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Information Access Pattern of Veterinary Professionals in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract
This paper attempts to determine the level of use of various types of resources by the Veterinary processionals in Tamil Nadu. *Veterinary Professionals* felt that about various issues surrounding the information-access pattern and attitude change depends upon the subject studied. Further, reports have been presented about the factors supporting the growth and development of academic work with the help of information access pattern of veterinary professionals in Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Information, Access Pattern, Veterinary Professionals, Tamil Nadua.

Introduction
The 21st century is aptly termed the “Information Era” since the entire world is dependent on information irrespective of its educational status and needs. The importance of information further increases as human needs increase. The sources of information vary from media to paper to digital records. Information accumulation and retrieval, therefore, play a significant role in day-to-day life both personal and professional alike.
The successful reorientation of the educational system and the scientific research can be achieved with “information”. The various forms of information pave the path to success in modern society.
Information is considered as one of the basic resources that are utilized by every human being for the development of their life. The world has witnessed many revolutions such as the green revolution, the White Revolution, the Industrial Revolution and now undergoing the Information revolution. The information provides knowledge and intelligence to the users. Information, wherever it is generated becomes useful only when it is accumulated in a standard format, organized methodically, and distributed widely for the optimal use of the scholars. Information should be made available at right time and at the right place without any barriers.
With the aim to complete the objectives stated, a detailed study of the library facilities available in some of the premier Veterinary Universities of Tamil Nadu is discussed in this section. The following are the Veterinary universities and their constituent colleges located in the Tamil Nadu.

Review of Literature
Taiabur Rahman, Shifat Ara, Niaz Ahmed Khan (2020), the study finds that many farmers lack awareness of where and how to obtain agro-information. The priority areas on which farmers typically seek information include seeds, fertilizers, agriculture credit, irrigation, disease, and pest management. The information-seeking behavior of the farmers depends on two variables: the nature of the crisis and the reliability of the information available. Farmers rely on personal experience and informal networks when the nature of the crisis is familiar or non-critical; they rely on multiple external sources when the nature of the crisis is critical and personal knowledge proves inadequate. The use of information and communications technology (ICT) (such as Union Digital Centers and Agricultural Helplines) in this regard is minimal, and the potential of utilization of the office of agriculture extension remains

untapped. The major constraints faced by the farmers in seeking information using modern ICT include farmers' prevailing norms and perceptions (e.g., resistance to change and adoption of new technology), relatively high costs of and low awareness regarding agro-information, poor infrastructure to be able to support ICT services, spatial inconvenience, in terms of location and availability of ICT facilities, and low literacy among the farmers.

Shehu Umar Mabera and Shaibu Adona Sadiku, (2021), The changing information needs of library users, coupled with the need to keep abreast of the information technology advancement and the dynamic nature of publishing, make the information requirements of individuals differ. This has altered the behavior of an individual towards information seeking in modern societies. It is against this background that this study examined the information needs and seeking behavior of students of veterinary medicine at the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS). The study adopted the descriptive survey design and a questionnaire was used to collect data. A sample of 300 students was surveyed out of which 240 responded representing an 80% response rate. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The findings revealed that veterinary medicine students mostly need academic information to carry out any given assignments, class tests, examinations, and research projects. The study also showed that for the student to meet their information needs, they usually visit the veterinary library, consult their personal collections, seek assistance from the library staff, surf the Internet, and discuss with course mates. However, they are frustrated by the slowness in downloading information from the Internet, irregular power supply, lack of photocopying services, and lack of information skills. The study, therefore, recommends that the library improve on its Internet facilities, provide an alternative sources of electricity supply, provide photocopy services, and provide information literacy training to enhance students' capacity to access quality information.

Ilhaq, Humera and Tousif, Khushbakht (2021), Every person needs information to fulfill their personal, professional, educational, teaching, and learning need of information. People have different information-seeking behavior to acquire, organize, use and disseminate information. The aim of this study is to identify information-seeking behavior, information sources and to know their searching preferences, and determine behaviors of undergraduate students in information searching at the University of Karachi, Pakistan. In this study quantitative approach was applied. A survey method was used. A structured questionnaire was developed as a data collection tool. In the questionnaire, two types of questions; (closed-ended and multiple-choice questions) were developed. The sample size was consisted of (n= 208) undergraduate students at the University of Karachi, Pakistan. The simple Random Sampling method was applied to select participants. Researchers collected data from participants by describing questions personally to get an accurate and maximum response rate. The survey response rate was 94%. Collected data were analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). This study will fill the gap within existing knowledge because very few current studies have been conducted so far about the information-seeking behavior of undergraduate students especially in respect of Karachi, Pakistan. This study will be helpful to libraries to develop and improve resources and services as per needs of their students. Teachers will be able to identify students' needs and their pattern of information.

