Information seeking behavior of research scholars in Babasaheb Bhimrao University Lucknow: A case study

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Abstract

The paper aims to find out the information seeking behavior of research scholars of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. A well defined questionnaire was used to collect data. The major findings of the study shows that research scholars seek information for updating knowledge, research work and preparing articles for seminar and workshops. Scholars of BBAU feel more comfortable by asking teachers or friends and consulting library catalogue than asking to library staffs for accessing library resources. Research scholars are facing problems in using of old materials 50 (35.71%) and unavailable 28 (27.4%) of required materials in the library. All the research scholars 140 (100%) use the internet facilities for accessing the information. Majority of the research scholars spends time Daily 129 (92.14%) on the internet

Keywords: *Information seeking behaviour, e-journals, information needs.*

Introduction

Information is a fundamental need of all the human being. It is a basic requirement for all of us for the survival, existence, progress and development. The information needs concept is the combination of "Information" and "Needs". The requirement of information needs helps to improve the current situation of library and information system and structure; it also helps in the information needs, level of satisfactions to the various problems faced by the library users. According to **Devin and Nilan** (1986) Information needs has been defined as a state of needing anything the researchers called information. Almost without exception information need have not been defined as what users think they need, but

rather in terms that designate what it is in the information system that needed. Information seeking Behavior considers a medium where library users search their required information. Most of the students use various resources print and electronic such as books, Journals, Magazines, CD-DVD Rom, Databases etc to complete their assignments, seminar, conferences, workshop, etc. According to **Knikelar (1983)** information seeking behavior refers to "any activity of an individual that is undertaken to identify a message that satisfied a perceived need".

LITERATURE REVIEW

David Nicholas and other (2009) finds undergraduates and postgraduates access scholarly databases through web links to search the required information. **George (2006)** suggests library can plays an active role in knowing students requirements as well as their information searching. **Asemi (2005)** reports a survey on the search habits of internet users at the medical university of Isfahan (MUI), a governmental University in Isfahan city, Iran. The study found that they use Internet in different ways, such as accessing to online journals, downloading software of test, chatting, discussion, E-mail services and for finding related references. **Kakai Mirian, Ikoja-Odongo and Bukenya I.M.N.(2004)** investigate in her studies the information needs and seeking behavior of undergraduate student of Makerere University. The finding revealed that student seek information for course work and assignment (86%) , preparation for examination and test (68%) , general reading to enhance lecture notes (55%) and class group discussion (44%). The finding also revealed that textbook were the most heavily use with a rating of 101 (97.1%) respondents. respondents. **Abouseri Mohamad (2003)** explores the ways social science faculties of the University of Pittsburgh to obtain information to support faculty use, traditional and nontraditional for different activities or tasks perform are investigated. **Shoukeen and Kaushik (2002)** conducted study on the information seeking behavior of social scientist working on the in the universities of Haryana. It is found that they preferred searching through indexing and abstracting periodicals. **Gudrum (2001)** find the information seeking behavior of distance learning student .In his study found that distance learners demand various services from their local public library as well as from other available institution that might be found in their neighborhood. **Fidzani, B.T (1998)** finds that students need proper guidance and training for the use of library and services to fulfill their information needs.

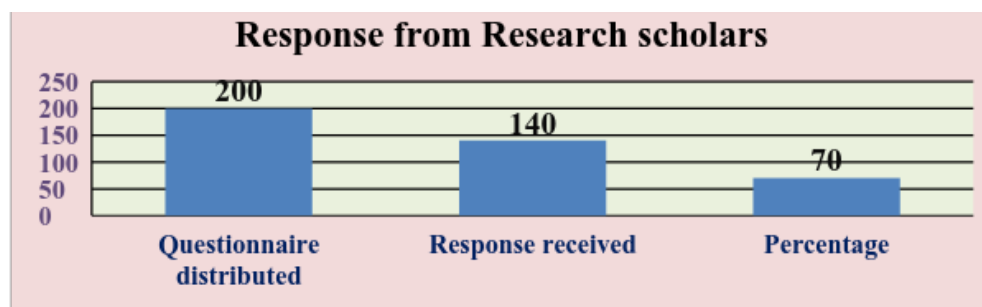## OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

The objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the purpose of seeking information nature and types of information required by research scholars;

