



## Case Study

# Use of library facilities and information resources in temperate college of fisheries (J & K): A case study

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## Abstract

*In this paper an attempt has been made to describe a survey of the use of information resources by the faculty members and research scholars as the users of faculty library. A questionnaire method is used to identify the impression of respondent towards the awareness of library service, adequacy of library resources and their views on services. Such as classification, catalogue, physical facilities. Further an attempt has also been made to highlight the findings of the study and few suggestions have been given based on the analysis of the data.*

**Keywords:** Classification, Catalogue, Database, Information Resources, Membership.

## Introduction

Libraries have long served crucial roles in learning. The first great library in Alexandria two thousand years ago was really the first university. It consisted of a zoo and various cultural artifacts in addition to much of the ancient world, written knowledge and attached scholars from around the Mediterranean who lived and worked in a scholarly community for years at a time. Today the rhetoric associated with the national/global information infrastructure always includes examples of how the vast quantities of information that global networks provide digital libraries will be used in educational setting, an important aspect of the library's educational mission is to promote and develop information literacy in the users. Information literacy in general as the ability locates use and interprets information effectively<sup>1</sup>.

The agricultural libraries have been serving the nation since the inception of agricultural universities and institutions. Today there are 65 state agriculture universities one central university, 42 deemed universities 47 ICAR central research institutes and 28 national research centres across the country that are providing education and research facilities for development of agriculture in India<sup>2</sup>.

In the year 1964 the first agricultural university in Karnataka started functioning under the name of university of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore<sup>2</sup>.

Sher-e-Kashmir university of Agricultural Sciences and Technology was established in 1984 with two faculties. Now the university has five faculties which include College of Fisheries. Faculty of Fisheries, SKUAST (K) is a newly established faculty, which came into existence in August 2005. It is the first

Cold Water/Hill fisheries Faculty (College) in the country and caters to the human resource development in the fisheries sector of temperate India especially the cold-water sector from Arunachal Pradesh up to Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh<sup>3</sup>.

The college complex includes education, research and extension. The fisheries college is the first temperate college in J & K state. The main objective of the study is to know the extent of usage of information and resource and its tools by the users. Besides, this study aims to know the purpose of library visit, services offered in the library and also the attitude of library staff.

**Scope and Limitation:** The study is confined to information resources and services provided by the library of Fisheries College (J & K) that aim to fulfill the needs of the faculty. It covers textbooks, reference books, e-resources, Journals and physical facilities.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the study are: i. to identify the adequacy of the reading materials in the libraries, ii. to know the necessary information resources for teaching and learning process in the fields of interest to the college, iii. to know the facilities extended by the library, iv. to find out the types of information resources required by the faculty, v. to ascertain the opinion of the faculty regarding the adequacy of information resources and services available in the library, vi. to help the administrator of the library for preparing an enrichment programme for better use of the library, and vii. to assess the methods of organizing the documents in libraries.

## Methodology

For the study to collect the comprehensive and relevant data, a questionnaire method was applied. A list of questions was

formulated keeping in view, the objectives of the study and personally disturbed to the faculty members and research scholars of temperate college of J & K. The population of the sample is research scholars at BFSc, MFSc and PhD. Only those students from PhD level were approached to fill up the questionnaires. Totally 21 questionnaire were disturbed, out of which 16 were received back with response.

### Scope and Limitation

The scope of the present study is confined to only the research scholar and faculty members'. The study population limited to 21 researchers of fisheries science faculty. Which consist of the faculty members and research scholars working in the division of temperate college of fisheries SKUAST, Kashmir?

**Table-1:** Distribution of Questionnaire.

Particulars	Faculty members		Research Scholars	
	No.	%	No.	%
Number of questionnaire distributed	14	100	07	100
Number of questionnaire received	09	64.28	07	100

Table-1: According to official sources, the total strength of teachers was 21. The Questionnaires were distributed among 21 teachers out of which 16 were received back.

**Table-2:** Opinion about Library Classification.

Age	Faculty Members		Research scholar N=7	
	No	%	No	%
20-30			6	85.71
30-40	05	55.55	1	14.28
40-50	03	33.33	-	-
50-60	01	11.11	-	--
60-70			-	-

Table-2 shows the age-wise distribution of faculty members and research scholars. Table shows that 50% respondents belong to age group of 20-30 and 30-40 years followed by 33.33% respondents in the age group of 40-50 years. Only 11.11% of the faculty members are in the age group of 50-60 year. It is quite evident from the table that 50 % of respondent are young faculty members and research scholars.

