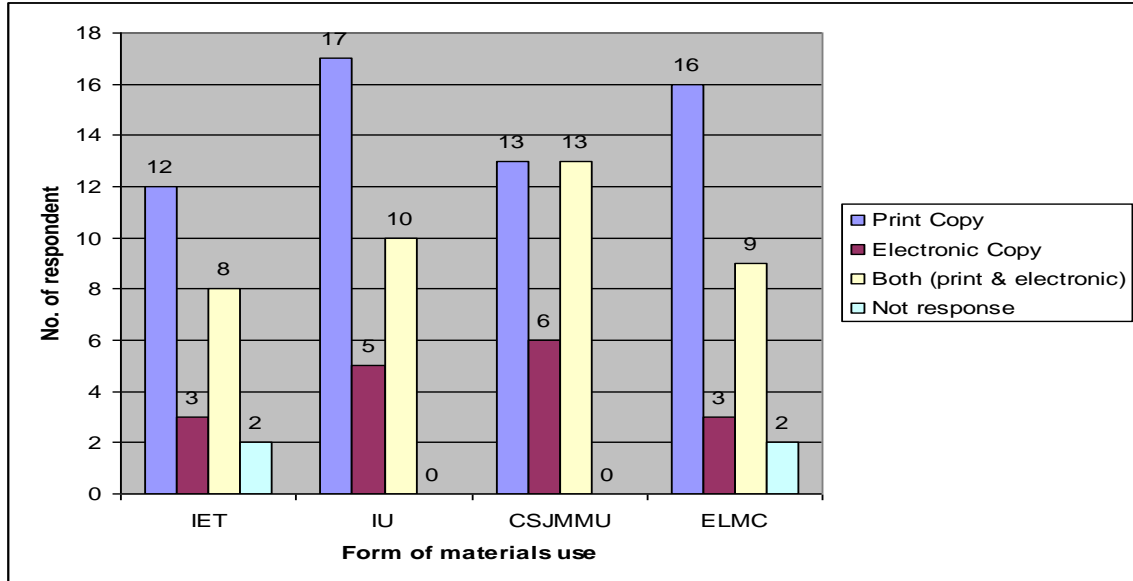


Use of Form of Information Materials

The question was asked about the form of materials to be used by users. From the below mention table we can say that awareness of using electronic copy (14 %)

form of materials is increasing. But 49 % respondents prefer to use print form. Electronic form of materials has not replaced print form.

Figure-10: Form of Materials



Popular Journals Used By Users

The most common journals used by B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students are listed below in

table 11. They use various national and international journals for their information requirements.

Table-1: Popular Journals Used by Users

S.NO	Journals used by B.Tech. students	Journals used by M.B.B.S. students
1	Annals of Physics	Journal of Physiology
2	Asian Journal of Biochemistry	Journal of Anatomy
3	Asian Journal of Physics	Journal of Surgery
4	Journal of Mechanical Design	British Medical Journal
5	Computing in Science & Engineering	U.S. Medical Journal
6	Indian Journal of Biochemistry	Indian Journal of Medicine
7	International Journal of Computers	Nature
8	International Journal of Computational Science and Engineering	The Life Line
9	Indian Journal of Technology	The Doctor Today
10	Advances in Vibration Engineering	Medical Update

11	Indian Chemical Engineer	Health Today
12	Proceeding Mathematical Sciences	Journal of Biochemistry
13	Vibration Engineering	Lancet
14	The Indian Journal of Technical Education	British Journal of Surgery
15	Building Construction & Material Survey	Harrison Journal of Medicine

Conclusion and Discussion

The conclusion of the study was that personality and approach to studying influence the information the information seeking behavior of students. This study can be extended by directly observing students. Additionally it would be interesting to investigate how people who occasionally communicate to work make transitions in access to information between two different places. Another way to extent the study's finding would be to explore post information seeking strategies and activities in a more detailed level by examining how people save, exchange, distributed, organized and provide web information after they find the information at home.

The contribution of the present dissertation lies foremost in the emphasis on the importance of considering individual patterns of information-seeking behavior. The successful operation of any library depends to a large extent on the choice of library collections. The choice of the collection should meet the need and requirements of the end users.

Consequently librarians must be aware, how to both the B.Tech. and M.B.B.S. students seek information. Both are absolutely different trades in which the information source are different, that's why the ways of seeking information is also different. Some students belong to the urban areas and some are from rural areas this also influence the information seeking behavior of any student.

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