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PRIORITIES OF COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARY INFORMATION SOURCES IN THE DIGITAL ERA

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Abstract *Information technology has changed the role of libraries in terms of services, facilities, collection and so on. At the same time, there occurs expansion in the boundaries of searching/browsing. Also, innovative formats came into play. Accordingly, user behaviour also got influenced. With the result, they (users) demand quick, fast, effective responses. For which technology need to be accepted and implemented in libraries for their (user) betterment. Even a generation (Generation Y) has been identified possessing a number of characters influenced due to technological adaptive behaviours. Proving technology has the ability to give a new direction to libraries. By keeping oceans of information preserved as well as inherited to future generations in a most suitable form.*

Keywords: *Information, Users, Sources, Libraries, Colleges*

Introduction

The current information landscape is experiencing tremendous growth of information both in print and electronic media. Overlapping types and formats of information. Every bit of information is as essential as minerals and other natural resources. Moreover, the effectiveness of libraries (services/facilities) now largely depends upon information technology (IT). The integration of IT's for library services presents enormous opportunities to librarians, information professionals, and users and has capabilities to tap for developments. Indeed, its intelligent use may bridge the gap separating developing countries from developed ones. (Kumar, Kumar & Pandey, 2015). Jadhav (2017) reveals the consequences of information technology (IT) on information-seeking behaviours (ISB) of users in higher education institutions in Pune. For which questionnaire allocates among faculty members, scholars as well as students to receive their viewpoint with respect to information behaviours, worth of education program, ability of IT in libraries. Results defined that telecommunication, digitization, Internet, computer and satellite are extremely advantageous for their information purpose(s) under the present electronic situations. Further, 100% of researchers and students affirmed photocopy is massively valuable for them. However, developments in ICT changed the role of library and its collections. As a result, behavioural changes appeared among library patrons (they seek ideas, research problems, blend formal and informal learning, watch movies/listen to podcasts/videos and read online/print resources. All exchange information via Email, social media, SMS). Therefore, a number of users took library as the technology hub. But awareness is lacking among most of them, regarding the services being provided in libraries. Hence, pointing out that libraries need user involvement in their course of action. To come up with appropriate collections and services to get their needs fulfilled (Rainie, 2016). Furthermore, Kumah (2015) compared Internet and library use among graduate students using sampling techniques for attaining a suitable sample. For analysis and interpretation, SPSS is used. Findings of the study indicate that in satisfying information needs, students do not avoid libraries (i.e., students employ both the library and the Internet to obtain information). Meanwhile, Internet usage was found dominant over library use. However, it has been suggested that the library should be advanced to meet current developments. Manikandan, Esmail and Nagarajan (2013) observe the impact of IT on ISB of users, utilized questionnaires for collecting data regarding their ways of attaining information, ICT facilities in their libraries, electronic media and so on. Results show that the Internet is found as the most common media, through which any kind of information is transmitted to different destinations by using varied networks (email, search engines, web portals, discussion forums, groups, weblogs, etc.). Hence, the internet can be called as an influential source to disseminate information in the current era. As a result, it can be said that

