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Information-Seeking Behaviour of B.Ed. Students in Indore Region College Libraries: An Empirical Study

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Abstract

The study titled "Information Seeking Behaviour of Users in Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) College Libraries of the Indore Region: A Study" examines how students, faculty members, and research scholars locate, access, and utilize information resources within B.Ed. college libraries. Using a mixed-method research design, data was collected from 535 respondents through standardized questionnaires—distributed in both physical and digital formats—and supported by informal interviews and personal observations for deeper qualitative insight. Secondary data from books, journals, and official reports further strengthened the theoretical framework. To analyze the collected data, the study employs descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, utilizing tabulation, percentages, averages, bar graphs, and graphical representations prepared in Excel. Advanced statistical processing is conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics 27 to identify behavioral patterns, preferences, satisfaction levels, and challenges faced by users. Tools such as t-tests, ANOVA, and regression analysis help reveal significant relationships within the dataset, while descriptive measures such as mean, median, and mode provide foundational insights. The study identifies the primary purposes for which users seek information, the strategies they adopt to locate sources, their preferred information resources, and their level of satisfaction with existing library facilities and services. It also highlights key barriers, including issues related to accessibility, technological limitations, and resource availability. The findings contribute valuable insights toward improving academic library services, enhancing information access, and fostering more user-centric learning environments in B.Ed. colleges across the Indore region.

Keywords: Information-seeking behaviour, B.Ed. college libraries, Indore region, information sources, user satisfaction, library services, information access challenges

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary knowledge-based society, access to relevant and timely information is critical for academic success, professional growth, and lifelong learning. Libraries serve as central hubs for information resources, particularly in institutions of higher education, where students, educators, and researchers depend heavily on them for academic and pedagogical support. Among these, the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) colleges play a pivotal role in preparing future educators and shaping the nation's educational framework. Consequently, understanding how users interact with library resources in these institutions has become an essential area of academic inquiry.

Information seeking behaviour refers to the strategies and actions undertaken by individuals to locate and utilize information effectively. It encompasses a wide range of activities including the identification of information needs, selection of appropriate sources, retrieval of data, and evaluation of the information obtained. In the context of B.Ed. college libraries, users typically

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include teacher trainees, faculty members, and administrative staff, each with unique information needs shaped by curricular requirements, research interests, and institutional goals.

The libraries of B.Ed. colleges in the Indore region serve a diverse and dynamic user base. With the increasing integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in educational institutions, there has been a significant transformation in the way information is accessed, stored, and disseminated. Digital libraries, e-resources, online databases, and automated cataloguing systems have supplemented traditional print resources, offering users multiple pathways to acquire knowledge. However, the effectiveness of these services largely depends on the information literacy and behaviour patterns of their users.

This study aims to investigate the information seeking behaviour of users in B.Ed. college libraries across Indore, a prominent educational hub in Madhya Pradesh. It seeks to explore how users define their information needs, the sources they prefer (print vs. digital), the challenges they face in accessing information, and the role of library infrastructure in shaping their behaviour. Furthermore, the study also examines factors such as gender, age, academic level, digital literacy, and frequency of library use in influencing information-seeking patterns.

By identifying the strengths and gaps in current library services, this study will provide insights that can help library administrators, policymakers, and educational planners improve the design and delivery of library resources. Enhancing the information environment in B.Ed. colleges not only benefits the users but also contributes to the broader mission of educational excellence and teacher empowerment in the region.

The present era is the era of information and knowledge revolution. Information is now beginning to be considered as a vital resource for the socioeconomic development of a country. It is also accepted as a tool for the utilization of natural and human resources. Many of the countries have their own information policy for planning and development. Information sector is beginning to be given considerable importance in most of the developed and developing countries. Many electronic resources are available in the library. The increase in information available on the web has affected information behaviour. Innumerable of information, in a large variety of containers and in many different locations, are all available in one place. Recognizing the importance of information for users, Indian and foreign libraries, information centres, consultancy groups and information scientists have carried out user studies. The result of all the studies revealed information need as a basic necessity for all. This project aims to identify information users to determine their information need and information gathering habits, patterns of information use and flow and user behaviour. Studies have also been carried out to obtain views or opinion of users for designing and development of information systems and services. It is to be mentioned that, user's scale of preference to different kinds of services, range of subject specification, orientation towards such services, methods of presentation of information etc. are to be considered in their own context. For evaluation of the efficiency of a library or information systems, above mentioned factors are also taken into consideration

