INFORMATION BEHAVIOR OF LLB STUDENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT LAW COLLEGE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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Abstract: -   *The law information sources and the skills to usethese law resources are very important to legal professionals, scholars, especially to law students passing through university law faculties, as they improve their ability to search for knowledge on legal matters.A total of 130 questionnaires were distributed. Data obtained through Questionnaire was tabulated, analyzed & interpreted using Microsoft Excel &SPSS version 20.*

Keywords: Databases, Electronic Information, Information behavior, Information use, Law Students.

1. Introduction

Information behaviour refers to different ways in which human beings interact with information including the way people seek and use information (Bates, 2010). The enormous growth of modern information communication technologies and its massive use has drastically changed the information behaviour of users of every community. Law is a knowledge intensive domain which serves as principal source of legal cognition for all and for the legal community in particular.The legal fraternity needs to cope with legal information for a multitude of background

work that includes reviewing and compiling statutes, procedural rules, evidence, bills, amendments, pertinent documentation, and much more. Law is the system of rule enacted by a community or country, in other words law is the body of rules by which order and justice is maintained in society. The law information sources and the skills to use law resources are very important to legal professionals, scholars, especially to law students passing through university law faculties, as they improve their ability to search for knowledge on legal matters law libraries. Law students, like legal practitioners, work in information-rich constant flux, with ongoing trends of statutes and other legal affairs for learning and legal research (Kerins, Madden, & Fulton, 2004).Therefore, legal information is a valuable resource for legal practitioners, especially for law students who generally learn how to become lawyers (Das & Jadab,2016).

Undoubtedly, the accessibility of electronic information has steadily brought major changes to human information behavior in all walks of life. Many platforms such as LexisNexis and Westlaw render legal information support from various legal domains which are either personalized or interconnected in the database. General search engines (such as Google) and law-specific search engines (such as FindLaw) also provide legal information over the network. Access to such latest information has a significant influence on their information behavior. Thus proper understanding of

information seeking behavior as a user study is a necessity for planning, designing, and beginning the latest information services based on existing ones. It therefore motivates the present study to investigate the information behaviour of law students in such digital environments.

2. Review of Literature

Following studies related to the present study are given below:

Das &Jadab(2016) paper aims to draw out patterns of information seeking behavior of students of law in digital environments at the University of Dhaka.A stratified random sample survey was conducted for this study. The results show that students prefer the electronic formatof information rather than printed format. Major e-resources used by them and the influential factors of use were also identified in this study. This study also identified some crucial problems for seeking information and provides suggestions for the development of electronic legal information systems.

Kadli and Hanchinal(2015)study examines the information seeking behaviour of students of two law colleges of Mumbai. The study mainly concentrates on frequency of visit to the library, purpose of information seeking, computer acquaintance, amount of time spent on information gathering activities, problem faced in information seeking, etc. The results of the study reveal that books are still most heavily used resources by the students. Majority of the students are familiar with using offline and online legal databases. The study recommends that formal

users training programme shall be conducted to optimize the use of information sources and services.

The purpose of Anyaogu (2014) study is to find out the various legal resources available to Postgraduate law students; their information needs and seeking behaviour; the sources/services utilized by them and their level of satisfaction with the information obtained from the sources in the library. The population of study consists of 323 Postgraduate law students registered at NIALS library since year 2013. Total enumeration sampling technique was used to select all the registered students. A self-developed questionnaire titled Information Needs and Seeking Behaviour of Postgraduate Law Students (INSBPLS) scale was used to collect data. The study revealed that law books were mostly available in NIALS library with a frequency score of (F= 204), followed by law reports (F= 200). The research also found out that the major information need of the Postgraduate law students is to obtain academic information in the library.