**Table-3:** Qualification of Respondent.

Qualification	Faculty Members		Research scholar N=7	
	No	%	No	%
M.Sc.	-	-	-	-
M.F.Sc.	1	11.11	7	100
MFSc/PhD	03	33.33		
MFSc, PhD /Net	02	22.22		
MSc, PhD /Net	03	33.33		

Table-3 shows the educational qualifications of the respondents. It is seen that a (100% and 11.11%) of the respondents from research scholars and teaching faculty are post graduate in fisheries science comparatively. The number of Doctoral degree holder's are 33.33% of the respondent is Master in pure science respectively. At the same time few teachers (33.33%) are having additional degree of Net qualified.

**Table-4:** Languages know by the respondent.

Language know by the respondent	Faculty Members		Research scholars=7	
	No of Respondent	%	No of Respondent	%
Kashmiri/Urdu/English	05	55.55	7	100
Urdu/English	02	22.22		
Hindi/English	02	22.22		
Urdu/English/Foreign				
Hindi/English/Foreign				

**Table-5:** Frequency of visit to the library.

Frequency	Faculty Members		Research Scholars N=7	
	No of Respond	%	No of Respond	%
Daily			5	71.42
Once in two day	02	22.23	1	14.29
Once in three day	04	44.44	1	14.29
Occasionally	03	33.33		
Seldom				
Total	09	100.00	07	100.00

Table-4 indicates that 100% of the scholars know Kashmiri, Urdu and English whereas 55.55% of teaching faculty knows all the 3 languages. But 22.22% of the teachers know Urdu, English and Hindi. Nearly 22.22% of the respondent knew more than two languages in college. Table-6 indicate that a majority of the research scholars of the faculty (71.42%) visit the library everyday to meet their information needs and 44.44% of teachers visit library once in three days. But few of them (22.22%) from teachers visits library once in two days, while as (33.33%) of teacher’s visits library occasionally.

**Table-6:** Purpose of visit to the library.

Purpose of library visit	Faculty Members		Research Scholars N=7	
	No of respond	&	No of respond	&
To collect reading material in their library	09	100	7	100
To know the latest arrivals in the library in their subject	-09	100	2	28.57
To prepare a reading list considered to be impt in their subject.	-07	77.77	1	14.28
To read newspapers and popular magazine.	-08	88.88	4	57.14
To read journal articles pertaining to their subject	-04	44.44	3	42.85
For leisure reading	-	-	-	-

Note: It is a multiple-choice question so percentage cannot be rounded after 100. Majority of the respondents (100%) both in faculty member and research scholars visit the library for collecting reading material in their subject. More or less (44.44% and 42.85%) of the respondents from both categories visit library to read journal articles pertaining to their subject.

**Table-7:** Awareness of library classification.

Awareness of library classification	Faculty Members N=14		Research scholars=7	
	No of Respond	%	No of Respond	%
Yes	07	77.78	7	100
No	02	22.22		
Total	09	100.00	07	100.00

Table-7 reveals that majority of the respondents (77.77% and 100%) are aware of library classification in both the categories.

As opposed to this 22.22% of the teaching faculty is not aware of library classification.

**Table-8:** Opinion about library classification.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
Easy to understand	02	22.22	3	42.86
Difficult to understand	-	-	4	57.14
Helpful in identifying the books on specific subject of my interest	05	55.56	-	-
No response	02	22.22		
Total	09	100.00	07	100.00

Table-8 indicates the opinion about library classification. Majority (57.14%) of the respondents is difficult to understand the library classification. 55.55% of teaching faculty expressed that library classification is helpful in identifying specific subject of their interest. Some respondents from both categories have given any opinion on library classification.

**Table-9:** Consultation of library catalogue by the respondents.

Consult the library catalogue	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
Yes	05	55.56	3	42.86
No	03	33.33	4	57.14
No Response	01	11.11	-	-
Total	09	100.00	07	100.00

Table-9 explains that 55.55% of teachers followed by 42.85% research scholars consult the library catalogue for finding information about documents in the library. 33.33% of teachers and 57.14% of research scholars do not consult library catalogue for finding information in the library. 11.11% of teachers have not given any response.

