

**Library User Visit of under Graduate Students at an Engineering College, Central
Library, Affiliated by APJ Abdul Kalam University, Lucknow
A case Study**

Nazia Salauddin

Librarian

Department of Central Al Farooqui
Library Jahangirabad Institute of
Technology JIT fort, Barabanki, India

ABSTRACT

A library user study may be defined as any study relating to library use, in any or all of its aspects. According to weskit, user study could be concerned with studying information processing activities of users. In the light of above definition, a study which is focused on users to understand directly or indirectly their information needs, use behavior and use pattern is usually called user study. This paper aims to focus the library visit of under graduate & Post graduate students of an engineering college central library at Jahangirabad Institute of Technology, Barabanki. In any information system, user is an important component. It is widely recognized that service quality and consumer satisfaction are essential for retaining current consumers and attracting new ones. In library service, access to relevant information is highly essential and right information to the right user can pave way to new directions to research and development. Although every teacher and research scholar now have ready access to online resources, the role of the traditional documents is still important. This paper aims to achieve this objective the librarians, information officers and documentation officers should understand the library user, how they interact with system and their pertinent requirements.

Keywords: Library visit, user study, user visit, central library, JIT, college library, academic library, Barabanki, India.

INTRODUCTION

The term 'User study' is a complicated area of knowledge to define. A user study may be defined as a systematic study of information requirements of users in order to facilitate Meaningful exchanges between information systems and users. The word 'user study' has been Defined by different information scientists. According to weskit, user study could be concerned With studying information processing activities of users. In the light of above definition, a study which is focused on users to understand directly or indirectly their information need, use behavior and use pattern is usually called user study.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

- The study will be helped to the library authorities in identifying the nature and needs of user community and to take necessary steps to satisfy their needs.

- To determine the scope of the user study.

REVIEW LITERATURE

1 Shokeen and Kaushik (2002), who looked at the information-seeking behavior of social scientists, found that a large majority of respondents visited the library daily and a significant number twice a week.

2 Similarly, Bouazza and Mufaraji (2005) looked at school library use by teachers, finding that 36 percent use the library Once a week, while and 32 percent rarely use the library. Singh (2002) conducted a study on faculty members at the University of Delhi. He found that 36 percent visit the library to prepare notes for teaching, and that nearly 60 percent visit the library two-to-four times a week.

3 Lohar and Kumbar (2002) found that a majority of respondents visit the library to consult textbooks or reference books and to read newspapers and popular magazines. Kumud Prabha (2013) conducted and investigated user study on different kinds of users in selected libraries in Delhi.

4 Majid S and Kassim G M (2000) analysed and identified the information channels used by the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) law faculty members, information sources preferred by them, methods employed for getting the needed information and their library use pattern. A questionnaire was distributed to 80 IIUM law faculty members and 66 filled in questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 82.5 percent. It was found that respondents used various sources for acquiring the needed information. Books were ranked as the most important source for teaching and research purposes, followed by law reports and statutes. Respondents preferred to first consult their personal collection before resorting to other information providing sources and agencies. The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and CD-ROM were the most frequently used IT-based sources and facilities. E-mail was the most popular among the Internet-based services and applications. On the whole, respondents perceived IIUM library collections, services and facilities as adequate to meet their information needs effectively.

5 Senthurvelmurugan, V (2013) has studied the information requirements, usefulness of library resources and services, and problems encountered by faculty members of two government aided arts and science colleges namely V.V. Vanniaperumal College for Women, Virudhunagar Senthikumara Nadar College Virudhunagar. The findings of the study revealed that most

faculties were lectures. Most of the faculty members visited the library daily or twice a week and use of text books and reference books. They generally visited the library to prepare for class work and update their knowledge. It was also found that the library catalogue is not a satisfactory means of information retrieval for most faculty members.

6 Farheen Fatima and Tadasad P G (2013) conducted the study to find out the user's attitude comprising of all categories of users of Gulbarga University Library, Gulbarga towards library resources. A total of 250 questionnaires were distributed to P.G Students, Research scholars, and teaching staff but only 219 questionnaires were received for data collection. The hypothesis framed for the purpose was tested against "paired t-test and one way ANOVA test". The study was geographically limited to Jnanaganga, the main Campus of Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. The findings of the study exposed that there was low awareness with regard to Indian scientific periodicals, catalogues/union catalogues and high awareness about books, dictionaries, newspapers, general magazines, and encyclopedias. Awareness of other resources is average. Catalogues/union catalogues and yearbooks/almanacs were the least used resources. Users had rated the adequacy of resources from moderately inadequate to slightly adequate and they were not completely satisfied with the collection. It was also found that the users had a poor satisfaction rate with regard to catalogues/ union catalogues, directories, abstracting/indexing sources etc.

