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Library and Information Services in Agricultural University Libraries of Gujarat: A Study

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Abstract:
The purpose of the present study is analyzing of the Agricultural University library and information services and its facilities of Gujarat state. The study factor is affecting the use of library; Purposes, Services, Infrastructures facilities, problems of using library etc. were studied. The research methodology tool, method of questionnaire was adopted to collect the data followed by library users. Responses were also collected on the problems faced use of library infrastructure facility and services. The present study includes assessment of the present status of agricultural libraries and its information services of Gujarat state.

Keywords: *Agricultural libraries, Gujarat, Library Services, Users studies*

1. Introduction

As agricultural library is plays an essential role in every culture throughout the world. Everyone has to eat, while much of the world is still stuck in survival of agriculture, barely eking out a living and able to feed their families, another sizeable proportion of humanity is enjoying fruits of modernity. Our modern world is engaged in global commerce with nearly everywhere, instant communication (Varalakshmi, 1993). We are aware with worth of information communication and also know that library service is as essential as its basic value. How agricultural information communicated advanced and extend over worldwide from ancient man to present information society is describe here by investigator. He has also draw a brilliant picture of development of particularly library and information services in India and the world (Husain 2009).

The library of agricultural from primary information support system for achieving the objectives, the parent organizations have placed before them. To know the evolution of agricultural literature and development of agricultural library and its services as library is consider as a heart of any educational institute (Mercer).

Heath (2000) has stated that "libraries today are service agents sharing much in common with other service providers throughout the profit and nonprofits services sector of society."
Generally used measures for the library and information services are:
  A. Overall user success, including success at a variety of library activities, ease of use.
  B. Library information services and its facilities.
  C. Availability of resources and databases.
  D. Use of facilities and its tools availability.

E. Satisfaction of library and information services.

2. Information about Gujarat Agricultural Universities
2.1 Anand Agriculture University (AAU)
The affiliation was granted by University of Bombay until 1956 later shifted to Gujarat University Ahmedabad in 1962. when Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar various degree were conferred by it till 1972. when a separate Agriculture University Act passed by Government of Gujarat on the recommendation of Kothari Commission it became part and partial of Gujarat Agricultural University. In 2004, the university is now known Anand Agriculture University (AAU). The campus had progressed fast and as many as 13 constituent colleges including Agriculture, Polytechnic, Engineering, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry, Home Science etc. colleges at scattered places started in last ten years.

2.2 Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU)
The College of Agriculture, Junagadh started its functioning in the year of 1960 and campus developed for agricultural education and research at Junagadh with the establishment of agricultural college. The college was affiliated to Gujarat University, Ahmedabad year of 1967. The affiliation was transferred to Saurashtra University in 1968 at Rajkot. The campus became a constituent of Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU) from May 01, 2004.

2.3 Navasari Agriculture University (NAU)
Navasari Agriculture University (NAU) was also developed year of 1960 at Navsari District. The College was affiliated to Gujarat University, Ahmedabad in 1965-1968 and transfer to affiliation to South Gujarat University year of 1968-1972. Agriculture became the constituent college of Gujarat Agricultural University in 1972, now it is a constituent college of Navasari Agricultural university and its cover south Gujarat region for educational research and extension activities.

2.4 Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University (SDAU)
The Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University is stanch for location precise agricultural research. The SDA University is cover region of six districts viz., Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Patan, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Kutch of North Gujarat. The university has begun its functioning after the enactment of Gujarat Agriculture University Act, 1969. The university campus has slowly progressed as it has been emergent in far deeper rural area 27 km from Palanpur district of Banaskantha. At present it has 8 constituent colleges with research station and extension activities. Thus this university is progressing fast but it lacking the city base background development like other universities have occupied in the beginning.

3. Scope of the Study
For this study we have chosen only Agricultural University libraries of Gujarat State. Gujarat State has Four Agricultural University Libraries. For the present study, the following Agricultural University Libraries have been selected; following table 1 is below highlights the year of establishment of the Universities.