online sources have drastically changed the way users are seeking, retrieving and using the information. Vijayakumar, Sudhi and Vijayan (2011) divulge that information is crucial for the growth of an individual as air is essential for the survival of all living organisms on earth. In this regard, the authors made an effort to discuss the fast advancements of IT (application for library services) for a strong response towards the challenges stood, to fulfill the information needs of the users at the right time, in the right place, to the right person. Study found that libraries can react in a quicker manner only when they are aware of the recent trends in technology to improve their position. Also, by helping library professionals in breaking barriers, providing new techniques/activities to better serve patrons. Abdulrazzaq and Al-Ani (2018) conduct a study at Bahrain University on the use of smartphone (services) to analyse user awareness and perception about services provided by libraries. Results depict that at large library patrons are inclined towards smartphone services (circulation services such as reservation of documents, registration, reminders about loaned library items, borrowing library items). Also, reveals that there is a need of vast quantity of smartphone apps (for the support of library users whoever they are). However, the most used tool among surveyed users (students) for searching information (academic and research) is Google, followed by institutional apps, Instagram, WhatsApp, Safari, YouTube and so on. Stvilia and Gibradze (2017) conduct research regarding library services on 104 UG students (42% of respondents represented female population, 55% indicates male population, 3 partakers denied to specify their gender) and determines that computerized information resources are seen as the most important services among students. Also, shown similar perceptions towards social media (communication) in relation to updates about library actions, events and so on. As a result, libraries (academic) can effectively market and design their services. Aina, Okunnu and Dapo-Asaju (2014) illustrate that among the members of society (administrators, teachers, students) the internet has grown popularly to describe numerous educational tactics (i.e., online learning, distance learning, network learning, and virtual learning, etc. developing continuously). However, proper implementation of new technology (ICT) in the services of libraries opens up vast possibilities. Also helps in the suitable dissemination of responsibilities (by encouraging resource sharing, offering new learning practices to both students and professionals, reduce the handling and use of delicate materials). Thus, libraries of academic institutions should encourage advancements (technological) to invest more in the latest services. Furthermore, it is suggested that they should make information available in different formats (print, electronically non-print) for discrete and broader access. Though previous studies confirm at present ample information sources are available in both forms (print and electronic). Where WWW added more choices to information seekers and even affects their (users) way of looking at the information. Although users (faculty members) cannot be blamed because the Internet is, fast, effective and easily available at all times with wider access to a variety of resources. On the other hand, a significant number of respondents reach full-text documents, through links of article abstracts available on the databases to which the library subscribes. However, faculty members found facing three major problems while searching for information that is, only abstracts are available, inaccessibility of information, and obsolete information especially those related to textbooks (Ahenkorah-Marfo, Teye & Senyah, 2011).

Objectives

- To find out the means adopted for attaining information by the library users (students).
- To trace the methods to keep them (users) abreast with the latest information.
- To analyze the preference of information formats among library users.

Scope

The present study is confined to the selective Government recognized Degree colleges of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Means Adopted for Attaining Information

In the present scenario, there are number of ways (formal/ informal) in every sector (especially in education) to fulfill user needs and collected data in this connection is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Means Adopted for Attaining Information (N=1656)

Means Adopted	Scale					Mean $\bar{X}$	St. ±SD	Rank
	1	2	3	4	5			
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always			
Discussion with colleagues	140 (8.5)	277 (16.7)	464 (28.0)	425 (25.7)	350 (21.1) *	3.34	±1.22	1**
Computer	302 (18.2)	379 (22.9)	528 (31.9)	311 (18.8)	136 (8.2)	2.76	±1.19	2

Means Adopted	Scale					Mean $\bar{X}$	St. ±SD	Rank
	1	2	3	4	5			
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always			
Discussion with staff	514 (31.0)	501 (30.3)	359 (21.7)	155 (9.4)	127 (7.7)	2.32	±1.22	3
Meeting/seminar/conference/workshop	906 (54.7)	400 (24.2)	251 (15.2)	74 (4.5)	25 (1.5)	1.74	±.973	4
	1423 (85.9)	187 (11.3)	44 (2.7)	2 (0.1)	0 (0)	1.17	±.449	5

$\bar{X}$ = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation.

*Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage.

**Rank has been assigned on the basis of derived mean score.

It is apparent from Table 1 that for attaining desirable information, the *majority* of respondents (*28.0%*) approach *discussion with colleagues sometimes* followed by *25.7% who* use such method *frequently* and *8.5%* of respondents *never* use it. Also, derived mean score ($\bar{x}$ = *3.34*) *shows* that *discussion with colleagues* is an immensely used source for information and attains rank first.

Moreover, good percentage of respondents (*26.6%*) use computers *sometimes*, followed by *22.9%* of respondents, highlighting the rare use of computers as the source of information within college libraries and 8.2% of participants use them *always* and accordingly appear at second rank with '*mean score of 2.76*.

Similarly, the majority of 514 (31%) participants specify no use of *discussion with staff* to attain information, followed by 30.3% of respondents who are using it *rarely* and only 7.7% using it *always* and with the mean score of 2.32 got ranked third.

On the other hand, *teleconferencing devices* are the least consulted sources of information, specified by the majority of participants (85.9%) who are not making use of them. However, 11.3% rarely adopt teleconferencing devices for attaining information. While as, negligible number of respondents use *teleconferencing devices always* for information. Further, the calculated mean score ($\bar{x}$ =1.17) places teleconferencing devices at 6th rank.