2. To examine major types of information source used by researchers;

3. To reveals e information seeking tools of researchers;

4. To study the attitude and behavior of research scholars towards libraries services ;

5. To explore the utilization of e-resources by researchers;

6. To evaluate problems during seeking information by research scholars.

METHODOLOGY

This study aims at to find out the information seeking behavior of Research Scholars of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. While selecting the sample questionnaire methods was adopted. Total number of 200 questionnaire was distributed and among them 140 research scholars responded the questionnaire.
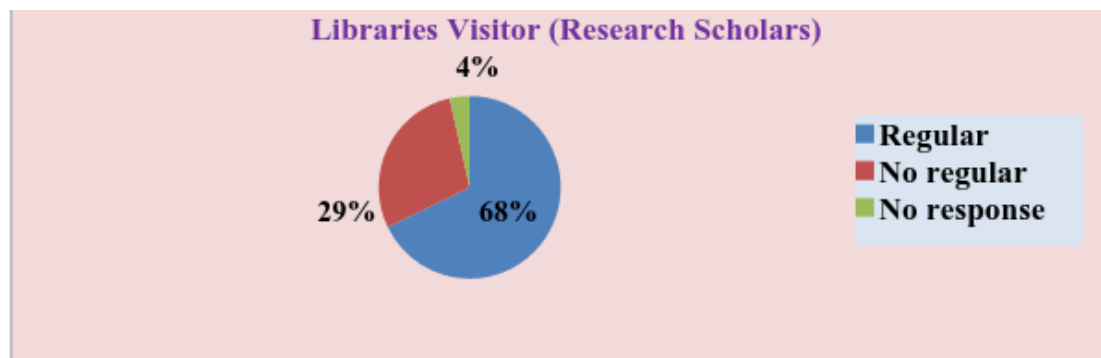
DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION
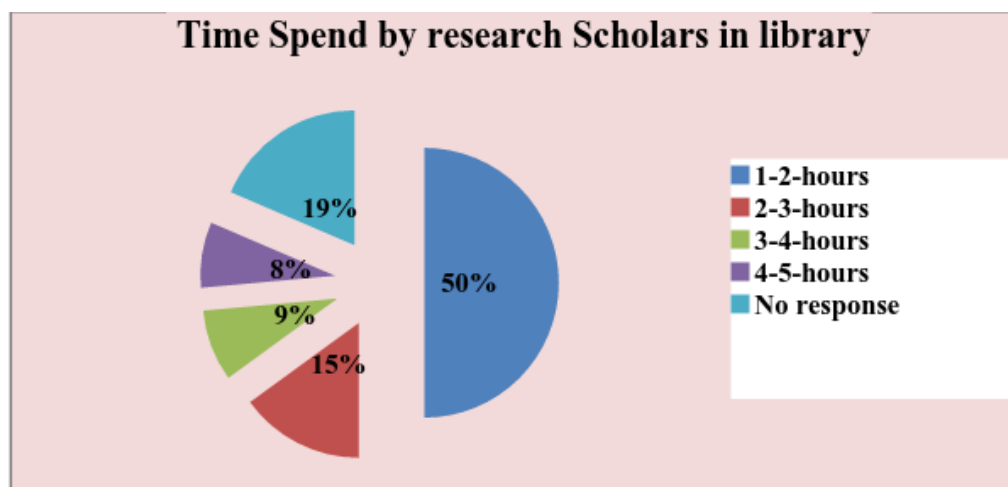
Response from Research scholars

The above graph shows that 200 Questionnaires were distributed and from them 140 respondents has given their response. The total response percentage is 70%.

