Assessing Information Needs and Seeking Strategies of Faculty and Researchers of University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

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Information Needs and Seeking Strategies

- Information needs and information seeking strategy are two areas that generate considerable interest among the information professionals.

- If information needs of the users can be properly identified and the behavioral pattern of their information seeking endeavor can be pin-pointed.
Information needs as awareness of recognition of not knowing or existence of uncertainty in the personal or work-related life of an individual.

Information seeking strategy includes four dimensions: information needs, information sources, information channels and information barriers.
Objectives of the study

The objectives are:

- to assess the information needs and seeking strategies of faculty and researchers of university of Dhaka
- to determine factors influencing information needs and seeking strategies;
- to find out the existing patterns of information needs and seeking strategies,
- recognize the problems and prospects of rendering generalized and advanced information services to them.
Nature of the Study

- As Information Literacy (IL) is the ability to locate and use information effectively, thus information seeking strategies also come under IL.

- Literatures showed that no such kind of study has been conducted earlier in Bangladesh.
Methodology used for the study

- The population included all the faculty and researchers working in the Dhaka University and considered as a unit.
- The questionnaire had 123 items covering the five parts including ICT facilities.
- For analyzing data, factor analysis, inter correlation and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) have been used.
Findings of the Study

- Results showed that the variables of information needs of the faculty and researchers are highly correlated signifying their importance.
- This reveals that they need information about new topics, new methods and new approaches.
- For information sources, variables are highly correlated indicating their significance.
- Regarding information channels, variables are significantly correlated.
- Information barriers indicate that the faculty and researchers did not get good library facilities and it is further restricted by unfavorable attitude of library staffs.
Background variables of faculty and researches do influence the information needs and information sources.

It investigates a wide spectrum of related concerns exploring information needs, channels, sources and barriers.
The overall aim is to strengthen the capacity of both the faculty and researchers of university of Dhaka and also the information providing agencies.

The favorable atmosphere could be created which ensures effective utilization of information for the academic improvement of the faculty and researchers.
The major aim of the information pursuit of the faculty and researchers is research, they do face significant challenges in finding their desired information.

Most important of them being the lack of adequate number of abstracting journals and scattered information.
It also reveals that they are mostly dependant on formal information channel like library than the informal channel for their desired information.
Recommendations

- As Dhaka University Library is facing problem, the study recommends DULNET (Dhaka University Library Network) with its features, organizational chart, etc.
Thank You