

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF FACULTY MEMBERS OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY COLLEGES IN CENTRAL INDIA

Mr. Subhash W. Dhote
Dr. Vijay A. Dakhole

Abstract

This article reports the results of a study of the information seeking behaviour of faculty members of animal husbandry colleges in central India. Data were collected by using a questionnaire from 130 faculties in animal husbandry colleges in central India. Results show that most of respondents (eighty eight percent) stated their method of seeking information by course related books of Indian publishers. Responses of faculty members regarding source of information used by them was in the library. It was apparent from the information that the teachers used internet for searching information regarding latest technology. The Internet had been almost universally adopted and the teachers traced materials from the library via the Internet. Most of the (48.5 percent) teachers used internet less than 10 times per week. They use frequently e-mail for communication.

INTRODUCTION

The present era is the era of information and knowledge revolution. Many electronic resources are available in the library. World Wide Web has affected information seeking behavior. In the modern society, the types of information and the media which present them have become manifold and multifarious, offering a vast selection for teaching, learning and research purpose. Information seeking behavior is the purposive seeking for information as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal. In the course of seeking, the individual may interact with manual information systems or with computer-based systems. (Bhatti, 2010)

The present study has been carried out to know the information needs and information seeking behaviour of animal husbandry faculty members in central India. Survey method of research has been adopted to collect primary data from animal husbandry college teachers from the central India region. A structured questionnaire was designed to administer the same to the faculty members to elicit required information.

Total 140 questionnaires were distributed to the Faculty Members in the sixteen animal husbandry colleges. Out of 140 questionnaires 130 questionnaires were selected for analysis of data. The collected data were fed to the computer system by using MS-Excel for data manipulation and statistical calculations for the present research study. Data thus collected were tabulated and analyzed by using descriptive statistics, mean, standard deviation, standard error, percentage etc. were also determined from the collected data.

OBSERVATIONS

The observations are discussed in following tables.

Table No.1: Response from faculty members

| Sr. No. | Name of Colleges | Questionnaires Distributed | | Questionnaires Received | |
|---------|------------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| 01. | NVC, Nagpur | 11 | 7.85 | 11 | 7.85 |
| 02. | BVC, Mumbai | 11 | 7.85 | 11 | 7.85 |
| 03. | COVAS, Parbhani | 11 | 7.85 | 11 | 7.85 |
| 04. | PGIVAS, Akola | 11 | 7.85 | 11 | 7.85 |
| 05. | COVAS, Udgir | 11 | 7.85 | 11 | 7.85 |
| 06. | KNPCVS, Shirwal | 11 | 7.85 | 10 | 7.69 |
| 07. | COVAS, Jabalpur | 11 | 7.85 | 11 | 7.85 |
| 08. | COVAS, Mhow | 11 | 7.85 | 9 | 6.92 |
| 09. | COVAS, Rewa | 11 | 7.85 | 10 | 7.69 |
| 10. | COVAS, Durg | 11 | 7.85 | 9 | 6.92 |
| 11. | CDT, Pusad | 5 | 3.57 | 4 | 3.07 |
| 12. | CDT, Raipur | 5 | 3.57 | 4 | 3.07 |
| 13. | CDT, Udgir | 5 | 3.57 | 4 | 3.07 |
| 14. | DSI, Mumbai | 5 | 3.57 | 5 | 3.84 |
| 15. | CFS, Nagpur | 5 | 3.57 | 5 | 3.84 |
| 16. | CFS, Udgir | 5 | 3.57 | 4 | 3.07 |
| Total | | 140 | 100 | 130 | 100 |

*NVC - Nagpur Veterinary College; BVC - Bombay Veterinary College; COVAS - College of Veterinary and Animal Science; PGIVAS - Post Graduate Institute of Veterinary and Animal Science; KNPCVC - Krantisinh Nana Patil College of Veterinary Science; CDT - College of Dairy Technology; DSI - Dairy Science Institute; CFS - College of Fishery Science.

Internet Access per Week

Table 2 illustrates information regarding frequency of using internet by animal husbandry college teachers. It was apparent from the information that, 48.5% teachers used internet less than 10 times per week, whereas 31.4% teachers used internet 10 to 15 times per week. In addition to this, percentage of teachers using internet 15 to 20 times and more than 20 times per week was 11.4% and 8.5% respectively.