Means Adopted for Attaining Information: Gender-Wise

Numerous means are used by male and female participants for retrieving information and relevant data in this regard is displayed in Table 2.

Table 2: Means Adopted for Attaining Information: Gender-Wise (N=1656)

Means Adopted	Gender		Average Mean ($A\bar{X}$)±SD	Significance Value (p)
	Male	Female		
	$\bar{X}$ ± SD	$\bar{X}$ ± SD		
Computer (s)	2.75 ±1.195	2.77 ±1.187	2.76 ±1.191	> 0.05
Teleconferencing devices	1.18 ±.472	1.16 ±.424	1.17 ±.448	>0.05
Discussion with colleagues	3.28 ±1.213	3.40 ±1.227	3.34 ±1.22	>0.05
Discussion with library staff	2.25 ±1.173	2.39 ±1.261	2.32 ±1.217	>0.05
Meeting/seminar/conference/workshop	1.71 ±.966	1.76 ±.976	1.73 ±.971	>0.05

$\bar{X}$ = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation.

Table 2 shows that the *male respondents* are more inclined ($\bar{X}$= 3.28) towards *discussion with colleagues*, followed by *use of computer* ($\bar{x}$ = *2.75*) and *discussion with library staff* ($\bar{x}$= *2.25*). Whereas, *teleconferencing devices* are the least used sources of information as per the estimated mean 1.36).

Response from female participants ($\bar{x}$=*3.40*) specifies *discussion with colleagues* most preferred means to attain information, followed by use of *computers* ($\bar{x}$= 2.77) and *discussion with library staff* ($\bar{x}$= 2.39). However, ($\bar{x}$ =*1.39)* attained in favor of *teleconferencing* ($\bar{x}$=*1.16*).

In addition to this, based on calculated average score (s) *discussion with colleagues (AX̄ = 3.34),* followed by use of *computers (AX̄ = 2.76)* and *discussion with library staff (AX̄= 2.32)* are remarkably chosen to attain required information. While as *teleconferencing (AX̄= 1.17)* is recognized as the least opted source of information.

Although the Mann Whitney U analysis has indicated adopted means are not significantly associated with Gender-wise association for accessing the different forms of information as seen from the significance value (p > 0.05).

Means Adopted for Attaining Information: Status-Wise

To analyse the response regarding the means adopted for accessing required information among faculty members/ students from selected colleges of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, and data is collected and displayed in Table 3.

Table 3: Means Adopted for Attaining Information: Status-Wise (N=1656)

Methods	Status		Average Mean (AX̄)±SD	Significance Value (p)
	Faculty Members	Students		
	X̄ ± SD	X̄ ± SD		
Computer (s)	3.10 ± 1.128	2.66 ± 1.190	2.88 ±.1.159	< 0.05
Teleconferencing devices	1.07 ±.284	1.20 ±.481	1.13 ±.382	< 0.05
Discussion with colleagues	3.53 ± 1.139	3.29 ± 1.238	3.41 ± 1.188	< 0.05
Discussion With library staff	2.55 ± 1.160	2.26 ± 1.229	2.40 ± 1.194	< 0.05
Meeting/seminar/conference/workshop	2.18 ± 1.075	1.62 ±.906	1.09 ±.990	< 0.05

$\bar{X}$ = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation.

It is clear from Table 3, that the majority of the faculty members (x = 3.53) choose discussion with colleagues as the means to attain information, followed by usage of computers (x = 3.10) and discussion with library staff ($\bar{x}$= 2.55). While as, low response ($\bar{x}$= 1.07) obtained towards teleconferencing devices.

Maximum proportion of students ($\bar{x}$= 3.29) use discussion with colleagues for attaining information, followed by computers ($\bar{x}$= 2.66) and discussion with staff ($\bar{x}$= 2.26). Further, a low response was found towards teleconferencing devices ($\bar{x}$= 1.66) for the same.

The average mean values (AX̄= 3.41), (AX̄= 2.88), and (AX̄= 2.40) reveal that discussion with colleagues followed by the use of computers devices and discussion with library staff respectively are the highly preferred means to attain information. However, teleconferencing (AX̄= 1.13) is identified among the least practiced means.

Moreover, the p-value resulted through the Mann Whitney U test discloses that the information methods are expressively associated with the status-wise distribution of respondents as indicated by the significance value p < 0.05.

