

Use of Books and Library by Agriculture Department Students: A Study of Two Aided Colleges of Punjab

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Abstract- The goal of this study is to find out how agriculture department students at an aided institution use library materials and services. Agriculture department students from DSCW, Ferozepur, and DAV College, Abohar completed a well-structured Google form-based questionnaire (Punjab). The primary goal of this research is to better understand how students use books and library resources, with a focus on agriculture students. The results of the investigation demonstrate that students in the agriculture department regularly use library books and sources provided by their library, and that students also believe the library should purchase the most recent and additional books connected to their field. The current research relies solely on books and library sources, and the geographical scope is limited to two aided colleges in Punjab. There have been a number of studies on the use of books and library sources, but this is the first one done on agricultural department students, and there has been follow-up research.

Index Terms- Books, User, Library

I. INTRODUCTION

Books are for use," says the first and most basic law of library science. Ranganathan proposed the laws (Ranganathan, 1931, p.22), but the very first law was Prof. Ross's instinctual and spontaneous flare (Ranganathan, 1931, p.22). The First Law focuses on how to use books wisely and effectively. The idea that books should be read, used, and distributed was well-established. Books were frequently chained to prevent them from being removed, emphasising storage and preservation rather than use. Ranganathan agreed that preservation and storage were necessary, but he argued that they should be used to promote the books' utility to readers. There would be very little without the utilisation of materials. Library and information professionals should constantly provide "appropriate information, to the right user at the right time" for effective information use.

About The Colleges Under Study

The oldest women's college is Panjab University's **Dev Samaj College for Women** (DSCW) in Ferozepur City, which was founded in 1934. It is Ferozepur District's first female-only educational institution. Dev Samaj was founded by Bhagwan Dev

Atma, who created the first exclusive girls' institutions in Lahore in 1886 and the first women's institutions in Ferozepur in 1901. With an extraordinary CGPA of 3.75/4 awarded by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India (NAAC), Bangalore, DSCW is India's No. 1 College for 2013-14. It has also been designated as a College of Excellence by the University Grants Commission (U.G.C.) in Delhi. The 2021-22 sessions have almost 1600 students registered. This college provides a diverse range of undergraduate programmes in streams such as Computer Science, Arts, Commerce, Humanities and Social Sciences, Education and Teaching, Management Studies, Science, Mathematics, Agriculture Science, Skill development etc.

DAV College Abohar was established in 1960 by the DAV College Managing Committee, and is accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has given this college "A" Grade, and it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a number of registered companies, including Bioage, Orbit Biotech, and Abca Biosolutions Pvt. Ltd. Computer Science, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Education and Teaching, Management Studies, Science, Mathematics, and Agriculture Science are just a few of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes available at this college.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Malhotra (1990) conducted a user research in the libraries of two agriculture universities, Haryana Agricultural University (HAU) in Hisar and Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in Ludhiana. To assess the influence of faculty in increasing library usage among postgraduate students, He developed and ranked statistically nine criteria that may be used to indicate if a faculty teacher's manner of instruction is library-based.

Singh (2012) investigated how PG students at Maharaj Singh College in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, used library collections and services. This research demonstrates and expands on the many features of library collection, use, frequency, and purpose within the constraints of available resources.

Bansal (2014) investigates users' views regarding information sources and information services in the library of F.C.College for Women, Hisar. The data is gathered from both students and faculty members at the college.

Naqvi (2014) performed research to determine how postgraduate students and research scholars use the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology (GBPUAT) library collection and services.

Geetha et al. (2016) conducted research to determine how students at two Shivamogga municipal engineering college libraries use library resources and services. A total of 194 students from two colleges were included in the study. The study's findings revealed that students' difficulty in discovering needed materials, as well as a lack of current collections in both college libraries, are the primary causes of these and other issues.

The study's objectives

- To determine the frequency with which department students visit the library.