Table 1: Year of establishment of the Universities

Sr.	Name of University	Establishment Year	Name of Library	Hyperlink
1	Anand Agricultural Univerisy, Anand	1960	Dr M.D. Patel Library	http://www.aau.in/
2	Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari	1965	University Central Library	http://www.nau.in/
3	Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Palanpur	1969	University Central Library	http://www.sdau.edu.in/
4	Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh	1972	University Library	http://www.jau.in/

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4. Objectives of the Study
The study has been conducted with following objectives:
1. To find out provide exiting library and information services and how to improve and achieve user satisfaction.
2. To survey library information services of Gujarat Agricultural University Libraries.
3. To access the exiting state of affairs of the libraries in respect of its services, facilities and other satisfaction of the users regarding library and information services in selected Agricultural University Libraries of Gujarat state.
4. To apply the indicators of effectiveness right to use the routine of agricultural university libraries of Gujarat state.
5. To find out the problems faced by library users in extending technology based library and information services.

5. Methodology
The study has been made by surveying the different user groups of the Gujarat Agricultural University Libraries. Total 150 Questionnaires were circulated, out of which 115 library users returned, the duly filled in questionnaires ratio making 76.67 percent of respondents. Some of the respondents willing filled up the questionnaire but some of them showed great reluctance. 115 library users are UG, PG, M.Phil & Ph.D. Students, and Faculty members.

6. Related Studies
Shivalingaiah and Gowda (2009): they were study makes and attempt to know the various facilities and services which are essential to the researchers in the university libraries in Karnataka state. This study was find out only three university libraries have web-based OPAC system, not any one library has institutional repository facility, don't initiate the digitization of old and rare collection.

Rao and Choudhury (2010). The study was on the computer infrastructure facilities and services at National Institutes of Technology libraries in India. The main objectives are examining CI facilities, electronic equipment; evaluate zone-wise performance with respect to CI facilities and status of computer based library services by NIT libraries. This study is concluded that many NIT libraries could expand their infrastructure capacities to offer better services to library users.

Kannappanavar and Chidananda Swamy (2012). Objectives of the study are frequency of conducting the user education programmes, different methods used for conducting the user education in agricultural university libraries. The study is concluding that modern technologies in the libraries are now being utilized to satisfy the information need of users and with the emergence of the computer and revolutionary changes in communication technology.

7. Analysis of Library User Data
7.1 Gender wise distribution of Data
Table 2: Gender wise distribution

Sr.	Gender	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Male	98	85.22
2	Female	17	14.78
	Total	**115**	**100**

Above table 2 shows that among respondents 85.22% are male where as 14.78% are female.

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7.2 Qualification of Library Users

Qualification Frequency of Users

Legend: Bachelor Degree · Master Degree · M. Phil · Ph .D

- 6%
- 11%
- 51%
- 32%
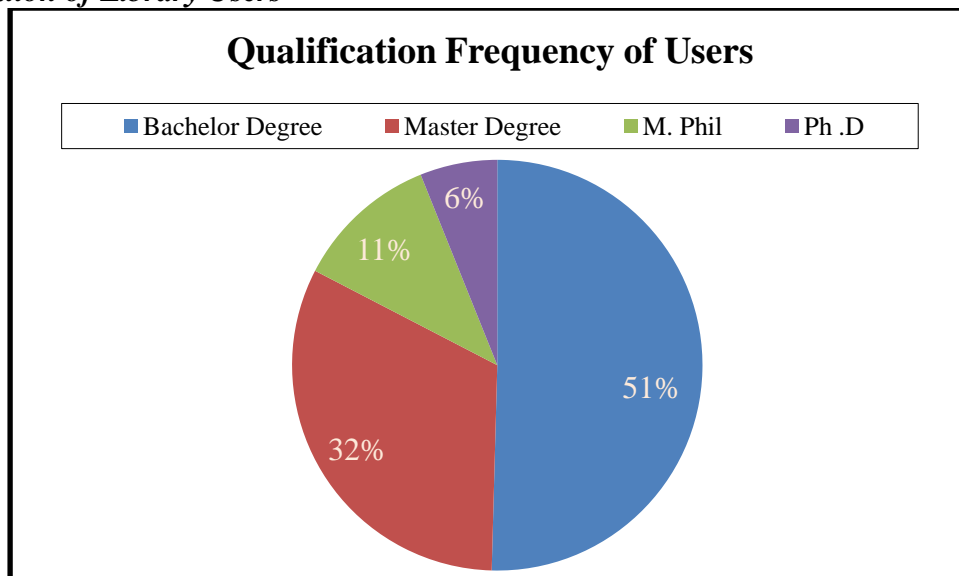
Graph 1: Qualification of Library Users

Above graph 1 out of those who responded revels that 50.43% respondents have bachelor degree, whereas 32.17% have master degree, 11.30% have M. Phil degree and 6.09% have Ph.D. degree as their highest qualification.

