Chapter 10

Information Seeking Behavior of Medical Scientists at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Science: A Study

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to identify the library services and facilities provided to the Medical Scientists of JNIMS, Porompat. The study is limited to Medical Scientist of JNIMS who employed at twenty two (22) different medical departments of JNIMS. Design/Methodology/Approach: The study is based on survey method; questionnaire and interview method is used for collection of primary data. Hundred (100) questionnaires were distributed to the medical scientist of JNIMS. Findings: Services and facilities provided by the library are not satisfied by the medical scientist; library lack qualified manpower to function the library. Originality/Value: The study is part of the dissertation submitted to the Department of Library and Information Science, Manipur University for the year 2014-2015.

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INTRODUCTION

Information is a valuable resource of today’s Information Society, thus acquiring, using and implementing information are critical activities. The process is known as information seeking; therefore it is becoming more fundamental and strategic for intellectual activities. Information seeking process is very much dependent on the interaction among information seekers and other professionals and system representing information. The term information has been derived from the Latin words “Forma & Farmatio”. Information means the communication of knowledge about an event or given condition or the spread of knowledge derived from observation, study or instruction.

Information seeking behavior is a broad term encompassing the way individuals articulate their information need, seek, evaluate, select and use information. The information-seeking behaviour by human being has been elaborated and defined differently by many eminent authors and scholars from time to time. According to Marchionini and Komlodi (2001, p. 25) “information seeking is a process in which humans engage to purposely change their state of knowledge.” The process is inherently interactive where the information seekers is impacted by the direct attention, accept and adapt to stimuli, reflect on progress and evaluate the efficacy of continuation. This definition was closely supported by many scholars and researcher such as Case (2002), Kari and Savolainen (2003), Kuhlthau (1991), Sujatha (2014) and Vakkari (1998). This definition is the one most closely aligned and discussed by Foster (2004) as non-linear model of information seeking and stated as “Information seeking was found to be framed by the resolution of the information problems, and by limits to time and financial resources”.

Kumar (2004) Information seeking behavior results from the recognition of some need, perceived by the user. Kumar, Nasima & Sukhleen (2004) as any activity of an individual that is undertaken it identifies and perceives that the current state of processed knowledge is less than that needed to deal with some issue. Kumar (2004) emphasized that the information seeking behavior is mainly concerned with who needs what kind of information and for what reasons; how information is found, evaluated and used, and how their needs can be identified and satisfied. Medical as a professional is one of the most dynamic fields where new medicines and investigation keep coming daily. Medical professional facing the major problem is that they had less time for self-study and needed a system to which they can be updated without disturbing their routine work. The study aims to study the needs and seeking behavior of the Medical professionals.
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