- To determine the total amount of time spent in the library by UG students participating in the study.
- to learn about the numerous reasons why people visit the library
- To know the opinion of the users about the books collection.

Tool used for the study

To collect the necessary data, a systematic, closed-ended Google form questionnaire was created and employed. A Google Forms survey was constructed and delivered to agricultural department students at the colleges under investigation via email and Whatsapp. The poll was performed in December and January 2021–2022.

Data Analysis

Table 1
Sample Size and Category of Respondents

| Sr.No | Category | Respondents | Respondent Percentage |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | UG Students | 97 | 68.7% |
| 2 | PG Students | 44 | 31.2% |
| 3 | Male | 74 | 52.5% |
| 4 | Female | 67 | 47.5% |

Table 1 shows that the majority of the students are UG Students and (52.5%) are male respondents.

Table 2
Age wise Distribution of Respondents

| Sr.No | Age | No. of Responses | Percentage of Responses |
|-------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Upto 20 years | 70 | 49.6% |
| 2 | 21-25 Years | 71 | 50.4% |
| 3 | Above 25 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Table 2 reveals that the majority of the respondents are between the ages of 21 and 25. The data also reveals that there is no user over the age of 25. This is owing to the fact that the majority of the users are undergraduate students.

Table 3
Library used frequently

| Sr.No | Library Visit Mostly | No. of Responses | Percentage of Responses |
|-------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Main Library | 103 | 73% |
| 2 | Department Library | 38 | 27% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

The majority of respondents utilise the main library for study and to borrow books, as shown in Table 3.

Table – 4
Frequency of Visit to the Library

| Sr.No | Frequency of Library Visit | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|-------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Daily | 55 | 39% |
| 2 | Twice a Week | 38 | 27% |
| 3 | Once in a Week | 34 | 24% |
| 4 | Rarely | 14 | 9.9% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Users' visit the library frequently, but how frequently they visit remains a big question. Table 4 shows the frequency with which users visit the library. It shows that 39.1 percent of users visit the library every day, 27.1 percent visit twice a week and another 24% visit once a week. The library's percentage of occasional visitors is relatively low, which is a positive sign.

Table – 5
Time Spent in the Library

| Sr.No | Time | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|-------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Up to one Hour | 93 | 65.9 % |
| 2 | 1-2 Hours | 43 | 30.5% |
| 3 | More than three Hours | 5 | 3.5% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Knowing how much time visitors spend in the library for reading or other purposes is critical for a librarian. Table 5 shows the amount of time that users spend in the library. It shows that the majority of users spent up to 1 hour, with 30% spending 1 hour to 2 hours. It's worth noting that only 3.5 percent of library users spend more than 3 hours there. Despite the tiny percentage, this is really inspiring.

Table – 6
Purpose of Visit to the Library

| Sr.No | Purpose of Visit | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | For Circulation | 41 | 29.1% |
| 2 | To make notes/assignment | 41 | 29.1% |
| 3 | For exam preparation | 32 | 22.7% |
| 4 | To read personal books | 18 | 12.7% |
| 5 | For research purpose | 9 | 6.4% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Table 6 shows that 29.1 percent of users visit the library to issue/return books while taking notes and assignments, 22.7 percent visit the library for exam preparation, and very few users visit the library for research due to the low number of post-graduate respondents.

Table – 7
User's Preference to use Library Documents

| Sr.No. | Documents | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Text books | 47 | 33.3% |
| 2 | General Books | 45 | 31.9% |
| 3 | Magazine/Journals | 3 | 2% |
| 4 | Newspapers | 11 | 7.8% |
| 5 | Reference Books | 31 | 22% |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------|------------|
| 6 | Science Books | 3 | 2% |
| 7 | Competitive Books | 1 | 1% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Each type of information source has a distinct value. These types of sources are used by users to meet their individual demands. Table 7 shows the users' preferences for the papers they utilise. The most commonly utilised documents by users are textbooks and general literature, with reference books receiving 22 percent of the vote. The table shows that magazines/journals and competitive exam books are the least popular among users.