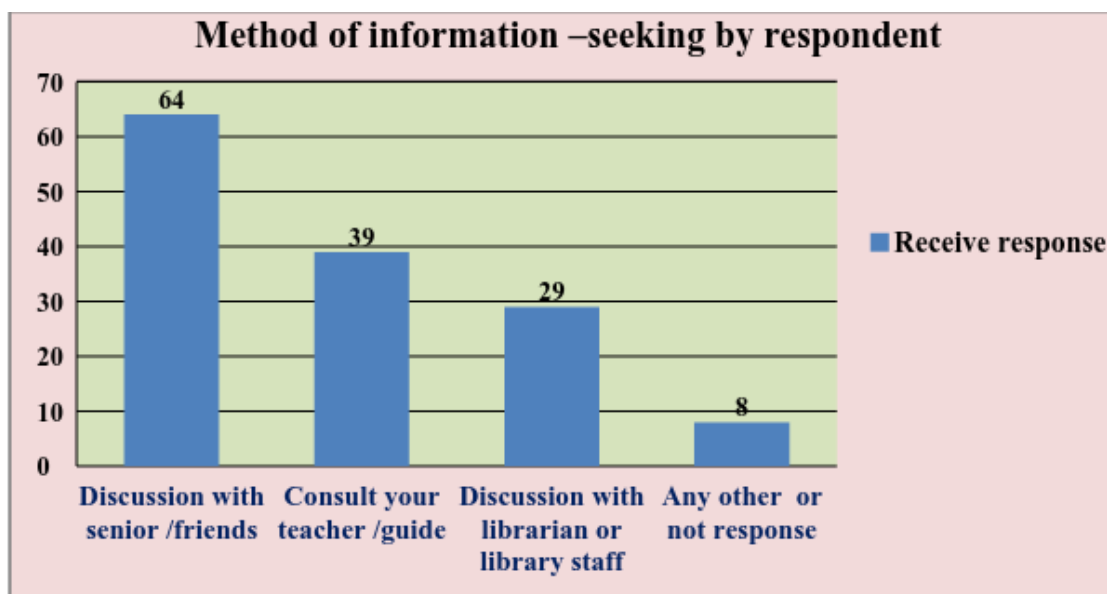**Frequency of visiting library**

The above graph shown that 95(68.85%) research scholars visit the library regularly and 40 (28.57%) are non regular, they visit only when they required materials from library. The 5 (3.57%) research scholars did not give their response. It shows that most of the research scholars visit library.
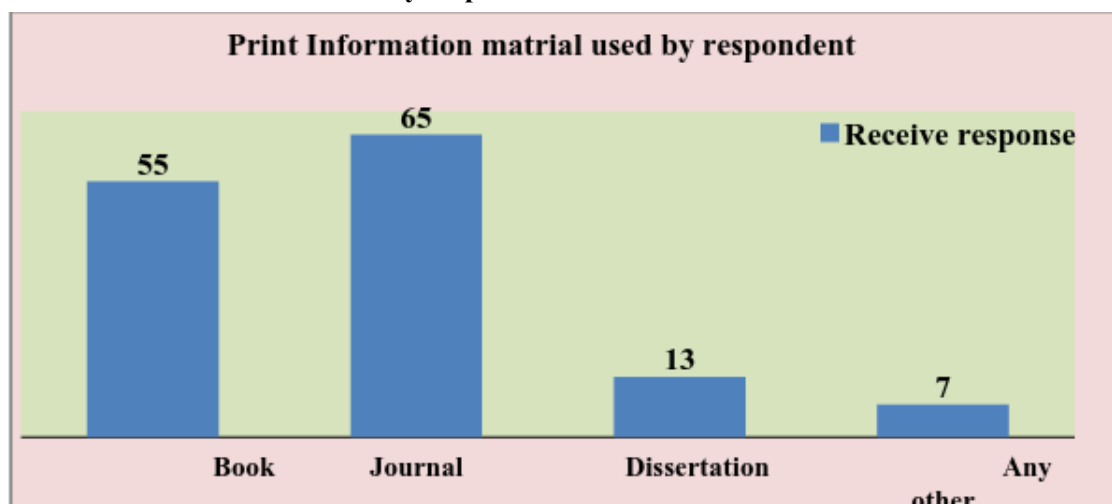
Time spend in Library