Methodology

This chapter provides a framework for the research that helps in describing the various techniques and procedures used to accomplish the research program. It deals with the various methods used with respect to selection of the sample, identification of appropriate variables and their measurement, method of data collection, and analysis. The methodology followed is presented under the following sections:

Objectives of the Study

The general objectives of the research, on user studies, are to promote understanding of users" needs and information access patterns. The following are the major objectives of the study:

- To analyze Gender wise distribution of the respondents.
- To assess the General Information needs of respondents.
- To find out the Clinical information needs of the respondents.
- To determine the use of formal sources of information access pattern by the respondents.
- To examine the Academic position of the respondents
- To know the extent of the Years of experience of the respondents.

Data Analysis

Data analysis has been done in accordance with the stated objectives. The results are presented in the form of tables, charts, etc. with adequate interpretation.

Gender Wise Distribution of the Respondents

Table one shows that out of 463 total respondents, 286 (61.77%) are male, and 177 (38.23%) are female.

Table 1: Gender Wise Distribution of The Respondents.

No.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	286	61.77%
2	Female	177	38.23%
	Total	**463**	**100%**

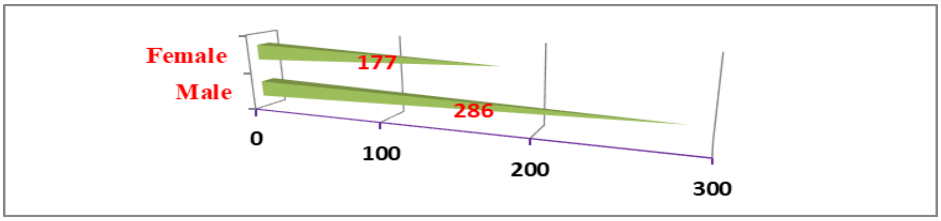

Fig. 1: Gender Wise Distribution of the Respondents.

Table- 2: General Information Needs of the Respondents.

No.	Information needed	Always	Frequently	Rarely	Never	Total
1	For taking classes	**191** (41.3%)	**169** (32.6%)	**93** (20.1%)	**28** (06.0%)	**463** (100%)
2	For updating subject knowledge	**282** (60.8%)	**160** (34.6%)	**21** (4.6%)	--	**463** (100%)
3	For updating clinical knowledge	**184** (39.7%)	**164** (35.5%)	**105** (22.6%)	**10** (02.2%)	**463** (100%)
4	Preparation for seminars/ conferences	**108** (23.3%)	**209** (45.1%)	**135** (29.1%)	**12** (02.5%)	**463** (100%)
5	For higher education	**174** (37.6%)	**176** (37.9%)	**102** (22.1%)	**11** (02.4%)	**463** (100%)
6	For research and publications	**200** (43.13%)	**188** (40.7%)	**67** (14.5%)	**08** (01.8%)	**463** (100%)

Table two shows the general information needs of the veterinary professionals. The result indicates that out of 463 veterinary professionals, 191 (41.3%) require information always for taking classes, 169 (32.6%) need information frequently for taking classes, 93 (20.1%) require information rarely for taking classes and 28 (6.0%) never require information for this purpose. However, it was noted that with regard to taking classes, only 6 % of the respondents never sought information to take a class. It may be due to their expertise in their subjects respectively. Whereas in other categories, out of 463 respondents, 282 (60.8%) respondents sought information always to update their subject knowledge, 160 (34.6%) required information frequently and 21 (4.6%) respondents required rarely for the purpose stated. Information for updating clinical knowledge was always needed for 184 (39.7%) professionals, 164 (35.5%) required information frequently, 105 (22.6%) needed information rarely and 10 (2.2%) respondents never used information for this purpose. It is seen from the result that 108 (23.3%) professionals required information always for preparation for guest lecturers/ seminars/ conferences, 2096 (45.1%) frequently, 135 (29.1%) rarely and 12 (2.5%) never wanted information for this purpose. For higher education purposes, 174 (37.6%) professionals needed information always and 11 (2.4%) never wanted information for the same. To undertake research 200 (43.1%) respondents need information always and there are 08 (1.8%) who never wanted information for research publications.

