

A Comparative Study on usage of generalia books in Polytechnic Colleges of Kanyakumari District and Tirunelveli District

V. Jeyakala* & Dr. A. Lawrence Mary** & Dr. K. Kannan***

*Research scholar, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.

** Sr. Librarian TDMNS College (Retd)

***Assistant Librarian, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.

Received: May 20, 2018

Accepted: June 24, 2018

ABSTRACT

This study tried to compare the usage of generalia books in Kanyakumari district and Tirunelveli district. The researcher identified for this study only the Polytechnic College Libraries of Kanyakumari District and Tirunelveli District. This study is to analyze the usage of generalia books for the staff members and students of Polytechnic Colleges in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts. It analyzed the frequency of using generalia books, usage of reference books and challenges facing in generalia books usage.

Keywords: *Generalia books, usage, challenges.*

Introduction

Library is a collection of information. It is organized for use and maintained by people, institution or a private individual. More traditionally saying, a library is a collection of books. A library contains books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, documents, microform, compact discs, e-books, databases and other formats. Books help to improve knowledge by giving information. They are the source of knowledge and wisdom. They essentially help in improving the quality of life.

A Generalities class

This class caters primarily for books of General knowledge which could not be allocated to any particular subject class due to their pervasive subject coverage. In some respects, a generalities class is also a form class since general bibliographies, general encyclopaedias and general periodicals would be encompassed in it.

Review of Literature

Nandakumar (2017) submitted a study on "Usage of Newspapers in LITES: An Analytical". The study revealed that majority of the students read the news paper on the topic of current affairs (16%) and the next is cinema (10.69%) and the topic of agriculture is the minimum level. The study also revealed that majority (32%) of the respondents prefer the Hindu (Tamil) (25%) Dinathanthi, (18%) Dinakaran, (15%) Dinamani and only (10%) of the respondents read Dinamalar newspaper. The study revealed that Majority (16%) of the respondents prefer Current affairs, (10.69%) of the respondents prefer Cinema news, and only (9.33%) of respondents prefer Employment news.

Ramasamy and Padma (2015) carried out a study on the titled "Use of reference Sources by the Secondary School Students: A case study of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Narimedu, Madurai, Tamilnadu". The study revealed that maximum number of students are familiar with library and reference services provided by library. Most of students are visited library during their library period only. It was found that most of the students are familiar with reference book and types of the reference materials. The study also revealed that students mostly use reference sources like Dictionary, Encyclopaedia and year book. 50% of students need help while finding information from reference book. 100% of students are familiar with Internet access with the help of Google search engine

Asundi (2000) presented a paper on "A comparative study of both print and electronic form of the Encyclopaedia". The advances in computer and communications technologies had improved the facilities of information access in house and /or remote. The paper has made a comparative study of both print and electronic form of the Encyclopaedia from the usage point of view and had concluded their mutual benefits. A few sample searches conducted with both print and electronic form presented in this paper.

Definition for Generalia books:

There are certain books such as encyclopaedias, bibliographies and collected writings of an author which cannot be classified under any specific subject since they cover all subjects under the sun and hence are classified under the Generalia class.

Need and Significance of the study:

The purpose of the study is to present that how generalia books play a vital role in polytechnic college libraries. Polytechnic education is an important tool that builds and encourages scientific temper of professional skills and moulds young minds to study, ponder and achieve. The polytechnic institute which provides professional education at a certain basic level must also ensure sufficient information provision to its students. The students and staff members refer these books for competitive examinations and also for their higher education. So a huge amount of money is spent for collecting these books by the management authorities for their libraries. Therefore, it is necessary to study the usage of generalia books in Polytechnic Colleges.

Scope of the study

The researcher has chosen Polytechnic College Libraries of Kanyakumari district and Tirunelveli district. There are 22 Polytechnic colleges available in Kanyakumari district and 25 Polytechnic colleges in Tirunelveli district with well established Libraries. Among them 10 colleges in Kanyakumari district and 10 colleges in Tirunelveli district are selected and compare the usage of generalia books for the study.

Objectives

- To find out the usage of generalia books in Polytechnic College Libraries.
- To find out the usage of reference books and
- To identify the challenges of user while using generalia books.