Yemisi(2014)study investigated the information behavior of law students in Nigerian university law libraries.. The study adopted a survey research design. The study targeted all the law students in Nigerian universities. Out of the 30 universities offering law as a course of study in Nigeria, a total of 12 universities were chosen for the study. From the 12 chosen universities, 1,534 law students were randomly selected; this represents the sample for the study. Data was collected using a questionnaire, an interview and observation methods. The findings revealed that the surveyed law students generally exhibited a positive attitude towards patronage of law libraries, and that printed information sources are the main information sources utilized by respondents in law libraries. The majority of the respondents indicated that they possessed the ICT skills required to search for information using electronic information resources in the law libraries..

Makry,blandford and Cox(2007) feel that many models, including those informed by studying lawyers, analyse information-seeking at a high level ofabstraction and are only likely to lead to broad-scoped design insights. This study examines considerable scope for improving the design of these resources to better support information-seeking .Author used Ellis's model as a lens to analyse and make design suggestions based on the information-seeking behavior of 27 academic lawyers, who were asked to think aloud whilst using electronic legal resources to find information for their work. They identified similar information-seeking behaviours to those originally found by Ellis and his colleaguesin scientific domains. They also present a refinement of Ellis's model based on the behaviors identified

3. Objectives of the Study

Main objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the Information seeking behavior of students in Govt Law College, Tvpm.

2. To examine various channels used by students in accessing the required information.

3. To find out the major information sources used by law students.

4. To examine the law related information systems used by law students for their academic needs.

5. To identify the obstacles faced by law students in finding out the required information.

4.Methodology

The present study intends to describe the information seeking behavior of law students in Govt Law College Thiruvananthapuram. Therefore, the investigator has adopted survey method for data collection through a well-structured questionnaire consisting 130 questions. Out of the total population, samples of 107 respondents were selected by proportionatestratified RandomSampling. A total of 130 questionnaires were distributed. Data obtained through the Questionnaires were tabulated, analyzed & interpreted using Microsoft Excel 2010 and SPSS version 20.

5.Data Analysis and Interpretations

The following section discusses the analysis of the data collected and presented under different table headings as per the objectives of the study.

Table 1 Socio demographic Profile

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	63	58.9
Female	44	41.1
Age		
Below 25	96	89.7
25-30	8	7.5
41-50	3	2.8
Qualification		
3 year LLB	50	46.7
5 Year LLB	57	53.3

The socio demographic profile of the respondents is presented in Table.1 About 58.9% of the respondents weremale and most of the respondents (89.7%) are below the age of 25. Five yearLLB consist of 53.3% of the population and 46.7% of population were Three year LLB students

Table 2 Frequency of seeking information

Information Seeking	No of Respondents	Percentage
Always	45	42.1
Sometimes	61	57.0
Never	1	0.9
Total	**107**	**100**

42.1 % respondents "always" seek information, and 57.0% of the respondents seek information "sometimes". Only 0.9 % respondents "never" seek any form of information.

Table 3 Time Spent in gathering information

Time Spent	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1 hour	14	13.1
1-3 hours	43	40.2
3-6 hours	17	15.9
6-9 hours	19	17.8
9-12 hours	6	5.6
more than 12 hours	8	7.5
Total	**107**	**100**

Time spent in gathering information can be cosidered as a important criteria to ascertain the information behaviour of law students.About 40.2% of respondents spent about1-3 hours in gathering information they need,17.9% respondents spend 6-9 hours to gather information of Followed by 15.9% of respondents who take 3-6 hours in seeking the information they need, 13.1% spend less than 1hour for getting information they need, 7.5% of respondents take more than 12 hours to gather information they need. Only a minority of respondents (5.6%) spend 9-12 hours in collecting information. From this it is clear that Law is a discipline of intensive field of study.