7.3 Time spent in library

Table 3: Time spent in Library

Sr. No.	Time Spent	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Less than 2 Hour a week	32	27.83
2	2-4 hours a week	29	25.22
3	5-6 hours a week	27	23.48
4	7-9 hours a week	16	13.91
5	More Than 10 hours a week	11	9.57
	Total	**115**	**100.00**

Table 3 shows that 27.83% respondents spend time less than 2 hours a week, 25.22% respondents 2 to 4 hours a week, 23.48% respondents 5 to 6 hours a week, and 13.91% respondents 7 to 9 hours a week time spent in library.

7.4 Use of Library Services

Table 4: Users Response about Library Services

Sr.	Use of Library Services	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Borrow Books at Home	79	33.33
2	Reference Service	71	29.96
3	Inter library Loan	21	8.86
4	Photo Coping	24	10.13
5	CAS/SDI Services	22	9.28
6	News Clippings	20	8.44
	Total	**237**	**100.00**

Above table no.3 reflects that Borrow books at home and reference service have been rated high score of 33.33% and 29.96% as respondents. Inter library loan and News Clippings service is 8.86% and 8.44% rated poor by respondents whereas in the case of photo coping it is 10.13% and 9.28% in CAS/SDI services.

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7.5 Library Users Opinion about library facility

Table 5: Opinion about Library Facility

Sr.	Library Facility	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Classified/Subject wise arrangement of Books	79	19.75
2	Library Catalogue	67	16.75
3	Open Access	75	18.75
4	Library Automation	52	13.00
5	OPAC/ LAN/Use Of Lib. Catalogue	44	11.00
6	Web OPAC	41	10.25
7	Internet Connectivity at Library	42	10.50
	Total	**400**	**100.00**

Table 5 the classified arrangement of documents in stack room has got highest response 19.75% and Open Access has second rank with 18.75% and where library Catalogue respondents are 16.75%. The Web OPAC and Internet Connectivity library facility has got lowest response of 10.25% and 10.50%.

7.6 Opinion of Users about Purpose of Library Visit

Table 6: Purpose of Library Visit

Sr.	Purpose of Library Visit	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Borrow Books	97	26.01
2	For Journals	86	23.06
3	Reference Query	39	10.46
4	For Newspaper	44	11.80
5	Article Search	59	15.82
6	Preparing research projects/articles	48	12.87
	Total	**373**	**100.00**

Above table 6 reflects that to read the book at home 26.01% respondents go to the library to borrow books. Generally current issue of journals is not issued, and must have to read it at library. 23.06% respondents visit for journals at library. While reading sometimes there raise doubt or require some understanding for which one must confer with reference books and other literature in that subject area and for this purpose library support is essential to solve the reference query. To solve reference query 10.46% respondents go to solve reference query at library. Generally 11.80% respondents reading a newspaper is a habit among people. To search articles in back issues/volumes 15.82% respondents visit for articles search at library. Respondents have to access required information from varieties of sources like online and off line database, online full text and reference book. Here 12.87% respondents come to library to access research related information.

