Information Gathering Behaviour of Students of Government Diploma Institutes of Odisha through Print Media

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ABSTRACT

The act of seeking information by the learners has few tenets which play important roles in upgrading collections, services, and facilities to effectively develop a library. The study investigates the information channels preferred by the students of Institutes imparting Diplomas in the Government sector in Odisha. The study adopts a questionnaire method to collect data on the use of print resources only for 3 weeks in January 2020 with the due permission of the faculty members of the institutions. While considering the optimum number of responses 400 sets of questionnaires have been distributed among the community of students out of which 351 reciprocated. The collected data has been analysed by using different statistical methods like simple percentage, mean, correlation coefficient, etc. The main objective of the paper is to find out the attributes of preference of print media over other formats, to compare the perceived values of print formats by the students of two branches i.e. civil engineering and mechanical engineering and to analyse the expectations of students from the library services. To establish the validity of the objectives, two hypotheses have been framed and tested. It is found that out of the four major formats of sources viz., print, electronic, audio, and audiovisual, the print resources have some unique advantages for which they are still preferred but the library needs to update its collections to meet the expectations of its users.

Keywords: Electronic network; Information source; Online resources; Diploma; Print resources; Student usage

1. INTRODUCTION

In the present day, information is power. Everyone is eager to know more at every moment. So gradually the demand for more information is also increasing day by day. Information is considered as a potential resource that regulates the development of a nation. It provides the basic foundation for the development of knowledge. Knowledge and information are the two basic pillars for innovations. Information is the key resource for academicians, political legislators, medical representatives, etc. As a result, it has become a key commodity for the development of society. Acknowledging the significance of information in national development, Wasserman[1] noted that "it is not an accident that the developed nations are those in which information products and services have been brought into being and are widely exploited, first in conventional forms and later through computer-intervention". It is also felt that despite the growth of ICT through its different electronics media and vast usages, it has also some shortcomings. Bandara[2] noted that 'if the library is to provide any meaningful information service, the user [information seeking] habits should be taken into consideration". Since then a lot of studies have been conducted to investigate the different methods of information-seeking behavior. Earlier studies were primarily based on technocrats. So according to Hart[3] earlier studies were focused on scientists and engineers because more technocrats had more interesting

research than social scientists. So they were the most library-dependent group because in earlier times too libraries were more funded for procurement of scientific books and journals. But with the passage of human development, the scope of information seeking studies expanded to include scholars and academicians from other disciplines of social science and humanities.

At this juncture, the role of the library in any institution is inevitable. So keeping in mind the value of information, the study has been conducted to understand the actual mindset of the users on the use of different types of resources. Further, the study also focuses on the gathering of information through print media to understand the value of print resources as it has more credibility and reliability than other resources. Although books are being replaced by digitised format in this transitional period, the value of print media is yet to lose its significance. Thus, in this transformation environment, the present study has covered the different aspects of gathering information which includes the basic preferred format of gathering information, the purpose of using print materials, reasons for preference of print media over other formats, and expectation of students from different library services.

Over the past three decades, library collections have undergone a transition from print resources to e-resources as the e-resources have reduced the time of end-users to identify and locate valid information within a little period. Previous studies in this frame of work show reading from the

electronics resources are more superficial in comparison to reading materials. In view of Abdulsalami's[4] founds that books, journals, and theses/dissertations are highly preferred resources among engineers. Bigali[5] respondents ranked physical books as very important to their engineering and research activities and stated that the use of journals generally is gaining important information among engineering scholars and researchers continues to attract prominence to study. It is suggested that the physical format of books is more important in the field of engineering studies.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Relevant kinds of literature have been reviewed that could enlighten us towards the fact that the printed resources are still the backbone of studies by the researchers and learners. The present study on review of literature has covered some of the articles from different databases such as Scopus, Emerald, LISA, and Google Scholar. The study has covered only 5 years of publication of literature from the period 2015 to 2020.