7 Sunil Tyagi and Sunil Kumar Passi (2013) identified the trends in Medical professionals' use of different types of information resources, particularly electronic resources, to develop their teaching, ongoing research activities, and their own personal knowledge at National Medical Library (NML). A well structured 200 questionnaires distributed for the collection of primary data and 193 questionnaires collected and analyzed.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted based on the user statistics collected which was available in the library computer for a period of one year from March 2012 to February 2013. The collected data which was separated based on by gender, department, subject and month. Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology is being established under the Aegis of Sabari Foundation and it is new entrant to the Rajalakshmi Group of Institutions. It was established in 2008 with four undergraduate programmes in Engineering & Technology viz, ECE, CSE, IT, MECH and also Post Graduate programme in Business Administration. The college has been approved by All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi & the Government of Tamilnadu and is affiliated to Anna University,

Chennai. The College has a well equipped library with more than 11, 000 books and 135 periodicals and online journals with digital library. This institution provides quality technical education that lay emphasis not only on knowledge, technology, information and communication but also aspires to empower the youth morally and ethically to serve the society selflessly.

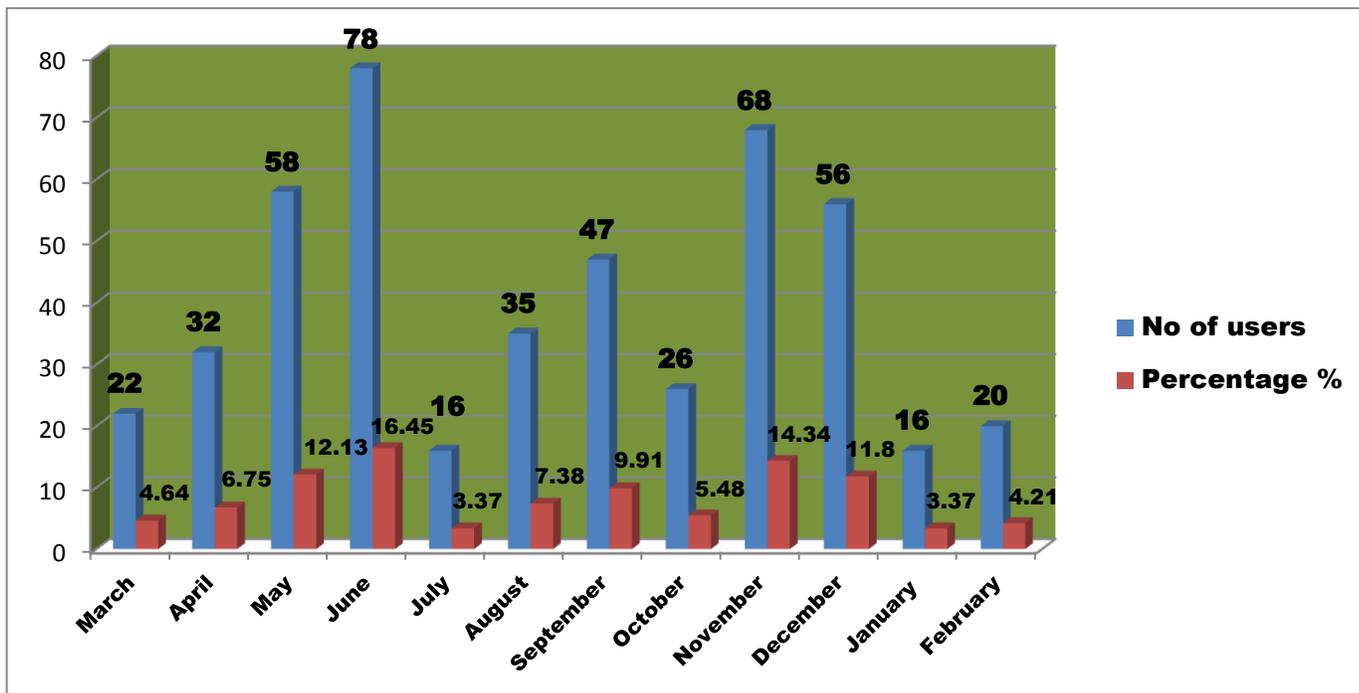
DATA ANALYSIS

USER VISIT BASED ON GENDER

Table.1 shows that the students visiting the library from male gender (66.45%) is generally more majority that indicates that female students are using the library resources effectively compared with female students.