Before penetrating deep into the study, the theme of the project featuring 'information', 'information needs', 'users', 'users study', 'information seeker', 'information seeking behaviour', 'information channel' etc. need to be explained.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Felicetti et al. (2023) –This study reviews existing literature to understand consumer food information behaviour and the value consumers gain from food-related data. Findings show that most research focuses on buying and eating habits, while the influence of information on consumers' overall food experience remains underexplored. The study highlights the growing importance of personalized food information, especially with rapid technological advancements in the food industry.

Slătineanu et al. (2023) – The study emphasizes the importance of information-seeking in product design. Observation-based findings show that designers – especially beginners – benefit from sketching early ideas before deep information searching. It suggests that basic knowledge of science and technology supports creative design and helps overcome limitations caused by excessive information searching.

Un & Adelé et al. (2022) – This research examines how suburban rail passengers use travel information and identifies six types of information seekers. Using survey and clustering techniques, it reveals differences in how passengers collect and process information. The study offers insights for improving passenger communication systems and enhancing sustainable mobility.

Melhem et al. (2023) – The study investigates cancer survivors' digital health literacy and information-seeking behaviour in Jordan. Results show that age, income, and education impact digital health literacy and use of e-health platforms. Survivors with better digital skills prefer online resources but face issues regarding reliability and trust. The study calls for tailored digital interventions to address digital inequality in cancer care.

Capone et al. (2020) – This study analyzes mental health among Italian college students during COVID-19 lockdowns. It finds that academic stress remained similar before and after lockdowns, with 22.3% of students flourishing. Students who frequently sought information about COVID-19 showed better well-being and risk awareness. The study suggests using information-seeking behaviour to design student well-being programs.

Nazar et al. (2021) – Using Google Trends and air quality data from Poland, the study explores public information-seeking behaviour on air pollution. Results show higher search interest during winter and in regions with high PM10 and PM2.5 levels. Public curiosity closely mirrors pollution severity, reflecting growing awareness and real-time response to environmental risks.

Pernaa et al. (2024) –This theoretical paper evaluates AI chatbots in chemistry education using a SWOT analysis. It concludes that AI chatbots can transform information-seeking and offer personalized learning but face limitations with multimodal chemical data and ethical concerns. The study recommends integrating AI literacy into teacher training to support effective use.

Chen et al. (2020) – The study develops a model linking college students' electronic health literacy, online information-seeking behaviour, and mental health. Using structural equation modelling, it finds that higher digital health literacy and frequent online searching positively affect mental health. Platform quality also influences search behaviour. The study offers insights into improving students' mental health in the digital era.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The information-seeking behavior of users at Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) college libraries in the Indore region is investigated in this study through the use of a mixed-method research methodology, which combines quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The majority of the data will be gathered from 535 participants, including students, faculty, and research scientists, using a standardized questionnaire. To ensure broad accessibility and convenience, the questionnaire will be distributed in both physical format and digitally via platforms such as What Sapp. Additionally, informal interviews and personal observations will be conducted to capture deeper qualitative insights into user experiences and the challenges they encounter. Secondary data will be sourced from academic books, journal articles, previous research studies, and official educational reports to establish the theoretical foundation. The collected data will be analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, facilitating the identification of behavioral patterns, user preferences, satisfaction levels, and encountered barriers. This methodology ensures comprehensive, reliable, and context-specific findings.

Objective of Study

Research Objectives as follows

- To examine the information-seeking behaviour of users in Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) college libraries of the Indore region.
- To understand the underlying purposes for which users seek information.
- To identify the various methods and strategies adopted by users to locate information sources.
- To analyze the types of information sources preferred and required by the users.
- To assess the level of user satisfaction with the existing library facilities and services.
- To explore the challenges and problems faced by users while seeking and accessing information in the library.

HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were framed from the objectives of the study.

Hypothesis1

- H_{01}: There is no significant variation in information-seeking behaviour among different categories of users in B.Ed. college libraries.
- H_{11}: There is a significant variation in information-seeking behaviour among different categories of users in B.Ed. college libraries.

Hypothesis2

- H_{02}: There is no significant relationship between the user category and the purpose of seeking information.
- H_{12}: There is a significant relationship between the user category and the purpose of seeking information.

Hypothesis3

- H_{03}: The methods and strategies used to locate information do not significantly differ among users.
- H_{13}: The methods and strategies used to locate information significantly differ among users.

Hypothesis4

- H_{04}: There is no significant difference in the preference for information sources among different user groups.
- H_{14}: There is a significant difference in the preference for information sources among different user groups.

Hypothesis5

- H_{05}: Users are not significantly satisfied with the existing library facilities and services.
- H_{15}: Users are significantly satisfied with the existing library facilities and services.

Hypothesis6

- H_{06}: Users do not face significant problems while seeking and accessing information in the library.
- H_{16}: Users face significant problems while seeking and accessing information in the library.

SAMPLING METHOD

Stratified Random Sampling

Researchers employ stratified random sampling to pick a sample that is statistically representative of the whole population while also fairly representing its many subsets. This method entails selecting significant factors or traits and then separating the population into exhaustive subgroups, or strata, that are mutually exclusive.

Source of Data Collection

Primary data gather through structured questionnaires and interviews with rural consumers in the Indore district, focusing on their usage patterns, awareness, challenges, and perceptions regarding digital banking services. Field visits and direct interactions enabled the collection of authentic and current data reflecting the rural population's experiences.

The primary data was collected directly from the users of Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) college libraries in the Indore region. A structured questionnaire was administered to:

- Students
- Faculty members
- Research scholars

These respondents were selected from multiple B.Ed. colleges to ensure diversity in the sample. In addition to the questionnaire, informal interviews and personal observations were used to gather in-depth qualitative insights into user behaviour, preferences, and challenges.

Secondary Data

Secondary data was collected through a review of:

- Books and academic journals on library science and information behaviour
- Previous research studies and theses
- Reports and publications from educational institutions and regulatory bodies
- Library usage records and institutional websites

These sources provided contextual background, theoretical grounding, and comparative insights to support the interpretation of the primary data.

The Likert Scale is a psychometric scale used to measure attitudes, perceptions, and opinions. It consists of a series of statements, and respondents are asked to rate their level of agreement with each statement on a scale, typically ranging from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree.", Use a 5-point Likert scale, where the response options range from "Strongly Disagree" (1) to "Strongly Agree" (5).

Data Presentation Tools and Statistical Techniques for Analysis

The study's needs and requirements informed the choice of analytical instrument. This research makes use of tabulation, graphical depiction, bar graphs, percentages, and averages. Data is presented using an Excel sheet. Software such as SPSS [IBM SPSS Statistics 27] will be used to process the data collected for statistical information in order to test and analyze the outcomes. Research and analysis cannot be completed without data display tools and statistical approaches. Researchers can better convey their results and derive useful inferences from their data with the help of these methods and tools. Bar charts, line graphs, pie charts, tables, graphs, and visualizations are some of the most frequent ways to present data. Visualizations like these may make even the most complicated data sets much easier to grasp. Methods like t-tests, analysis of variance, and regression analysis are inferential statistics, while descriptive statistics like mode, median, and mean are part of statistical procedures.

They help researchers identify patterns, relationships, and significant differences within data sets, providing a solid foundation for drawing valid research conclusions. Effective use of these tools and techniques enhances the clarity and impact of research findings.

The statistical analysis that was conducted to evaluate the hypothesis is provided and analyzed in this chapter. Every member of the sample had their main data examined. Data analysis and interpretation is the process of giving weight to the gathered data and drawing conclusions about its relevance, implications, and significance. This part of the research process is both the most crucial and the most interesting. Analysis is the next step after data gathering in these studies.