Means Adopted for Attaining Information: Division-Wise

Data is collected from respondents to trace out means of information that they mainly use, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Means Adopted for Attaining Information: Division-Wise (N=1656)

Methods to Remain Updated	Colleges Libraries			Average Mean ($\overline{AX}$)±SD	Kruskal Wallis		
	C.O. K	C.O. J	C.O. L		H (X^2)	df	p-Value
	$\overline{X}$ ± SD	$\overline{X}$ ± SD	$\overline{X}$ ± SD				
Computer (s)	2.57 ±1.277	2.97 ±1.070	2.58 ±1.112	2.70 ±1.153	43.935	2	< 0.01
Teleconferencing devices	1.26 ±.548	1.10 ±.327	1.04 ±.205	1.13 ±.36	51.425	2	< 0.01
Discussion with colleagues	3.46 ± 1.286	3.24 ±1.157	3.25 ±1.106	3.31 ±1.183	16.811	2	< 0.01
Discussion with library staff	2.40 ± 1.230	2.27 ±1.205	2.14 ±1.219	2.27 ± 1.218	7.831	2	< 0.01
Meeting/seminar/conference/workshop	1.89 ± .984	1.57 ± .923	1.88 ±1.47	1.78 ±.984	64.843	2	< 0.01

$\overline{X}$ = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation.

Table 4 reveals that discussion with colleagues is primarily ($\overline{AX}$ = 3.31) used as the means of information from Jammu ($\overline{X}$ = 3.24), Kashmir ($\overline{X}$ = 3.46) and in the colleges of Ladakh ($\overline{X}$ = 3.25). It is followed by use of computers ($\overline{AX}$ = 2.70) with varied scores that is, in Jammu ($\overline{X}$ = 2.97), Kashmir ($\overline{X}$ = 2.57) and Ladakh ($\overline{X}$ = 2.58). Discussion with library staff is also preferred by a good number of participants ($\overline{AX}$ = 2.27), from all the regions (Kashmir 2.40, Jammu = 2.27, Ladakh = 2.14).

However, low response was recorded (Kashmir = 1.26, Jammu = 1.10, Ladakh = 1.04) towards teleconferencing devices ($\overline{AX}$ = 1.13) as the source of information, visible from the response of participants.

Besides, it is statistically ($p < 0.01$) observed that there occurs important relation between different forms of information with division-wise stratification.

Methods to Keep Abreast with Latest Information

For remaining abreast with the latest developments in the field different ways (possible methods) are adopted by the users, to get the required information. Some of the sources are mentioned in this sub-section and respondents' reaction is measured through a 5-point Likert scale. Then, accordingly, enumerated sources are ranked and collected data from participants is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Methods to Remain Abreast with Latest Information (N=1656)

Information Sources Consulted	Scale					Mean $\overline{X}$	St. Dev ±SD	Rank
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always			
Personnel communication	151 (9.1)	251 (15.2)	392 (23.7)	420 (25.4)	442 (26.7) *	3.45	±1.278	1**
Internet	101 (6.1)	276 (16.7)	523 (31.6)	412 (24.9)	344 (20.8)	3.38	±1.162	2
Newspaper	175 (10.6)	388 (23.4)	492 (29.7)	326 (19.7)	275 (16.6)	3.08	±1.230	3
Television	330 (19.9)	337 (20.4)	497 (30.0)	306 (18.5)	186 (11.2)	2.81	±1.264	4
Current issues of periodicals	739 (44.6)	429 (25.9)	328 (19.8)	115 (6.9)	45 (2.7)	1.97	±1.080	5
Seminar	768 (46.4)	464 (28.0)	297 (17.9)	91 (5.5)	36 (2.2)	1.89	±1.023	6

$\overline{X}$ = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation.

*Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage.

**Rank has been assigned on the basis of derived mean score.

From Table 5, it is evident that to remain abreast of the latest information majority of the respondents (26.7%) use personal communication always, followed by 25.4% of respondents, who make frequent use of personal communication and 39.1% of participants making no use of such method to remain abreast. Further, with the estimated mean score of 3.45, it attains 1st rank.

Also, the majority of respondents (31.6%) specify the use of internet sometimes to remain abreast of latest developments, followed by 24.9% of participants showing frequent use of internet and 6.1% of library users indicate no use of it (internet) in their corresponding libraries. As a result, placed at rank second with the mean score of 3.38.