Bartlett, Joan. C. *et al.*[6] concluded that the judgment of credibility is not reflected in the resources that have been selected by the behavior of the millennial students of which varies on the domain of resources available. Gopeh & Umoh[7] view that in the information age of information the print media has unique importance regardless of electronic media. To assess the value of print media a study was conducted where the result shows that scholars in training (users of an academic library) are more inclined to print media from the accessibility and utilisation point of view. Their study also emphasised that print materials have no associated health hazard like e-resources. Akinola[8] has portrayed the security problems of print materials in the library of Joseph Ayo Babalola University, IkejiArakeji, Nigeria. The investigation reflects that print materials are more prone to a security problem as print materials can be easily taken out of the library & also not returned to the library beyond the due dates, could be purposefully misplaced and malfunctioned. The study recommends conducting more user awareness programs to protect the reading materials as well as installing CCTV and implementation of rigid security policy for the library users. Abiolu[9] were of the opinion that due to some of the barriers to meet information needs like interrupted power supply, the paucity of funding, and inadequate e-resources, learners prefer to use print resources like books, journals, papers, attending seminar and conferences. The engineering users of the library in Nigeria also interacted with their fellow colleagues and peers to learn from. Obinyan& Akande[10] the study covers the different services of the library to know the reasons for satisfaction and dissatisfaction of nursing students in selected Universities in Edo State. The finding shows that out of many factors the miss shelved of print materials & outdated print materials are the major reasons of less number of users in the library. The study recommends the use improvement of e-resources that by supplying uninterrupted power supply. The result also revealed that out of four services such as library loan of print materials, users' education service, electronic and reprographic services where a loan of print materials was more preferred than other services. Chen[11] study aims to explore the opinions of research scholars for procurement of both electronic and printed resources by the faculty members of Chinese literature, history, and philosophy of 13 universities in China. The result shows that print resources are a more dominant type of documents to provide accurate information while the e-resources are a more preferred format but users expected to purchase more printed books.

Chopra[12] in his study has indicated that printed form of information is the most preferred format for the present researchers of PG Degree Colleges of Chhattisgarh State though they use online resources. Verma & Gupta[13] has revealed that emotion, anger, and anxiety have an impact on seeking information is reflected when the information is within and without expectation of the user of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. Lopatovska & Sessions[14] found that in academic reading all information-seeking stages and all academic tasks were characterised by a combination of "deep" and "surface" reading and the use of both print and electronic resources. Most of the responses were found for deep readings i.e. use of print resources. Oliva[15] study aims to focus on the relevant component of collection development of both print & e-resources at the Adelphi University Library in the humanities and social sciences. It is observed that print resources require more space for stacking. So for unlimited expansion of document collection, deselecting of the print monograph was followed to evaluate the significance of the old print collection. The paper describes the methods for weeding out a policy for replacing old unused titles with e-resources. Borrego & Anglada[16] study reveals the importance of information resources used both in teaching and research purposes by the academics affiliated to the member universities of the Consortium of University Services of Catalonia. The objectives of the studies are limited to find the main source for gaining information. The result shows that scholarly e-journals are had a significant value over any other sources.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study was taken up with the following objectives:

- To know the preferred format of resources of print media.
- To understand the purpose of using print format by the students of polytechnic institutes.
- To find out the correlation between the students of two engineering branches based on their perceived reasons for preferring print format.
- To analyse the expectations of students on the issue of library services.

4. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

Based on the objectives of the study, the following two hypotheses have been formulated to test their validity.

- Hypothesis 1: On the advancement of ICT, print media tends to lose its relevance.
- Hypothesis 2: There exists no significant difference between the students of two engineering branches on their perceived reasons for preference to print media.

5. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study covers all the 32 Government Diploma institutes of Odisha. The study is limited to the whole population of students from the Civil Engineering branch (2080) and Mechanical Engineering branch (1960) totalling 4040.

6. METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on a questionnaire-based survey method for data collection. The population of the study covers the Civil and Mechanical Engineering branch from 32 Government Diploma Institutes of Odisha. Due to the large number of users, the sampling method was applied to collect the data from the two most important branches of the Engineering discipline whose students' intake capacity is much more than other branches. The samples of the study have been selected at random from the students of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering of the 32 Government Diploma Institutes of Odisha totalling (2080+1960) 4040.

In the survey method, the greater the sample size, the greater is the chance of accuracy. However, on the consideration of time, energy, and expenditures, selection of an optimum number of samples is desirable which has been done through a commonly used formula meant for the finite population. The sample size has been determined by using Slovin's[17] formulae.

$$\text{Sample size} = n = \frac{NX}{X + N - 1}$$

and
$$X = \frac{Z_{a/2}^2 p(1-p)}{(MOE)^2}$$

Where,

N = Finite number of population = 4040

$Z_{a/2}^2$ = 1.96 at $\alpha = 0.05$ i.e. 95 per cent confidence level
p = proportion of sample 0.5 (for maximum result)
MOE = Margin of Error = 0.05 (95 % confidence level)

So,

$$X = \frac{1.96^2 \times 0.5 \times (1-0.5)}{(0.05)^2} = 384.16$$

Therefore,

$$n = \frac{4040 \times 384.16}{384.16 + 4040 - 1} = 350.88 \approx 351$$

So, the sampling frame covers all the students from the both Civil and Mechanical Engineering branches of the government diploma institutes of Odisha. For the collection of data from the studied population, a simple random sampling method has been used. Keeping in view the optimum number of responses i.e. 351, 400 questionnaires have been distributed among the student community for 3 weeks in January 2020 on an arrangement with faculty members of the institutions.

7. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

The questionnaires were distributed through their e-mail and filled questionnaires were also received by return e-mail.

Table 1. Questionnaire distributed and responded

Branches of Engineering	No. of the questionnaire distributed	No. of questionnaire received	% of response
Civil	200	183	91.50
Mechanical	200	178	89.00
Total	400	361	90.25

The received questionnaires were computed and their analyses have been shown in the respective tables.

The students responded more enthusiastically as the percentages of response come out as 90.25 per cent which is 361, against the minimum computed response of 351.

7.1 Preference on Print Format

Format refers to a specific way through which information is organised, consolidated, and distributed for greater use. When we focus on different formats of information, it is found that there are mainly four types of format namely print, electronic, audio, and audiovisual. Based on these categories, data was collected from the sample to understand the preferred format for the gathering of information at their institutions. To collect the information, a five-point Likert Scale was used where 5 is for 'Strongly Agree', 4 is 'Agree', 3 - is for 'Neither Agree Nor Disagree', 2 is for 'Disagree' and 1 is for 'Strongly Disagree. Table 2 describes the preferred format for gathering information by the students of Government Diploma Institutes then other formats

Table 2 shows that on the overall assessment of the perception of students, the print format remains as the most preferred format (86.2 %), followed by electronic format (75.2 %), audio-visual format (70.0 %), and audio format (44.2 %). The higher the standard deviation, the lower is the consistency in the response.

Hypothesis 1 has been proved from Table 2, the most preferred format by the students is the print format as opined by 86 %, followed by electronic format by 75.2 % due to its certain advantages.

Hence, the hypothesis-1 that 'On the advancement of ICT, print media tends to lose its relevance' stands as invalid.

7.2 Purpose of Using Print Formats

The print format includes the publication of documents or reading materials which may be books, newspapers, magazines, photographs, drawings, or any other recorded materials. Thus, the present study has focussed on the purpose of using print materials by the students. To collect the data, the preferential scale was used which varies from 1 to 5. 5 is for 'Strongly Agree', and 1 is for 'Strongly Disagree. The collected data has been analysed in Table 3 and describes the purposes of using print formats for gathering information by the students of Government Diploma Institutes.

