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USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN LEGAL ENVIRONMENT: A CASE STUDY OF SIDDHARTHA LAW COLLEGE LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

The presents study is an attempt to study the use of information sources by students of Siddarth Law College Library, Kalaburagi to determine the Frequency of using various information sources concerned to law discipline and level of Satisfaction towards Information sources available in the library and discusses the basic role of an academic law library and legal information resources which are primary in printed form and cater to the information needs of different kind's users.

KEYWORDS :User study, Law Library, Legal Education, User Behaviour.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The pattern of legal education which is in vogue on India was transplanted by the English, after the establishment of their rule in India. Formal legal education in India came into existence in 1855 when the first professorship of law was established at the government Ephistone College. As majority of the population was rural and illiterate, the need was felt to bridge the gap between the existing law and the uneducated masses crying for justice, by rendering importance to formal legal education. In the year 1857, legal education was introduced as a subject for teaching in three universities in the presidency towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. Thus, a beginning of the formal legal education was made in the sub-continent.

Legal education and research requires current information pertaining to various acts, decisions of court, whether it is high court or district court or Supreme Court. For this Library plays very important role in identifying, acquiring, organizing and disseminating information to the users of law system.

Due to the advent of Information technology, today most of the libraries have at least some opportunity to experience the emergence of e-resources, digitization of information and open access system facilitating accessibility more comfortable.. Users can access to large amount of full-text resources which reside outside the walls of the library, being delivered via a common transmission vehicle and users interface especially using remote access technology. Seamless use of information wide range of coverage availability of required sources as a bundle are some of the specific futures which gives an edge to the online information sources and therefore expected to attract greater attention to the librarians and users the presents study will identify available legal information resources for academic law libraries in India also the excess to online resources by the libraries of Indian academic law institution.

Information sources both print and electronic resources are accessible in the library. Kawatra (1988), defines "Information resources which include required and assigned reading, reference and bibliographical materials, basic journals and serials s well as any other library materials that users are accepted to be consult in their course of study or in the preparation of thesis and dissertation". The online databases like Manupatra – a legal online research database provides very useful source in the Indian context and so also the e-information sources like http://supremecourtofindia.nic.in/ and supreme court cases at http://courtnic.nic.in/supremecourt/caseno.asp are the important sources for the students, research scholars, faculty and advocates in the field of legal system in India. The extent of use of information sources both print and online sources and level of satisfaction among students is discussed in this study.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are
• Examine the use of information sources among students in law library,
• Identify the purpose of visiting library by students
• Understand the time spent on reading activities in the library
• Frequency of using various information sources concerned to law discipline and
• Level of Satisfaction towards Information sources available in the library

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The present study used Survey research method using Questionnaire tool for data collection from the students of final year (LLB) studying in Siddhartha Law College Library. Using random sampling method, a total of 50 students are covered in the study. The data collected is analyzed using Statistical package in Social Sciences (SPSS) and results are reported.

1.4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	37	74.0
Female	13	26.0
Total	50	100.0

Majority of the respondents are male respondents (74%) and only 26 percent are female.

Table 2: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-30 years	34	68.0
31-40 years	16	32.0
Total	50	100.0

Majority of the respondents (68%) belongs to age group between 20 to 30 years and only 32% are in the age group between 31 and 40 years.

Table 3: Time spent on reading activities

Time spent	Frequency	Percentage
1-2 hours	11	22.0
3-4 hours	35	70.0
5-6 hours	3	6.0
7-8 hours	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

It is indicated from results of Table 3 that, 70 percent of respondents spend 3-4 hours per day on reading activities.

Table 4: Purpose of visiting library

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
To update knowledge	40	80.0
To Use Internet	25	50.0
Use CD-ROM database	40	80.0
To consult Law Reports	35	70.0
To borrow books	37	74.0
For self improvement	34	68.0
Writing research paper	37	74.0

The main purpose of visiting library. To update knowledge,   To Use Internet, To consult Law Reports and Use CD-ROM database.

Table 5: Frequency of using Information Resources

Information Sources	Very Frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Books	43(86)	6(12)	1(2)		
Scientific journals/ Periodicals	6(12)	22(44)	12(24)	9(18)	1(2)
Law Reports/ Bare Acts	9(18)	5(10)	18(36)	14(28)	4(8)
Conference/seminars proceedings	4(8)	12(24)	12(24)	18(36)	4(8)
Thesis and Dissertations	5(10)	8(16)	14(28)	11(22)	12(24)
Reference sources (Dictionaries, Encyclopedia, Handbooks, Yearbooks, and Directories etc.)	5(10)	11(22)	22(44)	8(16)	4(8)
Indexing and Abstracting Sources	7(14)	11(22)	9(18)	18(36)	5(10)
Library catalogue (OPAC)/ Union Catalogue	11(22)	6(12)	12(24)	17(34)	4(8)
Newspapers and Magazines	19(38)	6(12)	9(18)	13(26)	3(6)
Internet based e-journals, Databases & Archives	3(6)	15(30)	9(18)	17(34)	6(12)
CD-ROM educational databases	2(4)	7(14)	14(28)	14(28)	13(26)
Consulting a knowledgeable person/ experts in the field/supervisor	4(8)	5(10)	9(18)	20(40)	12(24)
Discussion with librarian or staff of the library	5(10)	10(20)	8(16)	12(24)	15(30)

Among various information sources, Books (86%) are the very frequently used information source among respondents covered in the study and 30 % indicated of frequently using Internet based e-journals, Databases & Archives.

Table 6: Level of Satisfaction towards Information sources available in the library

Information Sources	Extremely satisfied	Satisfied to some extent	Satisfied to little extent	Just Satisfied	Not satisfied
Books	36(72)	10(20)	3(6)		1(2)
Scientific journals/ Periodicals	5(10)	18(36)	9(18)	15(30)	3(6)
Law Reports/ Bare Acts	18(36)	1(2)	15(30)	14(28)	2(4)
Conference/seminars proceedings	9(18)	11(22)	7(14)	21(42)	2(4)
Thesis and Dissertations	5(10)	9(18)	12(24)	17(34)	7(14)
Reference sources (Dictionaries, Encyclopedia, Handbooks, Yearbooks, and Directories etc.)	10(20)	11(22)	15(30)	12(24)	2(4)
Indexing and Abstracting Sources	6(12)	11(22)	10(20)	16(32)	7(14)
Library catalogue (OPAC)/ Union Catalogue	11(22)	7(14)	11(22)	16(32)	5(10)
Newspapers and Magazines	16(32)	13(26)	9(18)	9(18)	3(6)
Internet services	6(12)	8(16)	7(14)	21(42)	8(16)
CD-ROM educational databases	3(6)	11(22)	9(18)	17(34)	10(20)
Experts in the field & colleagues	4(8)	6(12)	12(24)	11(22)	17(34)
Librarian skills or staff of the library in helping	3(6)	4(8)	4(8)	23(46)	16(32)

Results found that majority of the respondents are satisfied with books (72%) and for scientific journals, respondents are satisfied to some extent in scale 4 (36%).

1.5 CONCLUSION

Library is a treasure of knowledge and especially for legal profession; lawyers, teachers and scholars require legal information sources and day to day cases and data. Hence, librarians have to play important role to ensure right access to right information. Results calls for more user orientation programs and regular sensitization to the users for better utilization and satisfaction of information sources among respondents.

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