In case of newspapers, 29.7% of participants *always* use them to retain updated information, followed by 23.4% of respondents, who rarely use *newspapers* and 10.6% *never* put these (newspapers) into use for remaining abreast with the latest information. Calculated mean score (2.84) supports the usage of newspapers on an *occasional* basis by placing these at rank third.

Furthermore, it is clear that more than 40% of respondents are not using current issues periodicals/magazines and seminars. While as, 25.9% of participants use current issues and 28% choose seminars rarely as the source of information to remain relevant in the field. In addition to this, a small percentage (2.7% and 2.2%) of respondents use current issues and seminars always for keeping themselves updated with the latest information. On the basis of mean score ($\bar{X}$ = 1.97 and ($\bar{X}$ = 1.89) attained 5th and 6th ranks in the table respectively.

Methods to Keep Abreast with Latest Information: Gender-Wise

To remain up-to-date with recent developments, patrons adopt different methods. In this regard, data is collected and displayed in Table 6.

Table 6: Methods to Keep Abreast with Latest Information: Gender-Wise (N=1656)

Information Sources Consulted	Gender		Average Mean ($A\bar{X}$)±SD	Significance Value (p)
	Male	Female		
	$\bar{X}$ ± SD	$\bar{X}$ ± SD		
Internet	3.32 ± 1.135	3.43 ± 1.186	3.37 ± 1.160	> 0.05
Newspapers	3.02 ± 1.221	3.15 ± 1.235	3.08 ± 1.228	> 0.05
Personal communication	3.44 ± 1.272	3.47 ± 1.284	3.45 ± 1.278	> 0.05
Seminars and conferences	1.85 ± 1.019	1.93 ± 1.026	1.89 ± 1.022	> 0.05
Television	2.74 ± 1.234	2.87 ± 1.291	2.80 ± 1.262	> 0.05
Current issues of periodicals/magazines	1.90 ± 1.062	2.05 ± 1.093	1.97 ± 1.077	< 0.05

$\bar{X}$ = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation.

It is evident from Table 6 that among male participants ($\bar{X}$ = 3.44) are generally adopting personal communication as means to remain abreast with the latest information. Similar situation is viewed in females, where the mean score stands at 3.47. Further, in this regard use of *internet* is also quite predominant in both the categories (males: $\bar{X}$ = 3.32; females: $\bar{X}$ = 3.43), followed by newspapers with varied scores ($\bar{X}$ = 3.02) in males and for females ($\bar{X}$ = 3.15).

However, a low fraction of male ($\bar{X}$ = 1.90) and female participants ($\bar{X}$ = 2.05) use current issues of periodicals/magazines as the means to remain abreast of developments in the field. Similarly, for seminars, low response is observed among the respondents that is, in males ($\bar{X}$ = 1.85) and females ($\bar{X}$ = 1.93).

Average mean also approves personal communication ($A\bar{X}$ = 3.45) as the most preferred source to remain abreast, followed by the Internet ($A\bar{X}$ = 3.37) and newspapers ($A\bar{X}$ = 3.08). Although low responses attained from respondents ($A\bar{X}$ = 1.89) regarding seminars/conferences and current issues of periodicals/magazines ($A\bar{X}$ =1.97).

Furthermore, statistically, it is observed that the choice of users with respect to different sources of information does not have any remarkable association with their Gender-wise distribution as $p > 0.05$. Except for current issues of journals based on significance value ($p < 0.05$).

Methods to Keep Abreast with Latest Information: Status-Wise

Data is collected regarding the use of methods among faculty members and students to remain up-to-date in the field and responses in this connection are specified in Table 7.

Table 7: Methods to Keep Abreast with Latest Information: Status-Wise (N=1656)

Information Sources Consulted	Status		Average Mean ($A\bar{X}$)±SD	Significance Value (p)
	Faculty	Students		
	$\bar{X}$ ± SD	$\bar{X}$ ± SD		
Internet	3.17 ± 1.250	3.43 ± 1.130	3.3 ± 1.19	< 0.05
Newspapers	3.14 ± 1.252	3.07 ± 1.223	3.10 ± 1.237	> 0.05
Personal communication	3.35 ± 1.171	3.48 ± 1.305	3.41 ± 1.238	> 0.05
Seminars and conferences	2.24 ± 1.122	1.79 ±.972	2.015 ± 1.047	< 0.05
Television	2.72 ± 1.219	2.83 ± 1.276	2.77 ± 1.247	> 0.05
Current issues of journal	1.96 ± 1.062	1.97 ± 1.086	1.96 ± 1.074	> 0.05

$\bar{X}$ = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation.

*Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage.

It is apparent from Table 7 that respondents ($A\bar{X}$ = 3.41; i.e., $\bar{X}$ = 3.35 in faculty members, $\bar{X}$ = 3.48 in students) consider personal communication highly as the source of attaining the latest information, followed by Internet ($A\bar{X}$ = 3.33; includes $\bar{X}$=3.17 in faculty members, $\bar{X}$ = 3.43 students) and newspapers ($A\bar{X}$ = 3.10) as per the response of participants (faculty members $\bar{X}$ = 3.14, students $\bar{X}$ = 3.07) to remain abreast with the latest information.

Further, a low fraction of faculty members ($\bar{X}$ = 2.24), students ($\bar{X}$ = 1.79) use seminars/conferences as the medium for attaining the latest information.

On the other hand, low response retrieved ($A\bar{X}$ = 1.96) by both the group of participants (faculty members $\bar{X}$ = 1.96, students $\bar{X}$ = 1.97) towards current issues of the periodicals/ magazines as the source of information for remaining up-to-date.

Besides this, statistical observation performed on the attained response indicates Internet and seminars/conferences are strongly associated with the status-wise distribution of respondents as depicted from the significance value where $p < 0.01$.

Methods to Keep Abreast with Latest Information: Division-Wise

Respondents use different ways to stay relevant in the field, keeping this thing in view data is collected from different colleges and presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Methods to Keep Abreast with Latest Information: Division-Wise (N=1656)

Information Sources Consulted	Colleges Libraries			Average Mean ($A\bar{X}$)±SD	Kruskal Wallis		
	C.O. K	C.O. J	C.O. L		H (X^2)	df	P-Val.
	$\bar{X}$ ± SD	$\bar{X}$ ± SD	$\bar{X}$ ± SD				
Internet	3.33 ±1.243	3.44 ±1.088	3.23 ±1.028	3.33 ±1.119	3.733	2	>0.05

Information Sources Consulted	Colleges Libraries			Average Mean ($A\bar{X}$)±SD	Kruskal Wallis		
	C.O. K	C.O. J	C.O. L		H (X^2)	df	P-Val.
	$\bar{X}$ ± SD	$\bar{X}$ ± SD	$\bar{X}$ ± SD				
Newspapers	3.36 ±1.156	2.80 ±1.249	3.10 ± 1.130	3.08 ±1.178	87.859	2	<0.01
Personal communication	3.68 ± 1.210	3.25 ±1.307	3.29 ±1.288	3.40 ±1.288	45.585	2	<0.01
Seminars and conferences	1.99 ±1.011	1.80 ±1.039	1.08 ±.921	1.62 ±.990	21.403	2	<0.01
Television	2.80 ±1.296	2.81 ±1.251	2.84 ±1.112	2.81 ±1.219	1.159	2	>0.05
Current issues of journal	2.22 ± 1.158	1.75 ±.954	1.74 ±.948	1.90 ± 1.02	75.824	2	<0.01

$\bar{X}$ = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation.

From Table 8, it is apparent that to attain the latest information discussion with colleagues is highly preferred by the majority of the respondents ($\bar{X}$ = 3.40) in Jammu = 3.25, Kashmir = 3.68, Ladakh = 3.29, followed by the use of Internet ($A\bar{X}$ = 3.33) in Jammu = 3.44, Kashmir = 3.33, Ladakh = 3.23 and newspapers ($A\bar{X}$ = 3.08) as per the response of participants in Jammu = 2.80, Kashmir = 3.36, Ladakh = 3.10.

While as, low response ($A\bar{X}$ = 1.90) is recorded in Jammu = 1.75 Kashmir = 2.22, and Ladakh = 1.74. Towards current issues as the means for keeping participants abreast. Similarly, in this regard seminars/conferences got a negligible response ($A\bar{X}$ = 1.62) from respondents in Jammu = 1.80, Kashmir = 1.99, Ladakh = 180. Nevertheless, it has been noticed from the numerical calculation that different methods to remain relevant are strongly linked with the region-wide dispersal of respondents as noticeable from the significance value $p < 0.01$ (output of the chi-square). Although for the Internet and television, it is found to be insignificant ($p > 0.05$) indicating there occurs no important connection among them.

