

# Information seeking behavior of the Students at Mandava Institute of Engineering and Technology: A survey

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## Abstract

*However, considerably less attention has been paid to learned characteristics of relationships that affect the decision to seek information from other people. Based on a review of the information seeking behavior of students at Mandava institute of engineering and technology. This paper explains the reviews of how students are search and seeking for online information are relatively rare, particularly where research examines how they decide seeking behavior of the information. Original research into their online searching behavior is also rare, particularly in real world clinical settings, as is original research into their online searching behaviour.*

**Keywords:** Learned, relationships, decision, reviews, seeking, relatively, research, original.

## Introduction

Information seeking is an implicit decision that people make in answering their questions. In making this decision people make implicit assumptions about the cost of finding the information its value and the cost of not having it. The amount of time people are willing to spend depends on the nature of the information needed and the value they place on their time. Information seeking therefore is an important step to problem solving. The process begins when someone perceive that the current state of knowledge is less than that needed to deal with some issues.

Information seeking is an integral component of life, which aim is to eliminate a continual dissonance between perceptions of how things are at this moment and how they should be. Information has been described as the fifth need of man ranking after air, water, food and shelter (Kemp, 1976, p.101). Information collection, transfer and use are all pervasive and universal activities in all walks of life. Foundational work focused on learning as either a cognitive

process or a function of behavioral change occurring through modification of an organization's programs, goals, decision rules, or routines.

### **Objective of the Study**

The main objective of this study:

1. To find out the understanding and use of library resources by students.
2. To find out the type of information sources used by students.

### **Methodology**

This study used questionnaire – based survey method. The questionnaires were personally distributed to the students of MIET at their library and class rooms in the month of June 2015. In the MIET college has five departments and about 420 students. From such a number, a random sample of 100 students was selected. The questionnaires were distributed to the students who were present in their library and class rooms. Sixty filled in questionnaires were returned by the users with the overall response rate being 50%. The collected data were analyzed, classified and tabulated by employing statistical methods.

### **Review of Literature**

Information seeking behavior is an area of active attention among librarians, information scientists, communication scientists, sociologists and psychologists. Information seeking behavior results from the appreciation of some need, perceived by the user , who as a consequence makes demands upon formal systems such as libraries, information centers, online services or some other person in order to satisfy the supposed need . Information seeking behavior refers to any activity of an individual that is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived need. The literature on surveys about the information seeking behavior of the student is extensive. 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. This study investigates the sources of information used by students studying Engineering at Mandava institute of engineering and technology, college for their academic work, the extent to which they are aware and use the library resources, the assistance they receive in using the library resources, etc.

## ***Information seeking***

Spink and Cole (2005) define information seeking as, “a sub-set of information behavior that includes the purposive seeking of information in relation to a goal “. Information is not sought in a vacuum. According to Belkin and Croft (1992) the process is necessitated by a problem and a need to solve it. However, Sperber and Wilson (1995) have cautioned that it is not only because of problems or because of a need to make decision that people seek information. Some people seek information out of the desire to have more information.

### ***Characterized of Information seeking behavior***

1. **Starting** –activities characteristic of the initial search for information.
2. **Chaining**- following chains of citations or other forms of referential connection between materials.
3. **Browsing**- semi directed searching in an area of potential interest.
4. **Differentiating**- using differences between sources as a filter on the internet and quality of material examined.
5. **Monitoring**- maintaining awareness of developments in a field through the monitoring of particular sources.
6. **Extracting**- systematically working through a particular source to locate material of interest.

## ***Analysis***

Questions like name, gender and educational qualification were asked. Out of 50 respondents, 40 (80 %) were male and 15 (20%) were female.

### ***Frequency of visit to the library***

The frequency of students visit to the library has been classified into four time gaps as shown in the Table 1. Majority of user's i.e.