Table No.2: Internet Access per Week

| Internet access | Respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Less than 10 times per week | 63 | 48.5 |
| 10 to 15 times per week | 41 | 31.4 |
| 15 to 20 times per week | 15 | 11.4 |
| More than 20 times per week | 11 | 8.5 |
| Total | 130 | 100.0 |

Information Seeking from the Library

Table 3 shows responses of animal husbandry college teachers regarding type of information seeking by animal husbandry teachers in the library. It was apparent from the information that 88.6% teachers sought information regarding course related books of Indian publishers, whereas 60% teachers sought information of course related books of foreign publishers. Apart from this, 54.3% teachers sought information of conference/seminar proceedings, whereas 25.7% teachers sought information of research report or thesis.

Table No.3: Information Seeking from the Library

| Visit purpose/Information seeking | Numbers | Percentage |
|---|---------|------------|
| Course related Books (Indian publishers) | 115 | 88.6 |
| Course related Books (Foreign publishers) | 78 | 60.0 |
| Journals | 30 | 22.9 |
| Research reports/Thesis | 33 | 25.7 |
| Govt./Official publications | 15 | 11.4 |
| Pamphlets/Handbooks/Manuals etc. | 7 | 5.7 |
| Conference/Seminar proceeding | 71 | 54.3 |

Source of information

Table 4 shows responses of veterinary college teachers regarding source of information used by them in the library. It was apparent from the information that percentage of teachers using internet for searching information regarding latest technology, health related, seasonality of diseases, population related statistics, animal breeding centers, artificial insemination centers, government rules and regulations, availability of different breeds, drugs and supplements, sanitation of animal keeping place and sanitizers and related products. information regarding nutrition was 68.6%. In addition to this 74.3% teachers used government reports for searching information regarding Government scheme.

Table No. 4: Information Sources used

| Source of Information | Books/ Magazines | | Internet | | Journals | | Govt. Reports | | Total |
|--|------------------|------|----------|------|----------|------|---------------|------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Latest Technology | 7 | 5.7 | 97 | 74.3 | 22 | 17.1 | - | - | 126 |
| Population related Statistics | 11 | 8.6 | 89 | 68.6 | 11 | 8.6 | - | - | 111 |
| Health related | 19 | 14.3 | 96 | 74.3 | 15 | 11.4 | - | - | 130 |
| Seasonality of Diseases | 26 | 20.0 | 93 | 71.4 | 11 | 8.6 | - | - | 130 |
| Nutrition | 89 | 68.6 | 37 | 28.6 | 4 | 2.9 | - | - | 130 |
| Drugs and Supplements | 37 | 28.6 | 71 | 54.3 | 15 | 11.4 | - | - | 123 |
| Annual and Seasonal Productivity (milk, eggs, meat, etc) | 15 | 11.4 | 63 | 48.6 | 52 | 40.0 | - | - | 130 |
| Cost of Healthcare services | 11 | 8.6 | 52 | 40.0 | 9 | 7.1 | - | - | 72 |
| Quality of Healthcare products | 11 | 8.6 | 37 | 28.6 | 15 | 11.4 | - | - | 63 |
| Working capacity of animals (horse, donkeys, etc) | 15 | 11.4 | 41 | 31.4 | 52 | 40.0 | 22 | 17.1 | 130 |
| Availability of different Breeds | 15 | 11.4 | 71 | 54.3 | 11 | 8.6 | 33 | 25.7 | 130 |
| Government Rules and Regulations | 11 | 8.6 | 71 | 54.3 | - | - | 48 | 37.1 | 130 |
| Government schemes | 7 | 5.7 | 26 | 20.0 | - | - | 97 | 74.3 | 130 |
| Artificial Insemination Centers | 4 | 2.9 | 78 | 60.0 | 7 | 5.7 | 41 | 31.4 | 130 |
| Animal breeding centers | 4 | 2.9 | 85 | 65.7 | 11 | 8.6 | 30 | 22.9 | 130 |
| Sanitation of animal keeping place | 19 | 14.3 | 71 | 54.3 | 22 | 17.1 | 18 | 14.3 | 130 |
| Sanitizers and related products | 22 | 17.1 | 67 | 51.4 | 26 | 20.0 | 15 | 11.4 | 130 |

CONCLUSION

The faculty members of Animal Husbandry colleges in Central India refer to course related books published by national and international publishers to fulfil their information needs. They also use internet for seeking the information related to their technical subjects. The usage of journals is found to be relatively less.

REFERENCE

Bhatti, R. (2010). Information needs and informations seeking behaviour of faculty members at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. Library Philosophy and Practice - Electronic Journal, 314.