The analysis of data in graph depicts that 70 (50%) of research scholars prefer to spend 1-2 hours in the library. The 21(15%) respondent spend their time from 2-3 hours and 12 (7.85%) respondent spare time 3-4 hours in library. It shows that half of the research scholars 1-2 hours in the library.
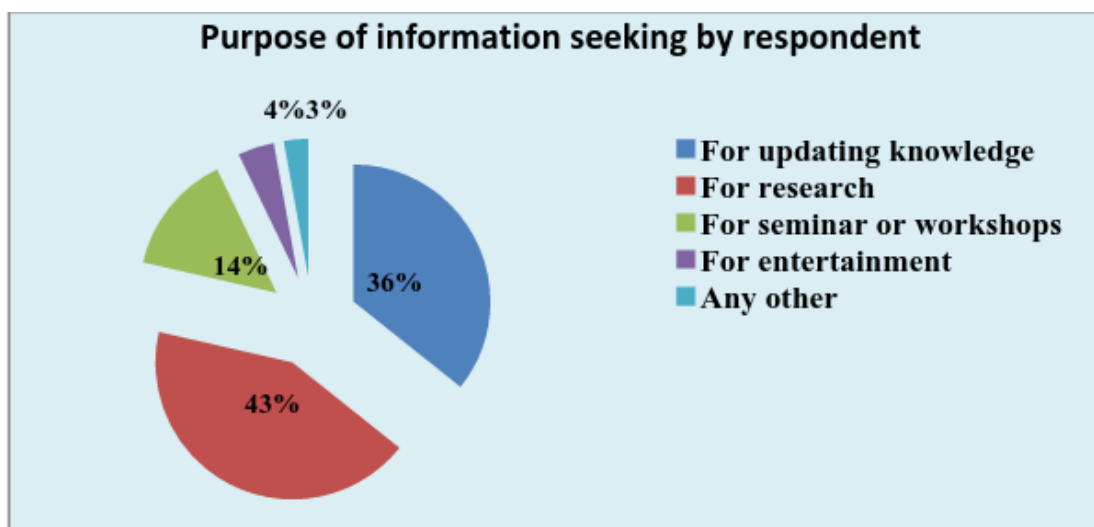
Method of information –seeking

The graph shows that 64 (45.71%) of research scholars seek the information with discussion with senior friends. 39(25.85%) respondent consult from their teachers and 8(5.71) access the information from other method like internet, seminar and conference.

Print Information material accesses by respondent.
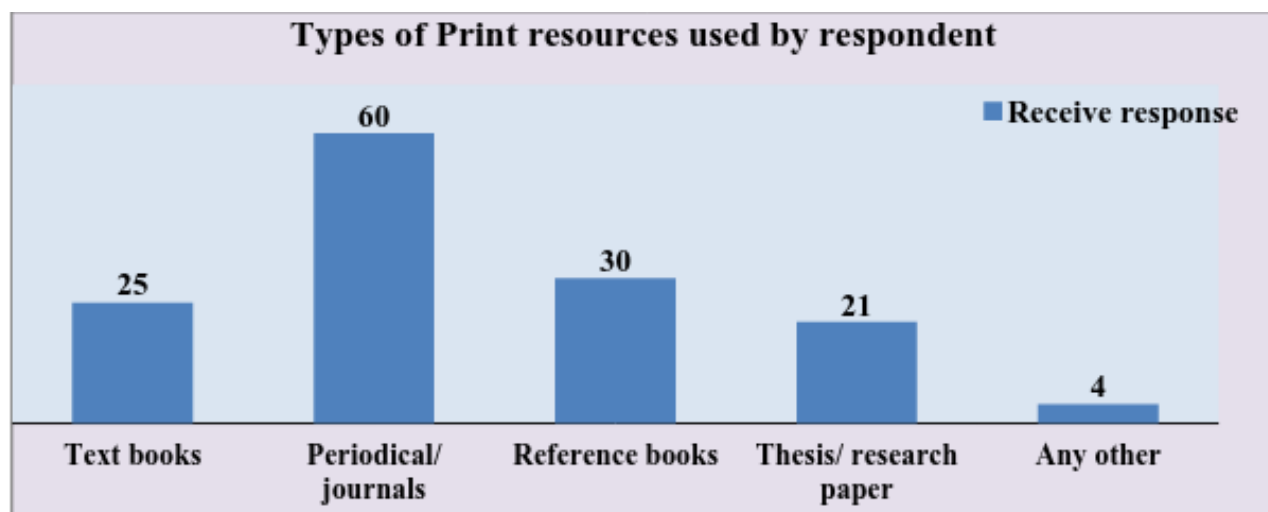

Graph depicts that print information used in library by researchers 55(39.28%) prefer the book, 65(46.42%) researchers uses the journal. The 13(9.28%) thesis/dissertation, 7 (5%) used other methods like magazine, newspapers monthly current awareness book. It shows that research scholars mostly use Book and Journal.