**Table 1 –Frequency of visit to the library**

Sl.no.	Frequency	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Every day	20	40%
2.	2-3 times in a week	15	30%

3.	Weekly	10	20%
4.	Monthly	5	10%
	Total -50	100	

**Table 2 –Purpose of visit to the library**

Sl.No.	Purpose	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	To study	42	84%
2.	To borrow books	41	82%
3.	Browsing the shelves	35	70%
4.	Use of the reference books	15	30%
5.	To read journals	14	28%
6.	To collect course books	20	40%
7.	To know the latest arrivals	10	20%
8.	To read newspaper and magazines	33	66%

From Table 2 , it is seen that 84% users visited the library to study, 82% users to borrow books, 70% browsing the shelves, 30% to use reference books , 28% to read journals, 20% to know the latest arrivals and 66% to read newspaper and magazines.

**Table 3 - Use of library sources and services**

Sl.No	Services	YES	NO	No response
1.	Issue/Return	15(30%)	25(50%)	10(20%)
2.	Reference service	25(50%)	20(40%)	5(10%)
3.	Books and journals	20(40%)	5(10%)	25(50%)
4.	Indexing service	20(40%)	15(30%)	15(30%)
5.	Abstracting service	20(40%)	25(50%)	5(10%)
6.	Newspaper	40(80%)	5(10%)	5(10%)
7.	Inter-Library Loan	5(10%)	40(80%)	5(10%)
8.	Translation service	5(10%)	50(90%)	-

9.	CAS	5(100%)	40(80%)	5(10%)
10.	SDI	20(40%)	25(50%)	5(10%)

From Table 3: Shows the use of library sources and services. It was found that majority of the students used Newspapers and Reference Services. It was found that information services such as CAS 100%, SDI 40% and abstracting 40%, indexing 40% services were used and inter library loan is 10%, translation services are 10%, issue/return service are 30% in the library and remain the issue / return are 15 (30%), books and journals are 20 (40%).

### ***Library Collection development***

**Table 4 – Purpose of seeking information Rank**

Sl.No.	Purpose	1	2	3	4	Total
1.	For profession development	25(50%)	15(25%)	05(10%)	15(25%)	50(100%)
2.	To solve instant practical problem	15(25%)	15(25%)	15(25%)	15(25%)	50(100%)
3.	To keep up to date	15(25%)	15(25%)	15(25%)	15(25%)	50(100%)
4.	To write an article / conference paper	15(25%)	15(25%)	15(25%)	15(25%)	50(100%)

### ***Purpose of seeking information***

Table 4 indicates the decreasing rank order of information seeking on a scale of four. Career development with 25 (50%) out of 50 respondents was the most preferred response for seeking information. In this table the concepts of the solve instant practical problem are 15 (25%), Keep up to date analysis is 15(25%). This was followed by the reasons that include seeking information for problem solving, Keeping up to date and the need to write an article or research paper.

### ***Instruction on how to use library sources and services***

Eighty three per cent of the respondents in this study agreed with the statement that for more effective and efficient use of the library. Students need instruction on how to use information sources in their subject areas. Students need instruction in the use of the library to enable them to

make more effective and efficient use of information sources and services to which the library provides access.

## **Conclusion**

Information collection, transfer and use are all pervasive and universal activities in all walks of life. Foundational work focused on learning as either a cognitive process or a function of behavioral change occurring through modification of an organization's programs, goals, decision rules, or routines. Academic information professionals should consider that engineering students need instruction and electronic access to information resources. Along with playing the role of educator, academic libraries are must also build unified interfaces which promote ease of access so , that all students will be able to use a diverse set of data and information resources in a simple and straight forward way.

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. This study investigates the sources of information used by students studying Engineering at Mandava institute of engineering and technology, college for their academic work, the extent to which they are aware and use the library resources, the assistance they receive in using the library resources, etc.

The usage of the MIET library, its resources and services needs to be increased. Student oriented information resources such as text books, reference material, Journals, internet facility, database etc., should be facilitated. The library should provide initial orientation workshops and ongoing seminars for students to train them in using resources so, that utilization of resources and services is maximized. The Percentage of the access of information and utilization of the resources are presented as a tables and showing the percentage also. The literature on surveys about the information seeking behavior of the student is extensive.

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