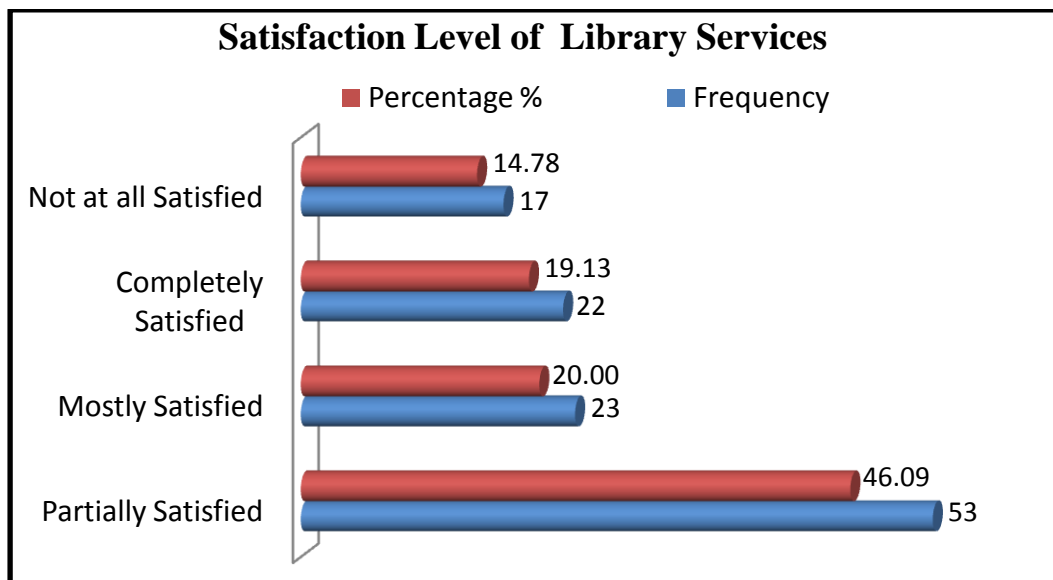## 7.7 Problem Face while using Library Resources and Services

Table 7: Problem faced while using library resources and services

Sr.	Frequency of Problems	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Limited Printed Books, Journals and Documents	37	14.40
2	Infrastructure (Computers Facility)	48	18.68
3	Limited E-Database (E-books, E-Journals)	34	13.23
4	Limited Latest Resources	40	15.56
5	Guidance	31	12.06
6	LAN Connectivity	42	16.34
7	Information Literacy	25	9.73
	Total	**257**	**100.00**

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Table 7 shows that 14.40% respondents are problem faced with limited of printed documents, journals, and Documents. 18.68% respondents face problem with limited infrastructures facility. For effective use of resources, guidance to Limited E-Database, Limited Latest Resources and LAN Connectivity etc are main problems, faced always by 13.23%, 15.56%, and 16.34% respondents respectively. When guidance and information literacy are need for users for finding to information. They were 12.06% and 9.73% only.

7.8 Satisfaction of Library and Information and Services
The importance of existence of libraries is to satisfy the information needs of its users. It has to move with the time and equip with modern technological gadgets to satisfy the needs of the users.

Satisfaction Level of Library Services

- Percentage %
- Frequency

Category	Percentage %	Frequency
Not at all Satisfied	14.78	17
Completely Satisfied	19.13	22
Mostly Satisfied	20.00	23
Partially Satisfied	46.09	53

Graph 2: Satisfaction of Library and Information and Services

Graph 2 reflected that 19.13% respondents are completely satisfied with provided library and information services. It can be observed from the study 46.09% respondents are partially satisfied, 20.00% are mostly satisfied with library and information services. On the other respondents are dissatisfied also.

7.9 Suggestion to Improve the Library and Information Services
Table 8 Suggestion to Improve the Library Services

Sr.	Suggestion to Improve Library Services	Frequency	Percentage %
1	To Increase number of books/journals	24	20.87
2	To Improve and purchase e-database for e-books & e-journals	21	18.26
3	Library timing are exceed for 24 hours	16	13.91
4	To develop infrastructure facility	18	15.65
5	Develop computerised/digitized library services	36	31.30
	Total	**115**	**100.00**

Table 8 shows the suggestion made by the respondents to improve library and information services. It is now an expanded and established fact that computers/Digitized library services. This is evident from the fact that 31.30% of the respondents have asked for the computerized/digitized of library services. One of the most important services usually found is circulation of documents, as most of the respondents depend on this facility, they have asked for the increase in the number of books/ journals and e-databases. Respondents have asked changed and improvement in infrastructure facilities for the users satisfaction of information literacy and environment.

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8 Conclusion

It is very manifest from the discussion that agricultural libraries are lagging behind particularly in providing specific information to the users. Services provided by library are average and access to the latest journals and other e-databases use by IT (Information Technologies) are extraordinary due to scarcity of insufficient support. To solve problem were faced limited books, journals, e-databases, latest resources etc. Infrastructure facilities are average in some of the libraries. Some of the Libraries have not digital library. This situation has to be improved and libraries should make efforts to attract them. The suggestion is made by the users are valid and this is the right time to take those suggestions seriously.

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