Purpose of information seeking

The data in graph shows that 50 (36%) of researchers seek information for updating their knowledge, 60 (43%) of researchers scholars access the information for their research work and 20(14%) of users collect the information from various seminar and workshops at different places. 4-3% of respondents use the internet for entertainment and other purpose like railways and installing software.
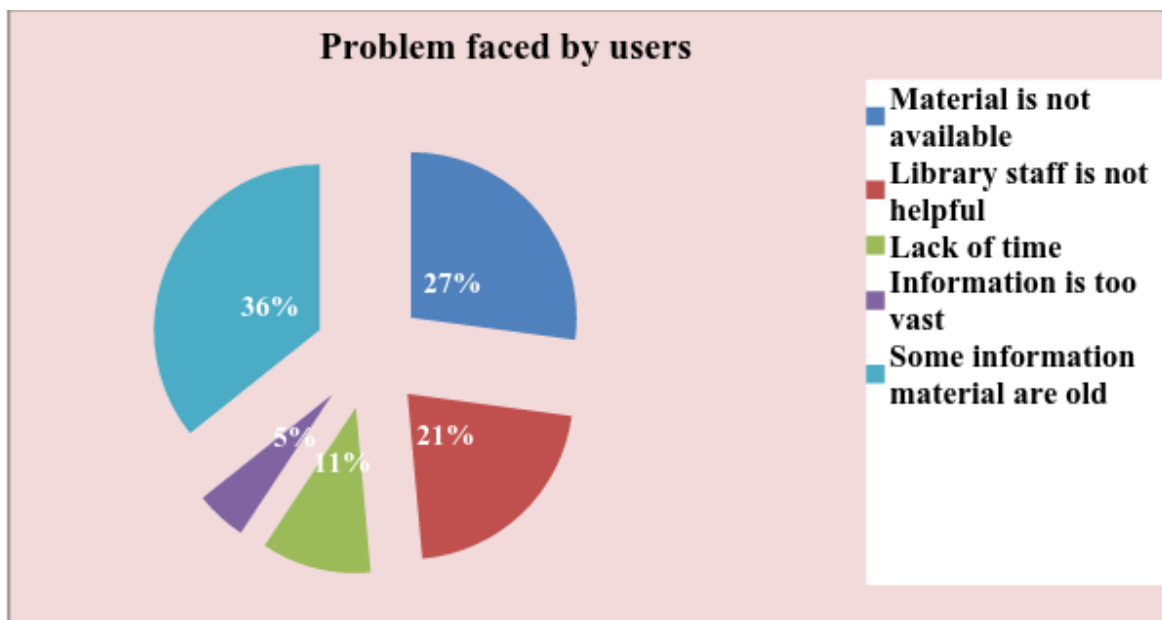
Various Types of print resources used.