Statistical Analysis

Testing and findings, statistical software such as SPSS will be used to process the acquired data. Using Mean Rank and One-way ANOVA, the information-seeking behaviour of users in Bachelor of Education college libraries in the Indore region will be analyzed.

Demography Information

Figure 4.1 illustrates the age distribution of 535 respondents using B.Ed. college libraries in Indore. The majority, 39% (206 respondents), are aged 29–34 years, indicating that many B.Ed. students and researchers are in their late twenties to early thirties, often associated with higher education and career development. Following this, 34% (181 respondents) are aged 23–28 years, primarily younger students seeking initial qualifications. Those aged 22 or below make up 14% (77 respondents), while 13% (71 respondents) are 35 years and above, likely in-service teachers or mature students. Overall, the data highlights that most B.Ed. library users are young adults aged 23-34, focusing on teaching careers and academic advancement.[Table 4.2]

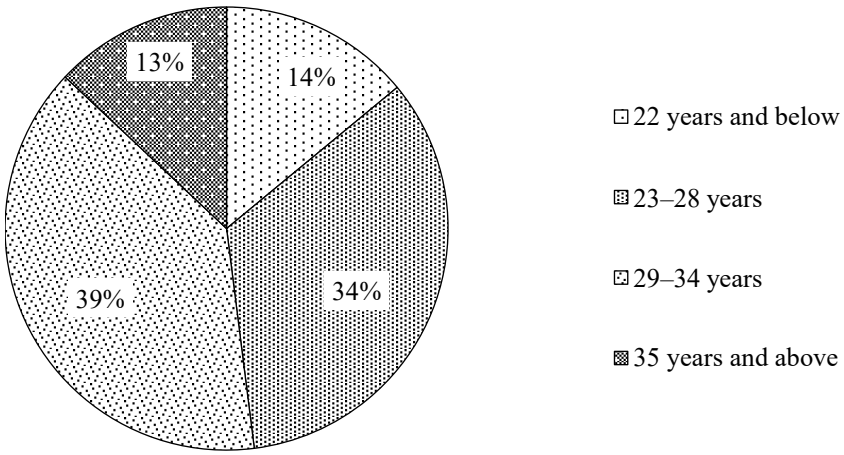

Figure 4.1. Age group of the respondent.

Figure 4.2 illustrates the educational qualifications of the 535 respondents surveyed in the study. The majority of respondents, 75% (400 individuals), are undergraduate (UG) students, reflecting that B.Ed. programs primarily cater to students pursuing their first degree in education. Postgraduate (PG) students make up 21% (113 respondents), indicating a significant presence of individuals who have already completed a previous degree and are enhancing their qualifications in the field of education. A smaller group, 4% (22 respondents), are Ph.D. scholars, representing those engaged in advanced research. This distribution highlights the academic diversity within B.Ed. college libraries.[Table 4.3]

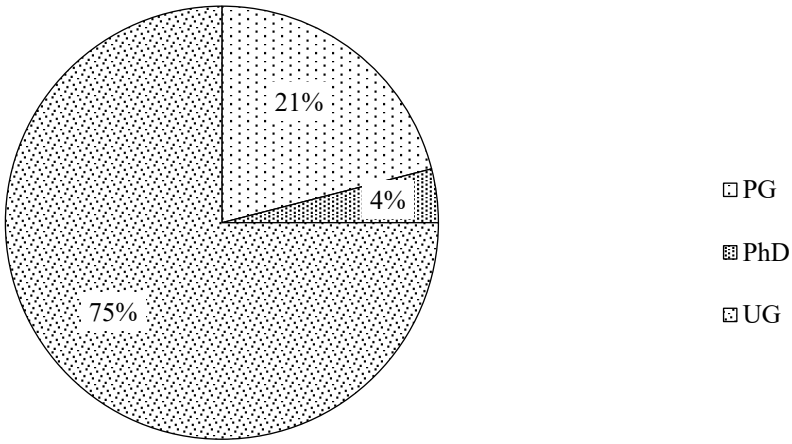

Figure 4.2. Education of the respondent.