Table.1: Gender wise User Visit

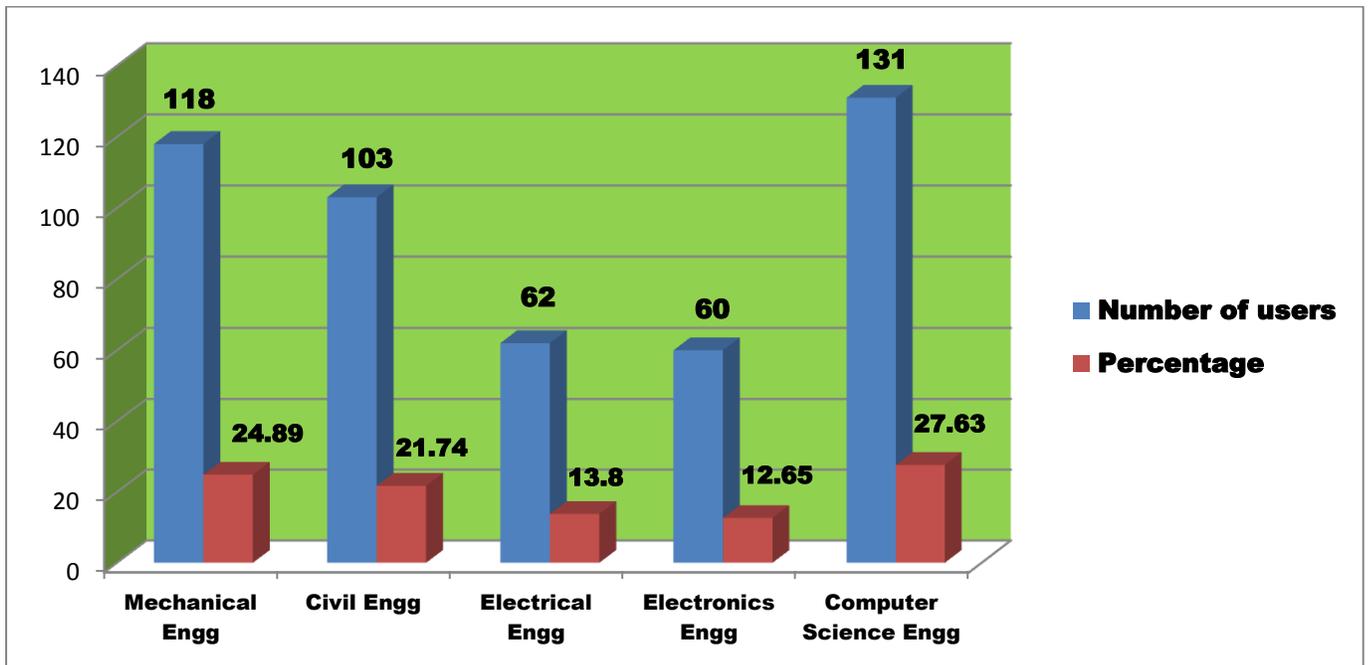
| Department | Male | % | Female | % | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| Mechanical Engg | 80 | 53.33 | 38 | 25.33 | 118 |
| Civil Engg | 75 | 50 | 28 | 18.66 | 103 |
| Electrical Engg | 40 | 26.66 | 22 | 14.66 | 62 |
| Electronics Engg | 35 | 23.33 | 25 | 16.66 | 60 |
| Computer Science Engg | 85 | 56.66 | 46 | 30.66 | 131 |
| Total | | | | | 474 |



USER VISIT GROUPED BASING DEPARTMENT AS CRITERION

Table.2: Department wise library visit

| Department | # of users | Percentage % |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Mechanical Engg | 118 | 24.89 |
| Civil Engg | 103 | 21.74 |
| Electrical Engg | 62 | 13.8 |
| Electronics Engg | 60 | 12.65 |
| Computer Science Engg | 131 | 27.63 |
| | 474 | 100 |



USER VISIT GROUPED BASING DEPARTMENT AS CRITERION

Table.2 indicates that Mechanical Engineering (24.89%) and Computer Science Engineering (27.63%) discipline of students visited the library very frequently more often than students of other disciplines. It seems that more number of library walks was assigned by the department and followed by the personal interests of students.