The above shows that in research scholars 25 (17.85%) of respondent use the textbook, 60(42.85%) of users access the periodical journal in the library and 30(17%) prefer the reference books and 21(15%) respondent who like the thesis /research paper. Only 4 (2.85%) of respondent who access
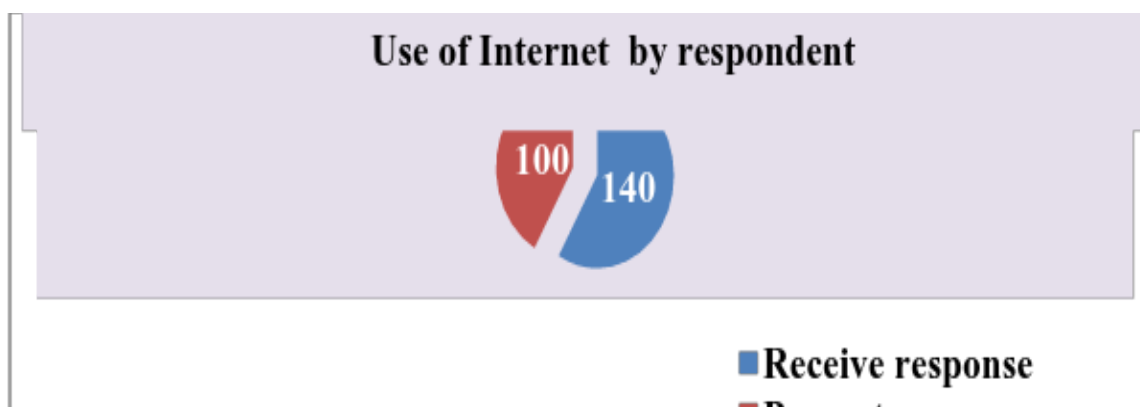
print material other source like conference proceeding. The result shows that most research scholars prefer periodical/journals for their studies.
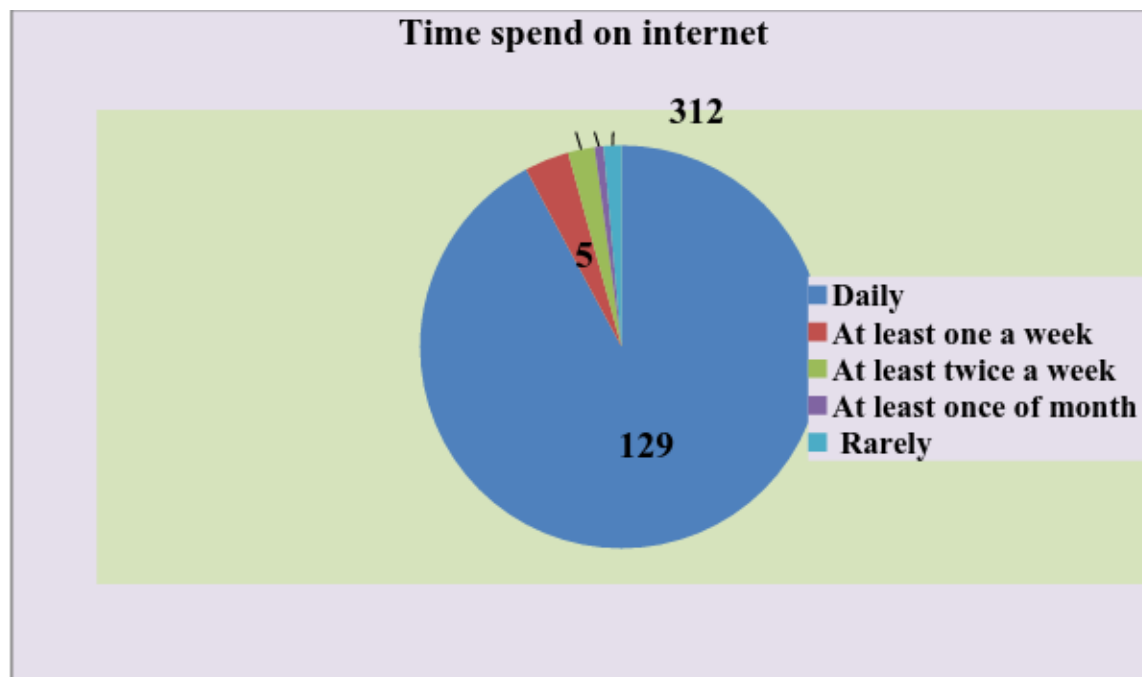
Problems faced by the users

Graph depicts that 36% of respondent faced problem with the unavailability of library material are not available while 27% respondent says that old material. 21% of researcher unsatisfied with the library staffs and 11% of respondent said that due to lack of time they could not visit library.
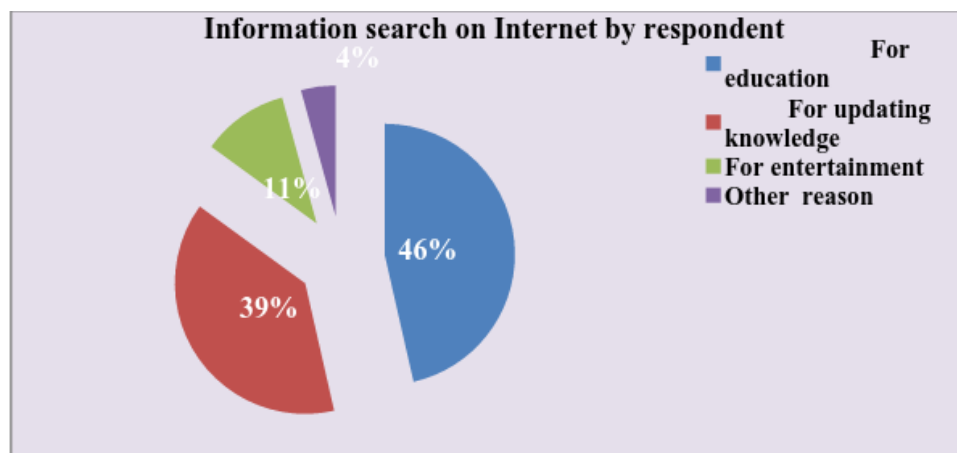
Use of Internet

