

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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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