Table 3: Clinical Information Needs of the Respondents.

No.	Clinical Information	Always	Frequently	Rarely	Never	Total
1	Causes	**191** (41.3%)	**160** (34.6%)	**49** (10.6%)	**64** (13.9%)	**463** (100%)
2	Clinical Signs	**220** (47.6%)	**141** (30.5%)	**38** (08.1%)	**64** (13.7%)	**463** (100%)
3	Pathogenesis	**154** (33.3%)	**169** (36.4%)	**72** (15.5%)	**68** (14.7%)	**463** (100%)
4	Diagnosis	**249** (53.7%)	**115** (24.8%)	**36** (07.7%)	**64** (13.9%)	**463** (100%)
5	Treatment	**242** (52.2%)	**109** (23.3%)	**46** (09.9%)	**68** (14.6%)	**463** (100%)
6	Prevention	**200** (43.1%)	**144** (31.0%)	**50** (10.9%)	**69** (15.0%)	**463** (100%)

Table three describes the veterinary professionals' clinical information needs. It reveals that 191 (41.3%) professionals always require information on "causes" for a disease, 160 (34.6%) frequently needed, 49 (10.6%) rarely needed and 64 (13.9%) never needed. It is inferred that 10.6 % of the respondents rarely need information and 13.9 % never need information on causes, they may try to cure but did not want to know the causes. It could be noted that among the total professionals, 220 (47.6%) always needed information on "clinical signs" of a disease, 141 (30.5%) required frequently, 38 (8.1%) rarely needed and 64 (13.7%) don't want this information. Information with regard to "pathogenesis" was always required by 154 (33.3%) professionals, 169 (36.4%) frequently needed, 72 (15.5%) rarely needed and 68 (14.7%) never wanted information for this purpose. With regard to the information on "diagnosis", out of 463 respondents, 249 (53.7%) respondents always expected information on diagnosis followed by 115 (24.8%) respondents who required information on diagnosis frequently. Only 36 (7.7%) respondents were in need of diagnostic information rarely whereas 64 (13.9%) respondents never expected information on diagnosis.

With regard to information seeking on "treatment" of a disease, 242 (52.2%) professionals always wanted the information, 109 (23.3%) frequently required the information, 46 (9.9%) rarely wanted the information and 68 (14.6%) never searched for information on treatment. It is surprising that 14.6 % of the respondents never wanted to know information on treatment. The reason could be either they have ample of information on treatment or they do not have the intention to search for information from the available literature on treatment. Information on "prevention" of disease was always needed by 200 (43.1%) respondents, 144 (31%) of them frequently and 68 (15%) of them never needed this information. Like any other

professionals, veterinary professionals also require information on the prevention of diseases which is the most required one. Hence, it is necessary to obtain the information on prevention of diseases. It is inferred that almost 74 % of the respondents needed information on the prevention of diseases either always or frequently.

Table 4: Use of Formal Sources of Information by the Respondents.

No.	Formal Information	Always	Frequently	Rarely	Never	Total
1	Text Books	**310** (67.0%)	**139** (29.9%)	**14** (03.1%)	**00** (0.0%)	**463** (100%)
2	Journals	**123** (26.5%)	**253** (54.6%)	**82** (17.7%)	**06** (1.2%)	**463** (100%)
3	Magazines	**138** (29.8%)	**176** (38.1%)	**126** (27.1%)	**23** (5.0%)	**463** (100%)
4	Information Bulletins	**37** (08.0%)	**170** (36.9%)	**219** (47.2%)	**37** (08.0%)	**463** (100%)
5	News Papers	**196** (42.3%)	**150** (32.4%)	**92** (19.8%)	**25** (5.5%)	**463** (100%)
6	Newsletters	**41** (8.8%)	**152** (32.9%)	**230** (49.7%)	**40** (8.6%)	**463** (100%)

Table four explains the veterinary professionals' use of formal sources of information like textbooks, journals, newsletters, information bulletins, newspapers, and magazines. Out of 463 respondents, 310 (67%) respondents always used textbooks, 139 (29.9%) used frequently and 14 (3.1%) used rarely for their required information. It may be noted that all 463 respondents used textbooks always or frequently or rarely. No one revealed that textbooks and reference books are not at all required.