Figure 4.3 presents the gender-wise distribution of the 535 respondents in the study. Out of the total, 313 respondents (59%) are female, while 222 respondents (41%) are male. This indicates a higher participation of female users in B.Ed. college libraries within the Indore region, which aligns with the national trend of a larger number of women enrolling in teacher education programs. The data reflects the gender composition of the B.Ed. student community and suggests that library services must be responsive to the needs of a predominantly female user base, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility in academic resource provision.

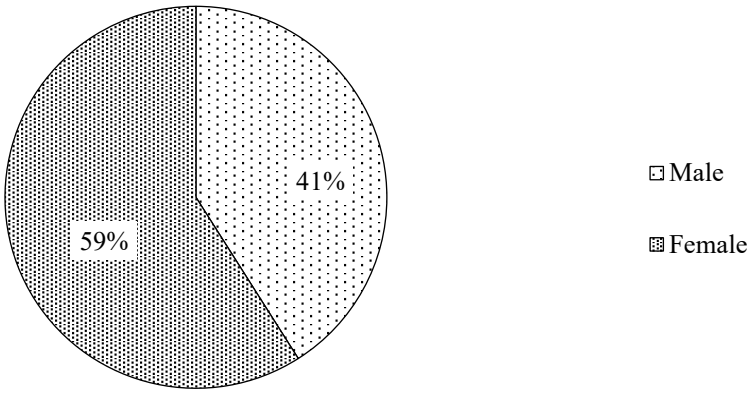

Figure 4.3. Gender of the respondent.

Frequency of Library Visit

Figure 4.5 highlight the amount of time respondents spend in the library during each visit. Nearly half of the respondents (48%) spend 30 minutes to 1 hour, indicating that most users make brief yet focused visits. About 26% spend 2 to 3 hours, reflecting deeper engagement with study or research. 19% spend less than 30 minutes, likely for quick reference or book borrowing. Only a small percentage spends extended hours: 4% for 4 to 5 hours and 3% for 6 to 8 hours. The data suggests that while libraries are frequently used, most users spend limited time per visit. What extent does the college library fulfils your study

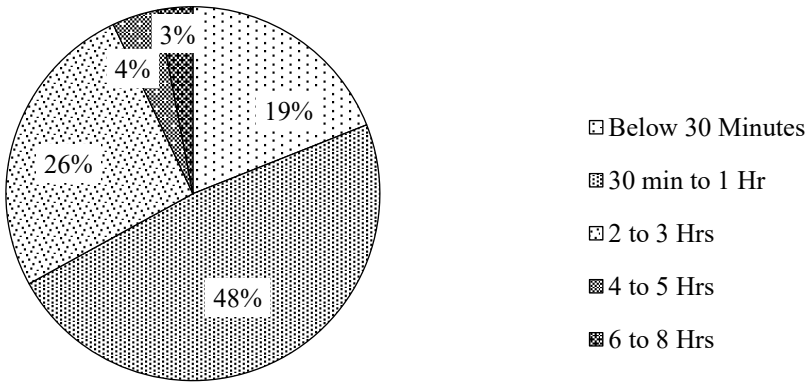

Figure 4.5. Hours spent in library.

Statistical Analysis

Chi-Square Test

The reliability statistics presented show a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.964, indicating an excellent level of internal consistency among the 36 questionnaire items used in the study. The value of 0.965 based on standardized items further confirms that the items reliably measure the underlying construct—information-seeking behavior of B.Ed. college library users. A Cronbach's Alpha above 0.9 is considered highly reliable in social science research. This result validates that the responses are consistent and dependable for statistical analysis, making the data suitable for advanced procedures like Chi-Square tests, which assess the association between categorical variables.[Table:1-12]

Table 1 Reliability Statistics of the Study Instrument

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.964	.965	36

The Friedman's ANOVA results indicate significant differences in responses across the 36 items measuring information-seeking behavior. The Friedman's Chi-Square value is 417.412 with a p-value (Sig) of .000, which is statistically significant at the 0.05 level. This means that not all items were rated equally by the respondents—there are meaningful variations in their perceptions or experiences.