Methodology

Survey method is used to collect primary data. Questionnaire method will be followed to collect the relevant data. Purposive random sampling will be followed for collecting the data. To collect data and other necessary information related to the research topic, a structured and well designed 225 questionnaires were distributed in each Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts Polytechnic colleges. Fifteen rejected due to the incomplete data and only 210 were selected in each district for analysis. The collected data were tabulated, and applied simple percentage is calculated and analysed.

Limitation of the study

The researcher has selected only few colleges and respondents in both Kanyakumari district and Tirunelveli district Polytechnic College libraries.

Data Analysis

The data collected from the students of Polytechnic Colleges in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli Districts are presented in the tabular form to find out the challenges of using generalia books. It is hoped that the tables sufficiently and correctly represent all responses which are classified on the basis of their relevance.

Table 1 Usage of Generalia books

S. No.	Usage	Number of Respondents				Total
		Kanyakumari District	Per cent	Tirunelveli District	Per cent	
1	Tablet	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2	Manuscript	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
3	Archives	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
4	Sound book	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
5	Printed book	20	9.5	25	11.9	45
6	Reference books	25	11.9	30	14.3	55
7	News papers	120	57.2	117	55.7	237
8	Journals	22	10.5	18	8.6	40
9	Magazines	23	10.9	20	9.5	43
10	Pamphlet	0	0	0	0	0
11	Theses	0	0	0	0	0
12	Patent	0	0	0	0	0
Total		210	100	210	100	420

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows that out of 210 total respondents 9.5 per cent of respondents used printed books, 11.9 per cent used reference books, 57.2 per cent used newspapers, 10.5 per cent used journals and 10.9 per cent used magazines in the Polytechnic College libraries of Kanyakumari district. In Tirunelveli district

Polytechnic College libraries 11.9 per cent of respondents used printed books, 14.3 per cent used reference books, 55.7 per cent used newspapers, 8.6 per cent used journals and 9.5 per cent used generalia books in magazines.

It is concluded that on comparing both the districts it is found that majority of the respondents used in News papers. This is under the generalia books.

Table 2 Usage of reference books

Reference books which contain the desired information are considered secondary sources of information. These include encyclopaedias, dictionaries, handbooks, directories, almanacs and yearbooks and so on. Usage of reference books summarized in table 2.

S. No.	Reference books	Number of Respondents				Total
		Kanyakumari District	Per cent	Tirunelveli District	Per cent	
1	Encyclopaedias	20	9.5	15	7.1	35
2	Dictionaries	65	31.0	15	7.1	38
3	Handbooks	23	10.9	70	33.3	135
4	Directories	15	7.1	23	11.0	38
5	Almanacs	52	24.8	45	21.4	97
6	Bibliographies	15	7.2	18	8.7	33
7	Geographical sources	20	9.5	24	11.4	44
Total		210	100	210	100	420

Source: Primary data

Table 2 shows that out of 210 total respondents 9.5 per cent of respondents used reference books in encyclopaedia, 31 per cent used in Dictionaries , 10.9 per cent used in Handbooks, 7.1 per cent used in directories, 24.8 per cent used in Almanacs, 7.2 per cent used in Bibliographies and 9.5 per cent used in Geographical sources as reference books in the Kanyakumari district Polytechnic College libraries.

In Tirunelveli district 7.1 per cent of respondents used reference books in encyclopaedia, 7.1 per cent used in dictionaries, 33.3 per cent used in Handbooks, 11.0 per cent used in directories, 21.4 per cent used in Almanacs, 8.7 per cent used in Bibliographies and 11.4 per cent used in Geographical sources as reference books in the Tirunelveli district Polytechnic College libraries.

It concluded that on comparing both the districts it is found that majority of the users in Kanyakumari district Polytechnic College libraries use reference books in dictionaries and most of the respondent in Tirunelveli district Polytechnic College libraries used Handbooks as reference books.

While accessing polytechnic college library resources by the users are expected to face more challenges such as required books not available, periodicals properly arranged on the shelves, Inadequate current periodicals, Inadequate encyclopaedias, Books are not arranged on the shelves, Inadequate magazines and Inadequate reference books. The details of analysis are given in table 3.