Table 4 Purpose of seeking information

Purpose	No.of respondents	Percentage
For improving personal	85	79.4
knowledge.		
For writing book / article.	36	33.6
Professional needs.	34	31.8
For a research work.	34	31.8
Case preparation.	30	28.0

Information needs of law students vary from person to person. So respondents were asked identify their purpose of seeking information. Table 4 shows that more than 3/4th of law students seek information for improving their personal knowledge.33.6% of law students seek information for writing book or articles. 31.8% of respondents seek information for their research work and for satisfying their professional needs and finally28% of law students seek information forcase preparation

Table 5 Source of help in seeking information

Source of help	No.of respondents	Percentage
Teachers	83	77.6
Librarian	33	30.8
Senior Lawyers	30	28.0
Legal Counsel	15	14.0

Information seeking is the process or activity of attempting to obtain information from both human and technological component. From the table 5 it is clear that majority of law students (77.6%) seek

help from teacher to find out the information they need, 30.8% of the approach librarians for help in seeking information. Senior lawyers are approached by 28% of law students for getting help in finding information. Only 14% of law students seek help from legal counsel in find information.

Table 6 Frequency of visiting libraries

Frequency	No. of respondents	Percentage
Daily	21	19.6
2-3 times a week	36	33.6
once in a week	33	30.8
once in a month	17	15.9
Total	**107**	**100**

A library is considered as a store house of knowledge. Library plays a major role in disseminating law related information. The Habit of regularly visiting the library can have a major impact on information behavior of law students. About 19.6% of law students visit library daily, 33.6% of visit library 2-3 times a week, 30.8% seek information once in a week and 15.9% seek information once in a month.

Table 7 Use of internet

Use of Internet	No of respondents	Percentage
Yes	101	94.4
No	6	5.6
Total	**107**	**100**

One of the most important uses of internet in the legal profession is conducting legal research. About 94.4% law students use internet for accessing law related information and only a minority of 5.6% law students do not use internet

Table 7 Duration of use of internet

Duration	No. of respondents	Percentage
Daily	41	38.3
2-3 times a week	48	44.9
once in a week	8	7.5
once in a month	4	3.7
Never	6	5.6
Total	**107**	**100**

Many legal projects require extensive legal research, including references to previously decided cases. Thus it is necessary to ascertain the duration of use of internet. About 38.3% of respondents daily use internet for accessing law related information. 44.9% of law students use internet 2-3 times in a week, 7.5% of respondents

use internet once in a week. Only a handful of law students (3.7%) use internet once in a month and 5.6% of law students never use internet to seek law related information.

Table 8 Information sources used

Information sources	No. of respondents	Percentage
Books.	89	83.2
Eelectronic resources.	79	73.8
Case reports (AIR, SCC, KLT, KLY, RCR etc.)	58	54.2
Law digests.	39	36.4
Decided cases from judicial record form.	39	36.4
Reference works.	37	34.6
law dictionaries / encyclopedias etc.	34	31.8
Personal collection.	27	25.2
Legal databases.	26	24.3
Legal research.	22	20.6

Law students have to consult a wide variety of information sources both print and electronic to satisfy their information needs. From the responses it is clear that majority of the students use books as a major source of information, (83.2) of respondents used electronic resources. half of

them (54.2%) depend on attain case reports such as AIR, SCC, KLT, KLY, RCR etc. for their information needs, 36.4% users' needs are satisfied by law digests and decided cases from judicial record form. Reference works were used by 34.6% respondents to seek law related information, 31.8% of users used Law dictionaries and encyclopedias,(25.2%) law students used their personal collection, 24.3% of respondents use of and only 20.6% of used information from legal research.

Table 9 Legal CD ROM databases

CD ROM databases	No of Respondents	percentage
All India Reporter	78	72.9
Supreme Court Case	60	56.1
Manupatra Case Locator	32	29.9
Consumer Case Judgment	23	21.5
National Acts	21	19.6
Patent & Trade Mark Case	20	18.7
State Acts	18	16.8
Company Cases	18	16.8
KLTverDIS	14	13.1
Arbitration Judgment	14	13.1

CD-Rom databases from an important source of law related information. This helps law student to access information systematically in a single instance. From the study it is evident that72.9% of law students use CD ROM database provided by All India Reporter, 56.1% of respondents used Supreme Court Cases,29.9% of law students used Manupatra case locator, 21.5% of students used Consumer Case Judgment, 19.6% of law students are used National Acts,18.7% of law students used Patent & Trade Mark Case. State Acts & Company Cases are used by 16.8% of law students and 13.1% of respondents depended on KLTverDIS& Arbitration Judgment.