Preference to Online Resources as Compared to Print Document

The collected response regarding preferred formats of information sources and the most appropriate reasons for selecting them are displayed in Table 9 and Table 10.

Table 9: Preference to Online Resources as Compared to Print Document (N=1656)

Preference to Online Formats	Response	
	Yes	No
	945 (57.1) *	711 (42.9)

*Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage.

Table 10: Reasons for Selecting Online Formats of Information (N=1656)

Reasons	Respondents	Rank
Due to its availability	387 (23.4) *	1**
Due to its currency	324 (19.6)	2
Due to its ease of use	204 (12.3)	3

*Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage.

**Rank has been assigned on the basis of derived mean score.

Tables 9 and 10 show respondents' preference towards the formats of information sources among the selected colleges. Results indicate a maximum of 945 (57%) participants are supporting the online setup of information. Further, it is found that 387 (23.4%) respondents, choose online sources due to their availability, followed by 324 (19.6%) respondents, who opted for such (online) sources due to the currency/(up-to-datedness). Then, ease of use taken into consideration by 204 (12.3%) participants, for selecting the online form of information source.

Preference to Online Resources: Gender-Wise

To compare the response of male and female participants regarding ideal formats of information sources data is collected and presented in Tables 11 and 12.

Table 11: Preference to Online Resources: Gender-Wise (N=1656)

Format Preferences	Gender		Overall Response
	Male (N=836)	Female (N=820)	
Preference to online	495 (59.2)	450 (54.9) *	945 (57.1)

Table 12: Reasons for Selecting Online Documents: Gender-Wise (N=1656)

Reasons	Gender		Overall Response
	Male (N=836)	Female (N=820)	
Due to its availability	199 (23.8)	188 (22.9)	387 (23.4)
Due to its Currency	171 (20.4)	153 (18.6)	324 (19.6)
Due to its ease of use	106 (12.7)	98 (11.9)	204 (12.3)
$\chi^2 = .292$, df = 4, P > 0.05			

*Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage.

It is clear from Table 11 that 59.2% of male and 54.9% of female respondents use to prefer *online forms* of information sources at a higher rate as compared to *offline formats*.

Furthermore, from Table 12, it is evident that 23.8% of male participants are paying more attention towards online sources due to their availability, followed by 20.4% who use these due to currency, and 12.7% consider ease of use. Similarly, female counterparts prefer such sources (online forms) because of their availability (22.9%), followed by their currency/up-to-datedness (18.6%) and 11.9% of respondents (females) avail mentioned online information sources due to ease of use.

Collective response also indicates that the majority of respondents are in favour of using online information sources, due to their availability, currency and ease of use.

Also, it is statistically observed that preference of information formats (online/offline) is not significantly associated with the Gender-wise distribution of respondents as can be seen from the significance value where $p > 0.05$.

Preference to Online Resources: Status-Wise

To examine the format of information used by teachers as well as students to get their desired needs fulfilled, collected data is presented in Tables 13 and Table 14.

Table 13: Preference to Online Resources: Status-Wise (N=1656)

Format Preferences	Status		Overall Response
	Faculty (N=360)	Students (N=1296)	
Preference to online	207 (57.5)	738 (56.9)	945 (57.2) *

*Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage.

Table 14: Reasons for Selecting Online Documents: Status-Wise (N=1656)

Reasons	Status		Overall Response
	Faculty (N=360)	Students (N=1296)	
Due to its availability	87 (24.1)	300 (23.1)	387 (23.6)*
Due to its Currency	74 (20.5)	250 (30.5)	324 (19.2)
Due to its Ease of use	47 (13)	157 (12.1)	204 (12.5)
$\chi^2 = .575$, df = 4, $p > 0.05$			

*Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage.

Table 13 shows that in academic libraries respondents (faculty member = 57.5%, student = 56.9%) highly prefer online sources of information. Further, from Table 14, it is clear that online sources are selected, primarily due to their availability as evaluated from the response of both user groups (faculty = 24.1, student = 23.1). It is followed by currency on the basis of attained response from participants (faculty = 20.5%, student = 30.5%). Then ease of use also mark its existence among the respondents (faculty = 13%, student = 12.1%).