Graph explore that all the research scholars 140(100%) use the internet for their information. It shows all the research scholars use internet facilities for their studies.
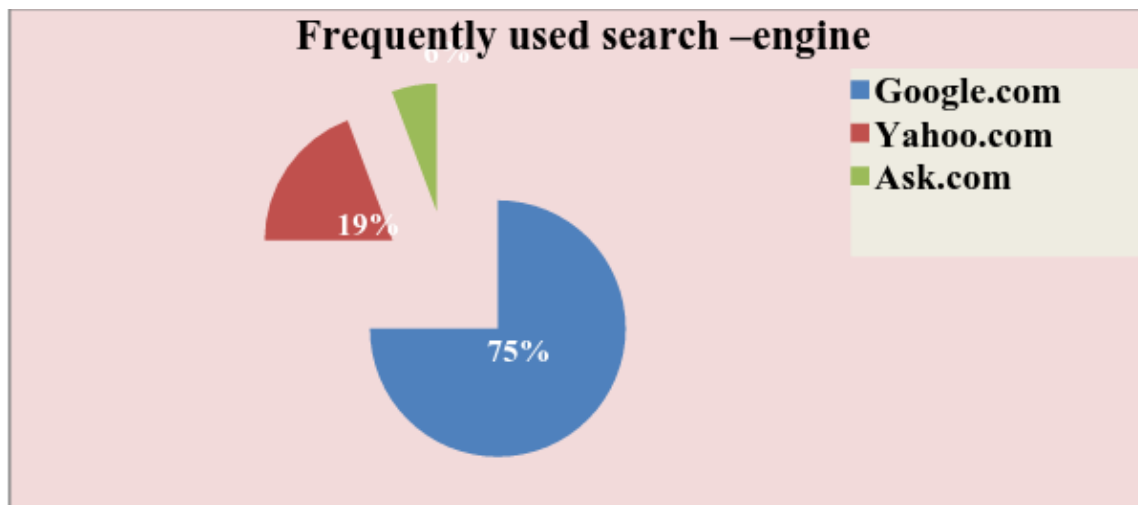
Time spend on internet

Graph depicts that 92% of respondent access the internet daily while 4% of researchers use the internet at least one a week and 2% respondent access the internet at least once of month and .42% use rarely. The result shows that almost all the scholars spend time on internet.
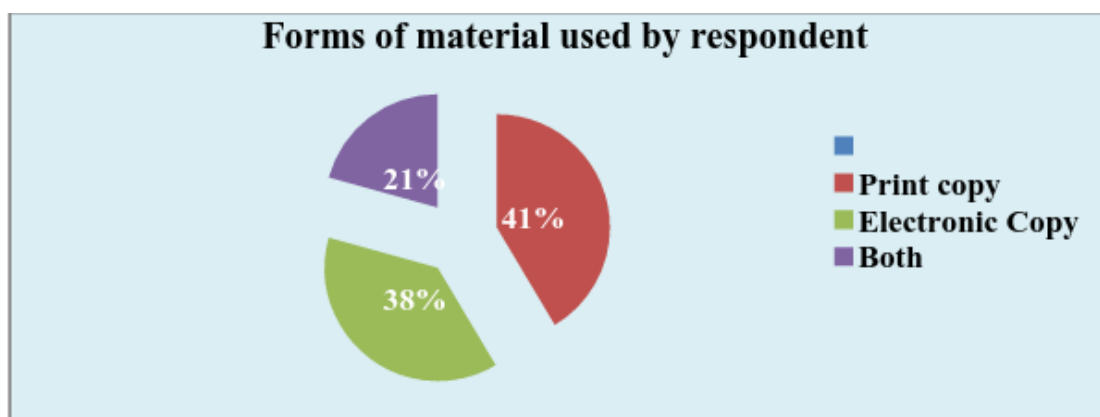
Information search on Internet