Variables	Frequency of visit to Libraries					Chi-Square Value	P Value
	category	Daily	2-3 times a week	once in a week	once in a month		
All India Reporter	yes	18	30	24	6	15.898	**0.001***
	No	3	6	9	11		
Supreme Court Case	yes	13	19	21	7	2.747	0.432
	No	8	17	12	10		
Manupatra Case Locator	yes	9	10	11	2	4.612	0.203
	No	12	26	22	15		
Consumer Case Judgment	yes	8	7	7	1	5.976	0.113
	No	13	29	26	16		
National Acts	yes	11	8	1	1	22.234	**0.000***
	No	10	28	32	16		
Patent & Trade Mark Case	yes	8	6	5	1	7.407	0.060
	No	13	30	28	16		
State Acts	yes	9	7	1	1	16.290	**0.001***
	No	12	29	32	16		
Company Cases	yes	9	4	4	1	12.987	**0.005***
	No	12	32	29	16		
KLTverDIS	yes	7	4	3	0	10.717	**0.013***
All India Reporter	yes	18	30	24	6	15.898	**0.001***
Arbitration Judgment	yes	7	4	3	0	10.717	**0.013***
	yes	7	4	3	0		

*: significant(P<0.05).

To assess the association between frequency of visit to libraries and Legal Cd-ROM databases used, research hypothesis is formulated as H1: There is a no significant association between frequency of visit to libraries and Legal Cd-ROM Databases used. Hypothesis is tested using chi square test

From Table 10, it is observed that there exists statistically significant association between the frequency of visit to libraries and Legal Cd-ROM databases such as All India Reporter (Chi Square=15.898, P=0.001<0.05),KLTverDIS (Chi square=10.717,P=0.013<0.05), State Acts(Chi Square=16.290,P=0.001<0.05), National Acts (Chi Square=22.234,P=0.000<0.05), Arbitration Judgment (Chi square=10.717, P=0.013<0.05), Company   Cases(Chi Square=12.987,P=0.005<0.05),

From Table 10 no significant association is noted in Supreme Court Case (Chi Square=2.747,P=0.432>0.05), Manupatra Case Locator(chi Square=4.612,P=0.203),Consumer Case Judgment(Chi Square= 5.976,P=0.113>0.05), Patent & Trade Mark Case (Chi Square=7.407,P=0.060>0.05).Thus Null hypothesis H2 is rejected

Table 11Use of fee based e- resources

Fee Based E-Resources	No of Respondents	Percentage
Lexis-Nexis	34	31.8

SCC-online	31	29.0
Manupatra online	31	29.0
Indlaw-Online	13	12.1
WTO online	9	8.4
Hanumanth's	8	7.5
Hein Online	6	5.6

Many of the e-resources in law are fee based. Information needs in law cannot be fully satisfied without the use of these resources as they are well reputed and provide authentic information. About 31.8% of law students use Lexis-Nexis. 29.0% of respondents use SCC-online &Manupatra online for seeking information.12.1% of use Indlaw-Online and Only a minority of respondents (8.4%) usedWTO online, followed by Hanumanth's(7.5%). Hein Online was used only by 5.6% of law students

Table 12 Use of law related information network

Purpose	No of Respondents	Percentage
yes	89	83.2
No	18	16.8
Total	107	100

Information networks play a major role in disseminating law information. Law is a dynamic and ever changing field. So these networks help to provide updated and relevant

information. About 83.2% of law students use law related information networks and 16.8% of them do not use any type of information networks.

Table 13 Satisfaction of academic needs from information networks

Opinion	No of Respondents	Percentage
yes	69	64.5
No	38	35.5
Total	**107**	**100**

About 64.5% of law students are satisfied with the academic information provided by law related information networks and 35.5% of respondents it that information networks does not satisfy their academic needs.