The library catalogue is considered to be very important traditional retrieval tool in the library. Card catalogue provides information about documents available in the library. Table-10 indicates that nearly 42.85% research scholar and 44.44% of teachers find that the library catalogue is always adequate to trace out the reading material in the library. 33.33% and 57.14% of respondents in both categories have given occasionally adequacy of information given in the catalogue respectively.

**Table-10:** Adequacy of information given in the catalogue.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
Always adequate	04	44.44	3	42.85
Occasionally adequate	03	33.33	4	57.14
seldom	-			
Can't say	-			
No Response	02	22.22		

**Table-11:** Opinion of accessibility of reading material.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
Easy to access	05	55.56	4	57.14
Fairly easy to access	03	33.33	3	42.86
Not easy to access	01	11.11	-	-
Total	09	100.00	07	100.00

It is clear from the empirical statistical data furnished in Table-11 that a large number of (55.55 and 57.155) of teaching faculty and research scholars expressed that the reading materials are easy to access in the library. While as 33.33% and 42.855 of respondents feel that it is fairly easy to access reading material of library. While as 11.11% of teaching faculty express their dissatisfaction about not having easy access to the reading materials in the library.

**Table-12:** Frequency of use of library material's in the opinion of respondent.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
Textbook	03	33.33	6	85.7
Reference books	09	99.99	5	71.4
Foreign Journals	03	33.33	1	14.28
Indian journals	02	22.22	1	14.28
Newspaper	01	11.11	1	14.28
Magazine	07	77.77	4	57.14

Note: It is multiple choice questions so percentage cannot be rounded off to 100.

The detail furnished in Table-12 show that the opinion expressed by majority of (99.99%) faculty respondents most frequently use textbooks and (71.4%) research respondents also use books frequently. At the same time analysis shows that the magazines are 77.77% more frequently used by faculty respondents the research scholars.

**Table-13:** Subscription of foreign Journals.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research Scholar N=7	%
Yes	09	100	6	85.72
No	-	-	1	14.28
Total	09	100	07	100.00

Table-13 shows that 100% of teaching respondents and 85.71% of research respondents have expressed. The availability of foreign journals in the library concerning to their discipline. Comparatively this percentage is very less (14.28% in research respondents lack of financial assistance from the concerned authority numerous subject periodical are not being subscribed.

**Table-14:** Subscription to Indian Journals.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research Scholar N=7	%
Yes	09	100	6	85.71
No	-	-	1	14.29
Total	09	100	07	100.00

Table-14 shows that 100% of teaching respondents and 85.71% respondents from research scholars have expressed the availability of Indian journals in the library. Comparatively this percentage is very less (14.28%) in research scholars. Due to lack of financial assistance from the concerned authority numerous subject periodicals are not being subscribed.

Table-15 shows that the respondents from both categories (66.66% and 28.57%) have expressed satisfactory about the adequacy of periodicals.

However (57.14%) research respondents specified the adequacy of periodicals as excellent in the college library. 33.33% and 14.285 of teaching faculty and research scholars have given fair adequacy of periodicals in the college.

**Table-15:** Opinion about the adequacy of journals/periodicals in the library.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
Excellent			4	57.14
Satisfactory	06	66.66	2	28.58
Fair	03	33.33	1	14.28
Very poor			-	-
No Response				
Total	09	99.99	07	100.00

**Table-16:** Availability of e-resources in library.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
Yes	04	44.44	1	14.29
No	05	55.55	6	85.71
Total	09	99.99	07	100.00

Table-16 show that the (44.44% and 14.28%) of respondents expressed the availability of e-resources in the library. While as (55.555 and 85.71%) of respondents expressed the non availability of e-resources in the college library.

**Table-17:** Use of e-resources of library.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholar N=7	%
CABI	04	44.45	05	71.43
FSTA				
Agris				
Agricola				
Medline				
Biosis	02	22.22	02	28.57
Biotechnology Abstract	03	33.33		
Total	09	100.00	07	100.00

Table-17 shows that (44.44% and 71.4%) respondents expressed their use of CABI abstracts. While as 22.225 and 28.57% expresses their use in Biosis and 33.33% of teaching faculty are consulting the biotechnology abstracts.

It is clear from the Table-18 that 88.88% and 71.14% of both respondents have expressed that the library materials are supporting their academic activity to some extent. 28.57% and 11.11% of research scholars and teaching faculty specified that library material are supporting their academic activity to a great extent.