Table – 8
Thinking about Library Collection

| Sr.No. | User's Thinking about Library collection | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|--|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Highly Adequate | 37 | 26.2% |
| 2 | Adequate | 85 | 60.3% |
| 3 | Inadequate | 15 | 10.6% |
| 4 | Highly inadequate | 4 | 2.9% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Every library must assess if its present collection is sufficient to meet its users' information demands. According to the data, 60.3 percent of users are satisfied with library collections, while only 2.9 percent believe library holdings are utterly useless.

Table 9
Users Approach to find document

| Sr.No. | Find Document | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Yes Always | 41 | 29.1% |
| 2 | Most of the times | 61 | 43.3% |
| 3 | Sometimes | 33 | 23.4% |
| 4 | Never | 6 | 4.2% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Table No. 9 reveals that the majority of users (43.3%) are able to locate their documents the most of the time. Only 4.2 percent of users claimed they have never been able to locate the documents they require. A librarian should be able to assist them in locating the material.

Table 9 (a)
Not find Document due to

| Sr.No. | Not find Document because | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Not Available in library | 62 | 44% |
| 2 | Issued to teacher | 8 | 5.7% |
| 3 | Issued to other students | 56 | 39.7% |
| 4 | Misplaced on the shelves | 15 | 10.6% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Table 9 (a) above explains why students are unable to locate their documents. 44 percent of users stated they couldn't find the document they needed because it wasn't available in the library, while the remaining 39.7% said the requested document had already been issued to other students.

Table 10
Users' Opinion about Library Collection

| Sr.No. | Opinion about library collection | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Currently up to date | 55 | 39% |
| 2 | Not up to date | 31 | 22% |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|------------|------------|
| 3 | Can't say | 55 | 39% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

It is critical to understand the users' expectations for the most recent collection. While 39% of users believe the library's collection is current, the same percentage of users does not have an opinion on the collection. Only 22% of respondents believe the library's collection is out of date.

Table 11
User's Approach to Know about Latest Collection

| Sr.No. | To Know About Latest Collection of Library | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|--|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | From new arrival section | 21 | 14.9% |
| 2 | Through library staff | 29 | 20.6% |
| 3 | Through teacher | 29 | 20.6% |
| 4 | Through orientation | 8 | 5.6% |
| 5 | Through friends | 31 | 22% |
| 6 | Any other | 23 | 16.3% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Table 11 depicts a user's strategy to finding out about the most recent collection or new arrivals. 20.6 percent of users said they learned about the new library book collection through library employees and their teachers. The majority of respondents learned about it from their acquaintances, while the least amount of users learned about it during orientation. The librarian should consider this and make an attempt to notify students about the new arrivals collection.

Table 12
Author Preference

| Sr.No. | Author Preference | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Indian Author | 119 | 84.4% |
| 2 | Foreign Author | 22 | 15.6% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

According to the above table 12, there were 141 total users, with 119 preferring books by Indian authors and 22 preferring books by international authors. The percentage of users who read books by Indian authors is 84.4 percent, according to this table.

Table 13
Publishers' Preference

| Sr.No. | Publishers' Preference | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Indian Publisher | 94 | 66.7% |
| 2 | Foreign Publisher | 14 | 9.9% |
| 3 | Never Noticed | 33 | 23.4% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Table 13 shows the user's preference for different types of publishers. The majority of users (66.7%) favour Indian publishers' books, readers use the fewest international publishers' books, and it is astonishing that 23.4 percent of users never notice the publisher when they issue books from the library. It is envisaged that these users would only view titles that they are interested in.

Table 14
Language Preference

| Sr.No. | Language Preference | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | English | 131 | 92.9% |
| 2 | Hindi | 3 | 2.2% |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|------------|------------|
| 3 | Punjabi | 7 | 4.9% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Almost all of the respondents (92.9 %) prefer English-language books over to Hindi or Punjabi-language books, as seen in table 14, which shows the user's preferred language for reading any book.