Further, on the basis of significance value that is, $p > 0.05$, formats of information do show significant relation to the status-wise distribution of participants.

Findings of the Study

Means Adopted for Attaining Information

It is apparent from the results that for attaining desirable information, 350 (21.1%) respondents always adopt discussion with colleagues and 140 (8.5%) never use it. However, a good percentage of participants (24.2%) are making use of meetings/seminars/conferences/workshops quite rarely. On the other hand, a large number of participants (85.9%) displays no use of teleconferencing.

Gender-Wise Results

The male respondents (3.28) found more inclined towards discussion with colleagues as the way of attaining information. While as, for teleconferencing, low usage among the users (males) is specified. Comparable, response is received from female participants and illustrates the majority of female respondents prefer the discussion with colleagues to attain information. In this connection, least response retrieved towards use of teleconferencing devices.

Status-Wise Results Findings

Faculty members and students are using computers and discussion with colleagues highly for accessing information. While as, teleconferencing devices are the least preferred means of retrieving information by students as well as faculty members.

Division-Wise Results

Division-wise results demonstrate among the three regions it is discussion with colleagues which is in lead from Jammu, Kashmir, as well as in colleges of Ladakh zone (3.25) for serving as the means of attaining information. However, meagre response attained towards teleconferencing as the source of information from selected locale (Kashmir = 1.26, Jammu = 1.10, Ladakh = 1.04). Analysis shows that means adopted for information are not significantly associated with Gender-wise and division-wise distribution of respondents as seen from the significance value ($p > 0.05$). While as, expressively associated with status-wise distribution of respondents as indicated from the significance value $p < 0.05$.

Use of Methods to Keep Abreast with the Latest Information

From results, it is evident that for remaining abreast with the latest information, personal communication is always used by 442 (26.7%) participants and 392 (23.7%) use sometimes to remain abreast of the latest information. On the other side, internet service is used by 523 (31.6%) of participants sometimes, followed by 412 (24.9%) who use it on frequent basis. However, current issues of periodicals and seminars have attained low response from participants in fulfilling the mentioned purpose (i.e., to provide information for staying up-to-date in the field). Gender-wise results on use of methods to keep abreast.

Female respondents are adapting personal communication, followed by internet service and newspapers more as compared to the male counterparts for keeping themselves abreast.

Status-Wise Results on Use of Methods to Keep Abreast

Respondents (faculty members as well as students) consult personal communication at higher rate than faculty members, in students. On the other hand, the lowest response provided by both the groups of partakers (faculty members, students) towards current issues of the periodicals as the source of information for remaining up-to-date.

Division-Wise Results on Use of Methods to Keep Abreast

Results demonstrate possible ways adopted by the respondents for updating their knowledge in the colleges of three regions (Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh). It is apparent that personal communication is selected by majority of the respondents as the source of information to remain abreast of latest information followed by internet in all the colleges (under the scope of the present study). However, seminars are rated as the least preferred method among the respondents from all the divisions (Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh) to reach out towards the latest information. Furthermore, statistically, it is observed that the choice of users with respect to different sources of information does not have any remarkable association with their Gender-wise distribution as "$p > 0.05$." But strongly associated with status-wise distribution of respondents can be seen from the significance value where $p < 0.01$. Also, it has been noticed from numerical calculation that different methods to remain relevant are strongly linked with region-wide dispersal of respondents as noticeable from the significance value $p < 0.01$ which is output of the chi-square. Although exceptions are there.

Preference to Information Formats

Findings reveal that majority of participants (57.1%) from different colleges of the J & K, give preference to online forms of information sources, primarily due to their availability.

Gender-Wise Results

Both category of respondents (male/female) provide quite identical responses regarding the format preference of information sources and shows male (59.2%) as well as female (54.9%) respondents like to make use of online forms of information sources as compared to offline forms. Furthermore, it has been found that they are paying more attention towards online sources due to their availability.

Status-Wise Results

It is evident that most of the respondents (i.e., 57.5%, of faculty members and 56.9% of students) prefer to use online sources of information, mainly due to their availability as visible from the response of faculty members (24.1%) and students (23.1%). Also, it is statistically observed that preference of information formats (online/offline) is not significantly associated with gender as well as status-wise distribution of respondents as can be seen from the significance value where $p > 0.05$.

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