It is observed in the Graph no 11 shown that 46% of respondent use the internet for the purpose of education while 39% researchers use internet as updating their knowledge. 11% of respondents utilized internet as entertainment medium and only 4% respondent use the internet for other services like Lokwani and Jansewa Kendra, Government services and schemes, filling online form and reservation train ticket and purchase the different house hold work like online form etc.
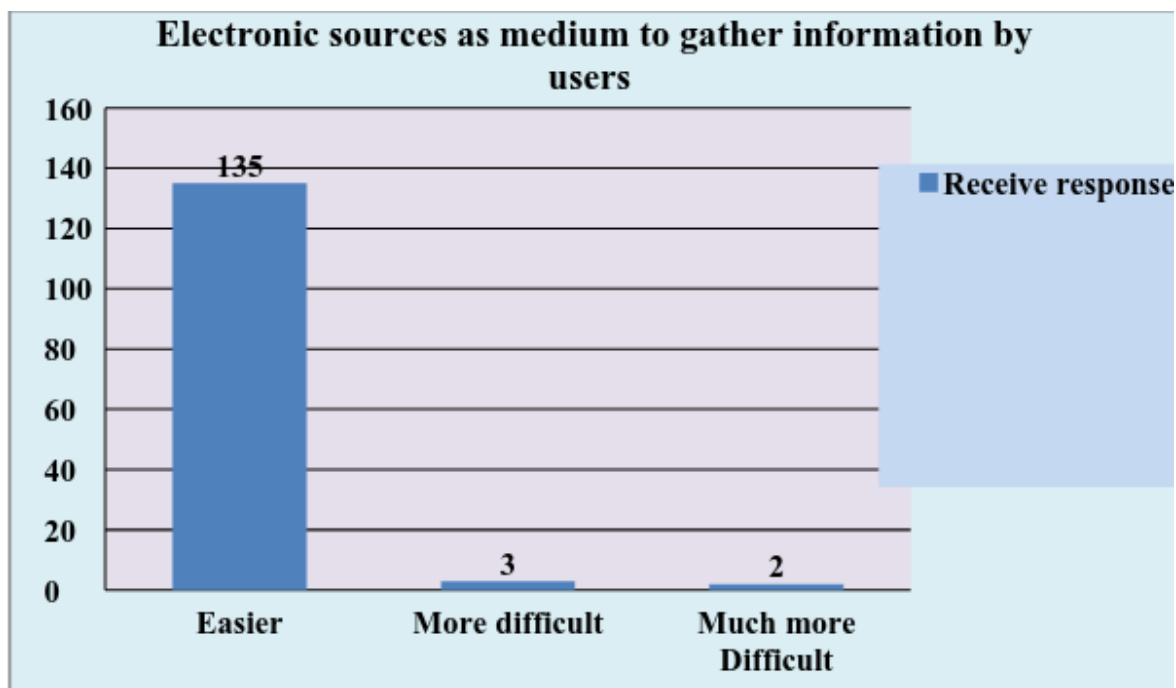
Frequently used Search Engine

The above graph shown that most 75% of respondent use Google,19% of respondent use yahoo and only 6% of users who use ask search engine for finding the relevant information. It shows that google is widely used by respondent.

Forms of material used by respondent

It is observed from the graph that 41% of respondent generally use print information material for their study, 38% of respondent use the electronic copy or information collection while 21% of respondent use the both print and electronic copy in the library for access the different information source.

Electronic sources as medium to gather information by users

The graph explore that 96% of researchers say that electronic sources is the best medium for gathering information, 2% of respondent says more difficult and only 1.42**%** of respondent tell that electronic sources of information are much more difficult for gathering information .

CONCLUSION

The present study revealed that information seeking behavior has a positive impact the research scholars of BBAU. The study strongly suggests that university librarians must keep research scholars up to date about the various e-resources available in their respective libraries. The librarians and library staff of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University should focus on user orientation and training or awareness on the effective use of information seeking behavior and their implications. The internet facilities should be increased with high speed internet facilities. It recommends that research scholars should visit the library regularly and spend maximum time for using the library services and resources. The library staffs should be encouraged and motivated to serve the library users

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