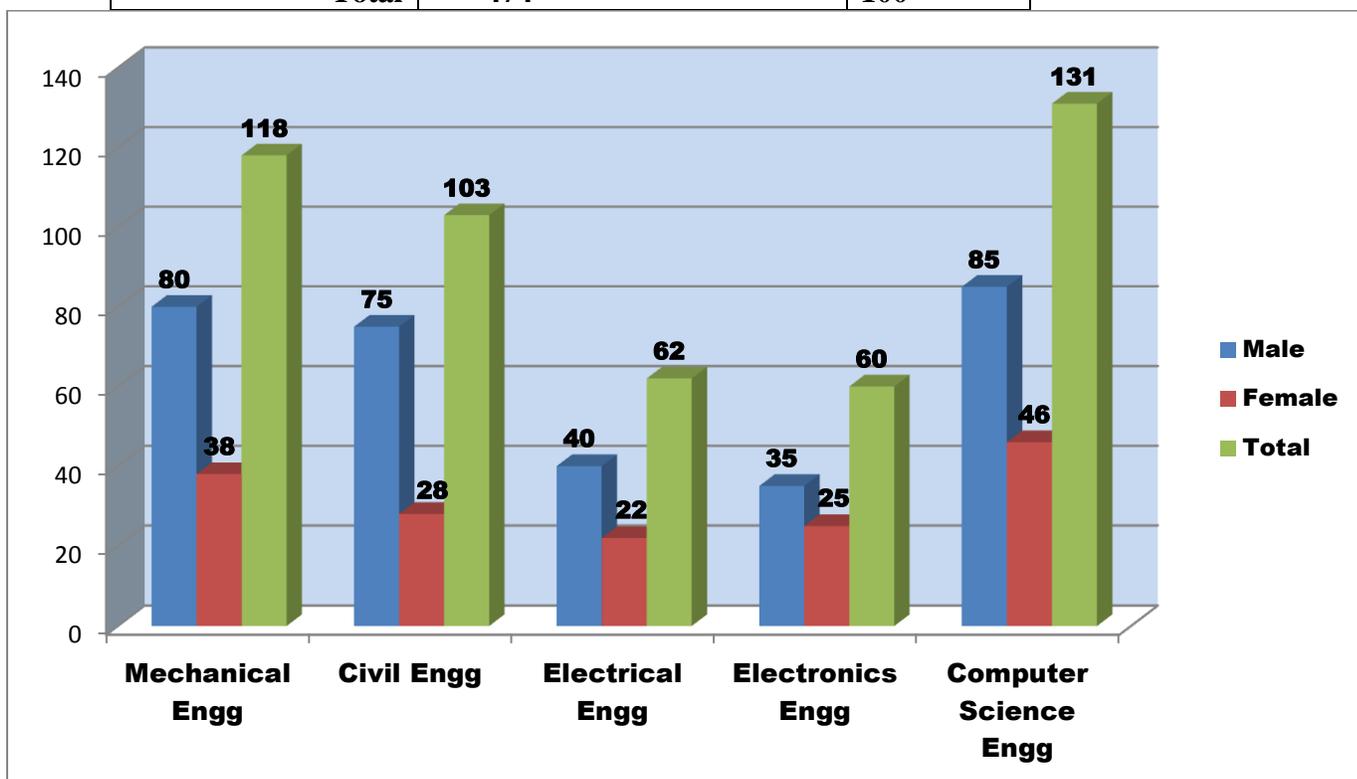
USER VISIT BASED ON MONTHLY DATA

Table 3 shows that more number of students had visited the library during May, June, and November December whereas during March April, July and January lower number of students visit, may be due to the reason that they are preparing for their examinations due for them.

Table.3: Month wise Library user visit

| Month | No of users | Percentage % |
|-------|-------------|--------------|
| March | 22 | 4.64 |
| April | 32 | 6.75 |
| May | 58 | 12.13 |
| June | 78 | 16.45 |
| July | 16 | 3.37 |

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| August | 35 | 7.38 |
| September | 47 | 9.91 |
| October | 26 | 5.48 |
| November | 68 | 14.34 |
| December | 56 | 11.8 |
| January | 16 | 3.37 |
| February | 20 | 4.21 |
| Total | 474 | 100 |



FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The following findings of the result shows that in the time of Information and communication technological advancement, where the Internet is easily available to every individual, respondents still visit the library regularly; however, the frequency of visits differs among the students.

- Respondents from male gender (66.45%) visited the library more, which indicates that male students are using the library resources effectively compared with female students.
- Respondents from Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science Engineering disciplines are most frequent library visitors, followed by those from electronics and communication engineering (ECE), Electrical Engineering (EE) and Civil Engineering (CE).
- Majority of the respondents have visited the library more often during , May, June , and November December whereas during March April, July and January the number of users was on the decline may be due to the reason that examination were due for them

As a conclusion, the college library should play a vital role in providing support services for the super system and should be an indispensable sub-system of an institution. To improve and increase the user visit, the department authorities and library personnel should take necessary steps to provide latest technologies and information resources in both physical and electronic formats at their best levels, so that the students can extend their skills and knowledge to use the information resources and services by the way of library visit.

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