Table 2 ANOVA with Friedman's Test for Differences Among Items

ANOVA with Friedman's Test						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	Friedman's Chi-Square	Sig
Between People		7882.149	534	14.761		
Within People	Between Items	228.600[a]	35	6.531	417.412	.000
	Residual	10026.344	18690	.536		
	Total	10254.944	18725	.548		
Total		18137.093	19259	.942		

The Between Items Sum of Squares is 228.600, and the Mean Square is 6.531, suggesting item-level differences are substantial. This test is appropriate for ordinal, repeated-measures data and confirms variation in user behavior or satisfaction across different library service dimensions.

Hypothesis1

- *H_{01}:* There is no significant variation in information-seeking behaviour among different categories of users in B.Ed. college libraries.
- *H_{11}:* There is a significant variation in information-seeking behaviour among different categories of users in B.Ed. college libraries.

Table 3 ANOVA Results for Information-Seeking Behaviour

ANOVA					
Information seeking behaviour					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	135.203	16	8.450	51.062	.000
Within Groups	85.723	518	.165		
Total	220.926	534			

The study provides strong statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, indicating significant variation in information-seeking behavior among different categories of users in B.Ed. college libraries. With an F-value of 51.062 and a significance value of .000, the variation in mean scores across user types—undergraduate students, postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty members—is deemed statistically significant. The comparison of Between Groups Sum of Squares (135.203) to Within Groups Sum of Squares (85.723) reinforces that the differences in behavior patterns are meaningful and influenced by characteristics such as educational level and purpose of use. These findings highlight the need for improving user-centric library services and tailoring resource access to better serve the diverse academic populations in B.Ed. colleges.

Hypothesis2

- *H_{02}:* There is no significant relationship between the user category and the purpose of seeking information.

- *H_{12}:* There is a significant relationship between the user category and the purpose of seeking information.

Table 4 One-Sample Statistics for User Category and Information-Seeking Behaviour

One-Sample Statistics				
	N	**Mean**	**Std. Deviation**	**Std. Error Mean**
User category and the purpose	535	4.035	.6983	.0302
Information seeking behaviour	535	3.955	.6432	.0278

One-Sample Statistics reveal a significant relationship between user categories and their information-seeking purposes, with a mean score of 4.035 and a standard deviation of 0.6983 indicating general agreement among respondents. The mean score of 3.955 for user behavior reflects high engagement. Low standard errors confirm the reliability of these findings, which suggest that different user groups (e.g., undergraduates vs. research scholars) have distinct information needs. This supports the rejection of the null hypothesis of no significant relationship and emphasizes the need for tailored library services in B.Ed. colleges.

Table 5 One-Sample t-Test Results for User Category and Information-Seeking Behaviour

One-Sample Test						
	Test Value = 0					
	t	**df**	**Sig. (2-tailed)**	**Mean Difference**	**95% Confidence Interval of the Difference**	
					Lower	**Upper**
User category and the purpose	133.634	534	.000	4.0346	3.975	4.094
Information seeking behaviour	142.208	534	.000	3.9546	3.900	4.009

The One-Sample t-test results confirm the rejection of the null hypothesis (H_{02}), which suggests no significant relationship between user category and information-seeking purpose. The observed t-values are 133.634 and 142.208, with a p-value of .000, indicating significant differences from the test value. Mean differences of 4.0346 and 3.9546, alongside narrow 95% confidence intervals, reveal distinct motivations among various user categories—undergraduates, postgraduates, and research scholars—when accessing library information. Consequently, H_{12} is accepted, demonstrating a significant relationship that underscores the need for customized library services and collection development in B.Ed. college libraries.

Hypothesis3

- *H_{03}:* The methods and strategies used to locate information do not significantly differ among users.
- *H_{13}:* The methods and strategies used to locate information significantly differ among users.