With regard to the use of journals, 123 (26.5%) respondents always used journals, 141 (54.6%) utilized this source frequently, 82 (17.7%) used rarely. It is well-known fact that a journal is one of the best primary sources of information which provides scientific and research information. However, there are 1.2% of professionals never used it. Newsletter of anything brings the latest information. In this context, veterinary professionals also used the newsletter as a source of information. However, the analysis revealed that 50% of the professionals rarely used their association-related newsletters and 9% of professionals never used them. This may be due to those their associations' newsletters are not regularly published and do not contain academic-related information.

An information bulletin is one of the formal sources used to keep professionals abreast with the latest developments. 170 (36.9%) respondents frequently used and 219 (47.2%) rarely used this source.

Drug information sheets contain the details of the performance/actions of various drugs, particularly the medicine already given and the medicine that continuing now. Only on the basis of this information sheet, one is able to continue to do the treatment better. It is seen from the result that out of 678 respondents, 64 (9.4%) always, 217 (32%) frequently, 316 (46.6%) rarely used drug information sheets as source of information. Rather than any other source of information, newspaper plays a vital role in providing up-to-date information on a daily basis. It is evident from the analysis that 75% of the respondents used newspapers always as a source of information. However, it was observed that 5.5% never used newspapers as a source of information. As far as the magazines are concerned, 68% of respondents used it either always or frequently as a source of academic information.

Table 5: Academic Position of the Respondents.

No.	Academic Position	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Professors	42	09.07%
2	Associate Professors	86	18.57%
3	Assistant Professors	335	72.35%
	Total	**463**	**100.00%**

Table five reveals that 42 (09.07%) professionals occupying the Professor post, 86 (18.57%) professionals are in the cadre of Associate Professor, and professionals (335 nos.) are in the cadre of Assistant Professor with 72.35% share among the total 463 respondents.

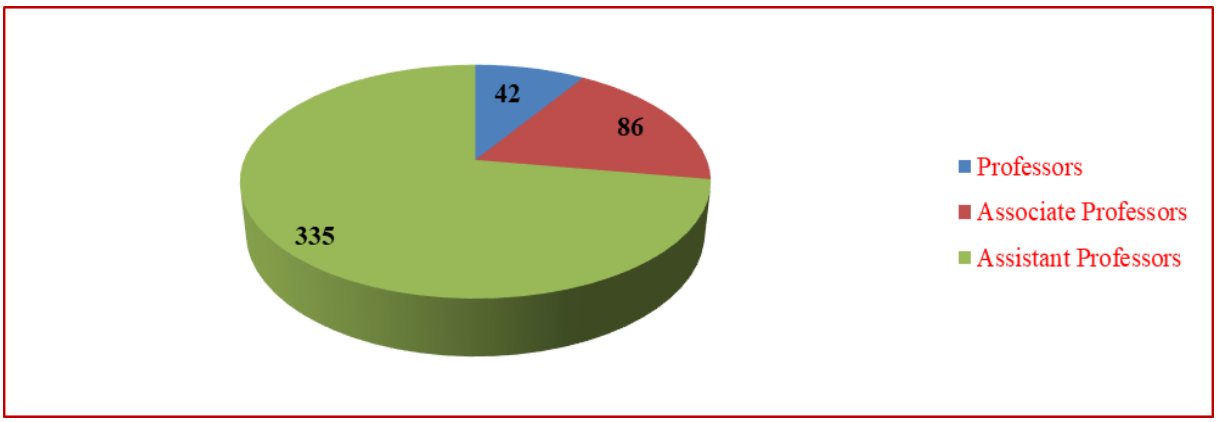

Fig. 2: Academic Position of the Respondents.

Table 6: Years of Experience of the Respondents.