Table 14 use of legal information networks

Legal Information Networks	No. of Respondents	Percentage
indiankanoon.org	89	83.2
highcourtof kerala.nic.in	47	43.9
www.supremecourtofindia.nic.in	46	43.0
www.legal serviceindia.com	38	35.5
www.allindiareporter.com	33	30.8
www.indialawsite.com	23	21.5
www.Judis.nic.in	16	15.0
www.judgements-online.com	16	15.0
www.courtnic.nic.in	10	9.3
www.lawadiv.com	7	6.5

About (83.2%) of the students use legal information networks are users of indiankanoon.org. 43.9% of law students use highcourtofkerala.nic.in. 43.0% of respondents usedwww.supremecourtofindia.nic.in. 35.5% of law students seek information from www.legal serviceindia.com. 30.8% of law students use www.allindiareporter.com. 21.5% of respondents used www.indialawsite.com. 15.0% law students use www.Judis.nic.in & www.judgements-online.com. Only a minority of respondents used www.courtnic.nic.in.(9.3%) and www.lawadiv.com.(6.5%) for law related information.

Table 15 Constraints faced in collecting information

Reasons	No of Respondents	Percentage
Costly legal databases	51	47.7
inadequate resources from the Internet search,	49	45.8
Lack of awareness of e-resources.	40	37.4
information overload on internet	30	28.0
lack of skills to search information	18	16.8

Law students face several constraints in accessing the information they need. Majority of respondents (47.7%) identified costly legal databases as a major constrain in collecting information. Inadequate resources from the Internet search were identified as a major constraint in collecting data by 45.8 % of law students, 37.4% of law students felt that lack of awareness of e-resources act as a constraint hampering their information needs, 28.0% of them indicated and information overload on internet as one of the constraints faced while collecting information and only16.8% of law students faced lack of skills to search information as a major hurdle while collecting law related information.

6. Findings of the Study

45(42.1%) law students "always" seek information. About1-3 hours is spent by 40.2% of themin gathering these information.Improving personal knowledge is the aim of.79.4% law students who seek information. 77.6% of these students consider teachers asan authentic source from whom they can seek help in locating the information they need. Only 33.6% of law students visit library 2-3 times a week, which should be taken as a indication to the need for improving the collection. 44.9 % use Internet 2-3 times in a week for gathering law related information.Books are indicated as major source of information by 83.2% of law students while 73.8% indicated electronic sources as major

source of information. LegalCD ROM database provided by All India Reporter is used by majority(72.9%) of these students. It is found that there exists statistically significant association between the frequency of visit to libraries and Legal CD-ROM databases such as All India Reporter, KLTverDIS, State Acts, National Acts, Arbitration Judgment and Company Cases. Fee based electronic Resource such as Lexis-Nexis is used by 31.8 % of these students in locating scholarly information. 83.2% law students use law related information networks and 64.5% are satisfied with the academic information provided by these law related information networks.Indiankanoon.org. is the legal information networks used by 83.2% oflaw students .Cost of legal databases was identified as a major constrain in collecting information by 47.7% of these students.

7. Suggestions

- Law related databases should be made available to students through a campus network
- Institutional repository should be developed and linked with the OPAC of the library
- Wi-Fi connectivity & High speed internet should be made available to law students.
- Law library should give training and conduct workshops for creating awareness in legal data bases & e-resources
- Web portal covering various e -resources should be created in collaboration with

senior lawyers, teachers, legal councel and librarian

- Law students should also be given training in searching and retrieval

8.Conclusions

The main objective of the study is to understand the information behavior of law studentsthe Government Law College, Thiruvananthapuram. The respondents useboth print and electronic formats of sources simultaneously. The ICT has undoubtedly influenced the information seeking behavior of law students and have changedtheir ways of access to library resources and services. Use of legal CD ROM database, fee based electronic Resource and law related information networks by students showed the influence of ICT in their information behaviour

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