Table 15
Prefer Place for Study

| Sr.No. | Place Prefer to Study | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | In Library | 56 | 39.7% |
| 2 | At Hostel | 12 | 8.5% |
| 3 | At Home | 73 | 51.8% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

The respondents' preferred study locations are shown in table 15 above. The data reveals that the majority of users read books at home. It's astonishing to see that only 39.7% of library users read books. Students do not prefer to read books in libraries, and librarians should consider why.

Table 16
Read the Books, Borrow from the Library

| Sr.No. | Read the Books Borrow from Library | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Yes always | 106 | 75.2% |
| 2 | No, because | 13 | 9.2% |
| 3 | Insufficient loan period | 10 | 7.1% |
| 4 | Some other reasons | 12 | 8.5% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

Table 16 demonstrates that users read almost all of the books they borrowed from the library (75.2%). Only 7.1% of users claimed they didn't finish the book because the loan duration was too short.

Table 17
Users Opinion on assistance of Library Staff

| Sr.No. | Assistance of Library Staff | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Helpful | 60 | 42.6% |
| 2 | Very Helpful | 53 | 37.6% |
| 3 | Satisfactory | 26 | 18.4% |
| 4 | Unsatisfactory | 2 | 1.4% |
| | Total | 141 | 100 |

The above table 17 shows that the majority of respondents felt that library staff's assistance was really beneficial to them. It is heartening to learn that only 1.4% is dissatisfied with library staff support.

Table 18
Users Opinion on Quality of Physical Facilities available

| Sr.No. | Facilities Available | No. of Responses | Responses Percentage |
|--------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Library Environment | 110 | 31.7% |
| 2 | Reading space | 62 | 17.9% |
| 3 | Cleanliness | 64 | 18.49% |
| 4 | Lighting | 51 | 14.73% |
| 5 | Drinking water | 19 | 5.49% |
| 6 | Cooling | 40 | 11.56% |

Every library aims to provide good amenities for its users in order to provide them with a pleasant reading environment. Table 19 contains a summary of user feedback. According to the table, the majority of users are satisfied with all of the aforementioned features. A quick inspection of the drinking water facilities is required.

III. FINDINGS

The majority of users (39%) visit the library every day and spend up to one hour there, according to the results of this study (65.0). The library is used by 29.1% of users to circulate books and take notes at the same time. The library is used by the majority of user (33.3 %) and general books (31.95 %). Magazines and publications are not used by them. The majority of respondents claimed they can't find the books they want because of problems with other students (39.6%) and teachers, and the library collection is currently up-to-date (55 %). Teachers and library staff informed 20.6% of users about the library's new arrivals collection at the same time. The majority of respondents (84.4%) like Indian authors. The study's main findings include that Indian publishers (66.7%) and English language (92.9 %) books are the most popular, and that their preferred reading location is at home (51.8 %). 75.2 % of respondents said they read books that was issued from the library. Almost every reader is pleased with the library staff's behaviour and help. Physical amenities such as reading area, cleanliness, lighting, ventilation, property counters, and furniture are all rated as satisfactory by users. A considerable percentage of students are dissatisfied with the drinking water service provided by the library.

IV. CONCLUSION

Every library is expanding on a daily basis. However, the expansion of a collection in terms of size or number does not imply that a library has a large collection. It must be rated on the basis of

the most efficient use of its resources. In this circumstance, a thorough examination of the utilisation of books is required to determine the collection's quality and depth. This type of research is quite beneficial to librarians as well as the institution's parents' body. They can utilise the findings to make decisions about community resource development, such as the purchase of high-quality books for a library. As a result, book usage will be at its peak, and therefore As a result, the significant collecting investment will be put to good use. Every library buys books for their collections, so it is up to each institution to keep track of whether or not these collections are being used. It is an attempt to discover the most commonly utilised books as well as the effect of age on library usage.

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