No.	Year of Experience	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	0 - 05	179	38.61%
2	05 - 10	145	31.36%
3	10 - 15	59	12.75%
4	15 - 20	41	08.92%
5	20+	39	08.36%
	Total	**463**	**100%**

Table six shows the details of veterinary professionals' experience. It was found that out of 463, 179 (38.61%) are having less than 5 years of experience, 145 (31.36%) are having 5 to 10 years of experience, 59 (12.75%) professionals are with 10 to 15 years of experience, 41 (08.92%) are with 15 to 20 years of experience and 39 (08.36%) professionals have more than 20 years of experience.

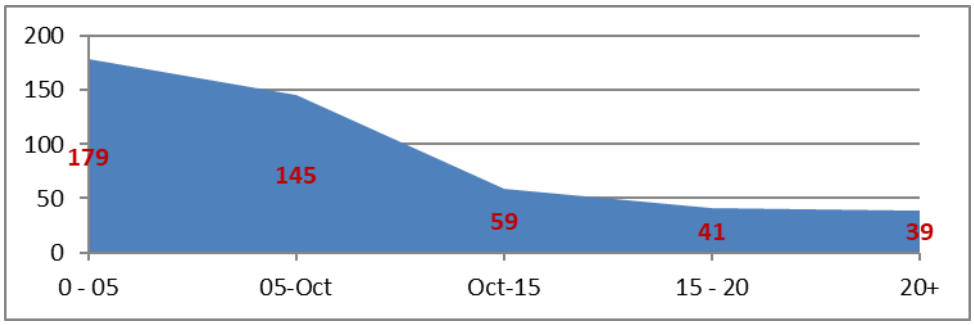

Fig. 3: Years of Experience of the Respondents.

Findings and Suggestions

It is a customary procedure of any research to provide at the end the summary of findings of the study, suggestions for improvement, and cite areas for further research. This chapter is devoted to the same purpose. The findings are summarized based on the objectives with appropriate headings.

Out of total respondents (463), 286 were male respondents (61.77%) and 177 were female respondents (38.23%).

More than 53.70% (249) of the respondents are always needed to diagnosis clinical information, 36.40% (169) of the respondents are frequently needed to pathogenesis clinical information and 10.60% and 13.70% (64) of the respondents are rarely and never needs to causes and clinical signs clinical information.

60.80% (282) of the respondents are always needed to update subject knowledge, 45.10% (209) of the respondents are frequently to needs to prepare for seminars and conferences, very less than 15% of the respondents are rarely to needs to research and publications and, finally, less than 3% of the respondents are never to needs to higher education.

More than 60% of the respondents are always using formal information of text books, 54.6% (253) of the respondents are frequently using journals, 47.2% (219) of the respondents are rarely using information bulletins and, 08.6% (40) of the respondents are never using Newsletters.

Only 09.07% (42) of the respondents are professors, followed by 86 respondents (18.57%) are associate professors, and 335 respondents (72.35%) are assistant professors out of total 463 professionals.

More than 1/3 of the respondents (38.61 %) have less than five years of experience. It may be due to that these respondents are either PG students or Ph.D. scholars. Out of total respondents (463), only 31.36% of the respondents (145) are having five to ten years of experience, 12.75% (59) of the respondents are 10-15 years of experience and, finally, 08.92% (41) and 08.36% (39) of the respondents are 15-20 and 20 and above of experience.

Suggestions

The veterinary institutions undertaken for the study are not exceptional. Through this study, it was observed that there is a little gap in terms of information. To overcome these barriers, the study suggests the following:

Adequate infrastructure facilities should be provided to the professionals, particularly the library should be equipped with latest reading materials and all facilities including hi-speed internet with Wi-Fi facility.

Required manpower with a sufficient regular annual budget should be provided to the library in order to keep the resources up to date and provide new and improved services.

It was informed by the respondents (Assistant Professors) that library hours should be given within working hours or extended library hours.

Periodic orientation or user education program need to be conducted to make the users aware of new arrivals.

Conclusion

The study throws light on various aspects related to the information need and access pattern of veterinary professionals in Tamil Nadu. The investigation has brought out a few fruitful facts and figures. It was found that the information rendered in the institutions under study are optimally utilized. However, the information access pattern of the veterinary professionals was not up to the expectations. These facts brought by the present study are worth considering through which the information and infrastructure of the institutions and the research productivity of the professionals can be certainly enhanced. Therefore, there should be a dedicated forum for veterinary professionals to discuss and deliberate professional-related issues.

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