**Table-18:** Extent of library material supporting academic activity.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
To a great extent	01	11.11	2	28.59
To some extent	08	88.89	5	71.42
Not at all				
Can't say			-	
Total	09	100.00	07	100.00

**Table-18:** Opinion about the lending procedure.

Opinion	Faculty members N=14	%	Research scholars N=7	%
Excellent	03	33.34	4	57.14
Systematic	03	33.33	2	28.57
satisfactory	03	33.33	1	14.29
Can't say			-	
Total	09	100.00	07	100.00

Table-18 indicates that majority of respondents (57.14% and 33.33%) from research scholars and teaching faculty feel that the lending procedure is excellent in the library. Whereas 33.33% and 28.57% of respondent feel the lending procedures systematic and 33.33% and 14.285 feel lending procedure is satisfactory in the library.

It is evident from the study that all respondents from research scholars and 88.88% respondents from teaching faculty feel the library staff to be courteous and always ready to help the users.

All respondents from faculty members and 57.14% respondents from research scholars specified that reading room is well furnished. And majority of respondents (100% and 85.71%) from faculty members and research scholars specified that there is good ventilation and proper lighting in the reading room. All respondent from faculty members and 14.28% respondents from research scholars have expressed that the books are always disorganized in the shelves. 55.55% and 71.42% respondents from faculty members and research scholars expressed that library has inadequate reference collection. Therefore the attention of authorities for improvement is required (Table-19).

**Table-19:** Rating of the respondent about the Library facilities/services in the library.

Opinion	Faculty members		Research scholars	
	No of respondent		No of respondent	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Reading room is well furnished	09 100%	0%	4 57.14%	3 42.85%
There is good ventilation and light in the reading and stack room.	09 100%	0%	6 85.71%	1 14.28%
Books are always disorganized in the shelves.	09 100%	0%	1 14.28%	6 85.71%
Latest textbooks are not available in multiple copies.	0 % 0 %	09 100%	5 71.42%	2 8.57%
There is no proper balanced collection all subject taught in the college.	04 44.44%	05 55.55%	2 28.57%	5 71.42%
The library staff courteous and always reading to help.	08 88.88%	01 11.11%	7 100%	0 0%
Reference collection is inadequate.	04 44.44%	05 55.55 %	2 28.57%	5 71.42%

**Findings: an overview**

Majority of respondents expressed their opinion that they visit library for the purpose of consulting to collect reading material, to read newspapers and popular magazine.

Again majority of the respondents (55.55% and 42.85%) consult the library catalogue for collecting information about documents available in the library. While as (44.44% and 42.85%) are aware of library classification. While as (55.55%) respondent specified that classification helps in identifying books on specific subject.

The collection of library material must meet the needs of the faculty. The study identifies that the reading materials are easy to access for the both respondents i.e. 55.55% from faculty members and 57.14% from research scholars. The periodical are not adequate to meet the needs of the users. Because college lack full financial grant from the university authority. Majority of respondents were found to be aware of the reading materials which is helpful for academic activity of the teachers and also a good number of respondents from both the categories of college are satisfied with the lending procedure in the library.

The opinions expressed by respondents regarding the physical facilities in the library such as lighting, ventilation. While there is space problem in the library. Hence it is suggested to the higher authorities that improvement in the direct is also very much needed.

**Suggestions:** University plays a major role in the contribution to growth and development of human resources by conserving interpreting and advancing knowledge. The library is the heart of institution work directly so as regards its research work and indirectly as regards its education works, which derives its life from research work. The study should enable library to understand the existing problems of their library resources and devices .Taking this into consideration this study carried out in both the categories of Fisheries College. Based on the result from the analysis of the data gathered, the following suggestions are both made: i. The present libraries are lacking in user awareness/orientation programs etc. in order to fully exploit the use of library resources, services and facilities each library has to have compulsory user awareness/ orientation program through audio visual materials or through lecturer method from time to time. ii. The arrangement of books on the shelves should be as per the classification order so as to ensure an easy access to reading material of the library. iii. There is needed of subscriptions of Indian /foreign periodical on each subject. iv. The result of the present study revealed that availability of e-resources in the library, and provide internet facility available to the readers of library. v. User studied may be carried out from time to time worth a view to determine the need of research, scholars and providing better services to them.

**Conclusion**

Orientation programme at UG level is very important to train students in library resources, services and facilities. So that they can retrieve information on their own for better self study. There is an urgent need to provide hard copies of Indian/foreign journals and e-consortia model among libraries in India.

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