Table 6 Model Summary of the Regression Analysis

Model Summary									
Model	**R**	**R Square**	**Adjusted R Square**	**Std. Error of the Estimate**	**Change Statistics**				
					R Square Change	**F Change**	**df1**	**df2**	**Sig. F Change**
1	.943[a]	.888	.888	.2150	.888	4245.130	1	533	.000

The regression analysis results indicate a strong rejection of the null hypothesis (H_{03}) in favor of the alternative hypothesis (H_{13}), which asserts that information-locating methods vary significantly among users. With a high correlation coefficient (R = 0.943) and an R Square value of 0.888, the model accounts for 88.8% of the variance in users' information-seeking strategies. The F-statistic (4245.130) and p-value (.000) confirm the model's statistical significance. Additionally, the low standard error (0.2150) suggests accurate predictions. The findings emphasize that various user categories, including

undergraduate, postgraduate, research scholars, and faculty, utilize different search behaviors and tools, necessitating tailored search support strategies in B.Ed. college libraries.

Table 7 ANOVA Results for the Regression Model

ANOVA[a]						
Model		**Sum of Squares**	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
1	Regression	196.282	1	196.282	4245.13	.000[b]
	Residual	24.644	533	.046		
	Total	220.926	534			

The study presents strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis (H_{03}) concerning information retrieval methods, accepting the alternative hypothesis (H_{13}) instead. The F-value of 4245.13, with a p-value of .000, indicates a statistically significant difference in information-locating strategies among different user categories. The regression analysis reveals that user-related variables account for a substantial portion of the variance in strategies. With 534 respondents, the findings demonstrate that B.Ed. college users have varied approaches to information seeking—utilizing resources like OPAC, digital tools, or staff assistance. Therefore, library services should be diversified to address the distinct information-seeking behaviors of these user groups.

Hypothesis4

- *H_{04}:* There is no significant difference in the preference for information sources among different user groups.
- *H_{14}:* There is a significant difference in the preference for information sources among different user groups.

Table 8 One-Way ANOVA Results for Information-Seeking Behaviour

ANOVA					
Information seeking behaviour					
	Sum of Squares	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
Between Groups	199.733	14	14.267	350.040	.000
Within Groups	21.194	520	.041		
Total	220.926	534			

A strong statistical justification exists to reject the null hypothesis (H_{04}) regarding no significant difference in information source preferences among user groups. The analysis produced a high F-value of 350.040 and a p-value of .000, indicating statistically significant differences. The Between Groups Sum of Squares (199.733) exceeds the Within Groups Sum of Squares (21.194), showing that differences among user groups, including undergraduates, postgraduates, research scholars, and faculty, account for most variance in preferences. The Mean Square value of 14.267 further underscores these differences, suggesting that user categories significantly influence preferred information sources, necessitating tailored services in B.Ed. college libraries to meet diverse academic and personal needs.

Hypothesis5

- *H_{05}:* Users are not significantly satisfied with the existing library facilities and services.
- *H_{15}:* Users are significantly satisfied with the existing library facilities and services.

Table 9 One-Way ANOVA Results for Information-Seeking Behaviour

Model Summary									
Model	**R**	**R Square**	**Adjusted R Square**	**Std. Error of the Estimate**	**Change Statistics**				
					R Square Change	**F Change**	**df1**	**df2**	**Sig. F Change**
1	.951[a]	.905	.905	.1985	.905	5075.0	1	533	.000

Table 10 ANOVA Results for the Regression Model

ANOVA[a]						
Model		**Sum of Squares**	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
1	Regression	199.929	1	199.929	5075.01	.000[b]
	Residual	20.997	533	.039		
	Total	220.926	534			

The regression analysis indicates strong support for accepting the alternative hypothesis (H_{15}), which asserts that users are significantly satisfied with library facilities and services. The correlation coefficient (R) of 0.951 reflects a robust positive relationship, while the R Square value of 0.905 shows that 90.5% of user satisfaction variation is accounted for by library services. The F-statistic of 5075.0 with a significance level of .000 confirms the model's statistical significance. The low standard error of 0.1985 suggests reliable predictions, implying that users perceive the library services positively. It is concluded that B.Ed. college library users in Indore are significantly satisfied with the facilities and services provided.