Table 3 Challenges in using Generalia books

S. No.	Challenges	Number of Respondents				Total
		Kanyakumari District	Per cent	Tirunelveli District	Per cent	
1	Required books not available	35	16.6	30	14.3	65
2	Periodicals are not arranged properly on the shelves	30	14.3	43	20.6	73
3	In adequate current periodicals	25	11.9	30	14.3	55
4	Inadequate encyclopaedias	24	11.4	23	10.9	47
5	Books are not arranged on the shelves	30	14.3	24	11.4	54
6	Inadequate magazines	23	10.9	35	16.6	58
7	Inadequate reference books	43	20.6	25	11.9	68
Total		210	100	210	100	420

Source: Primary data

Table 5.59 shows that out of 210 total respondents 16.6 per cent respondents faced challenges in required books not available, 14.3 per cent of respondents stated that Periodicals are not arranged properly, 11.9 per cent of respondents opted Inadequate current periodicals, 11.4 per cent of respondents faced challenges of Inadequate encyclopaedias, 14.3 per cent of respondents stated that Books are not arranged on shelves, 10.9 per cent of respondents faced challenges of Inadequate magazines and 20.6 per

cent of respondents stated challenges in Inadequate reference books in Kanyakumari district Polytechnic College libraries.

In Tirunelveli district 14.3 per cent respondents faced challenges in required books not available, 20.6 per cent of respondents stated that Periodicals are not arranged properly, 14.3 per cent of respondents opted Inadequate current periodicals, 10.9 per cent of respondents faced challenges of Inadequate encyclopaedias, 11.4 per cent of respondents stated that Books are not arranged on shelves, 16.6 per cent of respondents faced challenges of Inadequate magazines and 11.9 per cent of respondents stated challenges in inadequate reference books in the Tirunelveli district Polytechnic College libraries.

It is concluded that on comparing both the districts it is found that majority of the users faced challenges in inadequate reference books in Polytechnic Colleges libraries of Kanyakumari district and most of respondents in Tirunelveli district polytechnic College libraries faced challenges in periodical are not arranged properly on the shelves.

Findings

The researcher has concluded from this study that

- Majority of the respondents used News papers.
- It concluded that on comparing both the districts it is found that majority of the users in Kanyakumari district Polytechnic College libraries use dictionaries and most of the respondents in Tirunelveli district Polytechnic College libraries use Handbooks.
- It is concluded that on comparing both the districts it is found that majority of the users faced challenges in inadequate reference books in Kanyakumari district Polytechnic College libraries and most of respondents in Tirunelveli district Polytechnic College libraries faced challenges in periodical are not arranged properly on the shelves.

Conclusion

The present study is undertaken to comparatively analyze the usage of Generalia books in Polytechnic Colleges functioning in Kanaykumari district and Tirunelveli districts. The comparative study of both the districts showed that majority of the respondents used Newspapers. It is also concluded that on comparing both the districts it is found that majority of the users faced challenges inadequate reference books in Kanyakumari district Polytechnic College libraries and most of respondents in Tirunelveli district Polytechnic College libraries faced challenges in periodical are not arranged properly on the shelves.

Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study the researcher has offered the following suggestions for providing the effective usage of generalia books in polytechnic college libraries in both the districts.

- ❖ To increase the usage of generalia books in the polytechnic colleges the infrastructure facility may be improved.
- ❖ To increase the usage of generalia books the users may be provided with more number of library hours.
- ❖ Sufficient staffs may be appointed in the libraries.
- ❖ To increase the number of required generalia books in the libraries.
- ❖ To increase the collection of current periodicals.

References

1. Nandhakumar, K (2017) Usage of Newspapers in LITES: An Analytical Journal of LITES Vol. 2 pp 19-21.
2. Asundi , A.Y (2000) Use of reference Sources by the Secondary School Students: A case study of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Narimedu, Madurai, Tamilnadu". DRTC Annal Seminar on Electronic Sources of Information Bangalore, India.
3. Ramasamy and Padma (2015) Use of reference Sources by the Secondary School Students: A case study of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Narimedu, Madurai, Tamilnadu