Hypothesis6

- *H_{06}:* Users do not face significant problems while seeking and accessing information in the library.
- *H_{16}:* Users face significant problems while seeking and accessing information in the library.

Table 11 One-Way ANOVA Results for Information-Seeking Behaviour

ANOVA					
Information seeking behaviour					
	Sum of Squares	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
Between Groups	176.583	16	11.036	128.924	.000
Within Groups	44.343	518	.086		
Total	220.926	534			

The analysis reveals a significant F-value of 128.924 (p-value .000), indicating that user responses to information access in the library are not due to random chance. The Between Groups Sum of Squares (176.583) exceeds the Within Groups Sum of Squares (44.343), indicating differing problems faced by users. Consequently, the null hypothesis is rejected in favor of the alternative, confirming that users do experience significant problems. This aligns with reports of issues such as insufficient digital infrastructure and limited library hours, underscoring the need for improvements in library systems and user support services.

Hypothesis Summary Table

Table 12 Summary of Hypothesis Testing Results

No.	Alternative hypothesis (H_1)	Significant value (p)	Result	Conclusion
Hypothesis 1	Significant variation in info-seeking behaviour among user categories	Significant impact	Accept Alternate Hypothesis	Variation exists among user categories
Hypothesis 2	Significant relationship between user category and purpose of seeking info	Significant impact	Accept Alternate Hypothesis	Strong relationship exists
Hypothesis 3	Methods to locate info significantly differ among users	Significant impact	Accept Alternate Hypothesis	Users use varied search methods
Hypothesis 4	Significant difference in preference for information sources among user groups	Significant impact	Accept Alternate Hypothesis	Preferences vary among user groups
Hypothesis 5	Users are significantly satisfied with library facilities and services	Significant impact	Accept Alternate Hypothesis	Users show significant satisfaction
Hypothesis 6	Users face significant problems while accessing info	Significant impact	Accept Alternate Hypothesis	Users face notable challenges

Findings Pertaining to Hypothesis

The study conducts a series of statistical analyses to understand information-seeking behaviors among different user categories in B.Ed. colleges. A significant variation is found using one-way ANOVA ($F(16, 518) = 51.062$, $p = .000$), indicating distinct behaviors based on academic roles, necessitating tailored library services. One-sample t-tests reveal that user roles (UG, PG, etc.) significantly influence the purpose of seeking information, promoting purpose-based service offerings. Regression analysis shows strong relationships between user type and search strategies ($R^2 = 0.888$, $p = .000$), highlighting the need for specialized training. Additionally, preferences for information sources vary ($F = 350.040$, $p = .000$), requiring diverse library collections. User satisfaction correlates positively with library services ($R = 0.951$, $p = .000$), indicating areas for improvement. Finally, ANOVA results suggest varied challenges users face in accessing information ($F = 128.924$, $p = .000$), emphasizing the need for enhanced digital services and staff training to facilitate better access.

CONCLUSION

This study investigates information-seeking behavior among users of B.Ed. college libraries, analyzing data from 535 respondents. It reveals significant variations in library usage patterns based on demographic factors, with users preferring digital resources over traditional materials. Challenges such as limited access to current resources and inadequate staff support were common, highlighting the need for improved library services. Users expressed a desire for both comprehensive physical and digital resources, as well as better training for library staff. Overall, the findings call for a strategic transformation of library services to meet evolving user needs, emphasizing the importance of libraries in supporting academic and pedagogical development in teacher education.

Study's Limitation

- The study is limited to B.Ed. colleges, excluding other higher education institutions' libraries.
- Data was collected only from students and faculty, not from administrative or library support staff.
- The research relies on self-reported data, which may be subject to personal bias or inaccuracy.

Future Scope of Research

- A Comparative Analysis of Information-Seeking Behaviour among Students of Arts, Science, and Education.
- Digital Literacy and Its Influence on Academic Resource Utilization among Teacher Education Students.
- Smartphone and Mobile App Usage for Academic Information Retrieval in Higher Education Libraries.
- Evaluating the Impact of Library Orientation Programs on Student Information-Seeking Skills

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