As perceived by the students, the purpose of use of print materials in descending order are for preparation of class notes (95.50 %), preparation of class assignment (88.50 %),

Table 2. Preferred formats of gathering information by the students of government diploma institutes of Odisha

Format	Civil engineering (N=183)		Mechanical engineering (N=178)		Total (N=361)		Rank
	Mean score	% score	Mean score	% score	Mean score	% score	
Print	4.21±0.41	84.2	4.39±0.52	87.8	4.30±0.46	86.0	1
Electronic	3.84±0.32	76.8	3.68±0.81	73.6	3.76±0.40	75.2	2
Audio	2.32±1.01	46.4	2.10±0.30	42.0	2.21±0.66	44.2	4
Audiovisual	3.47±0.83	69.4	3.53±0.61	70.6	3.50±0.72	70.0	3

Table 3. Purpose of using print formats by the students of government diploma institutes of Odisha N=361

Purpose of using print materials	Mean preferential order	%	Rank
Easy access to day-to-day general information	4.84	80.67	3
Preparation of class assignment	5.31	88.50	2
Getting information for project work	3.91	65.17	4
Getting information for seminar presentation	2.92	48.67	5
Collection of bibliographical references for classroom task	2.37	39.50	6
Preparation of class notes	5.73	95.50	1

Table 4. Reasons for preference of print media over other formats by the students of Government Diploma Institutes of Odisha N=361

Probable reasons for preference to print media	Mean Score of Civil Engineering (N=183)	Mean Score of Mechanical Engineering (N=178)	Overall Assessments (N=361)		Rank
			Mean Score	% Score	
Available in an organised way in the library	3.87	3.79	3.83	76.61	10
Reliable source of record	4.83	4.40	4.62	92.30	7
Available in permanent structure (non-volatile)	4.91	4.98	4.95	98.90	3.5
Easily circulated among users	4.87	4.91	4.89	97.80	5
Comfortable to use	3.92	4.48	4.20	84.00	9
Does not require any electrical supply	5.00	5.00	5.00	100.00	1
No bad effect on eye	4.98	4.78	4.88	97.60	6
No keyword is required to collect right information	4.97	4.95	4.96	99.20	2
No filter of terms is required to get the right information	4.91	4.98	4.95	98.90	3.5
Easily traceable in stack either through author/title/subject when required	4.68	4.54	4.61	92.2	8

easy access to day-to-day general information (80.67 %), getting information for project work (65.17 %), getting information for seminar presentation (48.67 %) and collection of bibliographical references for classroom task (39.50 %). In support of this finding

Chopra (2018) also suggests that library print formats must be kept updated by adding new editions of existed books and adding new authored books.

7.3 Reasons of Preference of Print Formats

The print format has more significance than any other type of format. It is an important method of data transaction. It is a more convenient channel to spread information among many users as a reliable source. So in this regard, the present study has made an attempt to know the user's attitude toward the preference of print media. The reasons for preference of print media over other formats by the students have been evaluated through a 5-point Likert scale, where 5 is for 'Strongly Agree' and 1 is for 'Strongly Disagree'. Results are shown in Table 4 and describe the reasons for preference of print media over other formats by the students of Government Diploma Institutes.

Out of the ten probable reasons (advantages) for preferences of print media, eight have received strong responses varying from 92.2 per cent to 100 per cent. The print media is comfortable to use as opined by 84.00 per cent of students and that print materials are available in an organised way by in the library has been perceived by 76.61 per cent of students.

The mean scores by the students of two engineering branches vary slightly. To check if these variations have any statistical significance, a correlation study has been made. The value of correlation has been shown in Table 5.

Since the computed 'r' of 0.814 is greater than the table value of 0.602 at 0.05 level with a degree of freedom df 8, the value is statistically significant.

Table 5. Correlation study between civil and mechanical students of government diploma institutes on their perceived reasons for preference of print formats

Students compared	Computed of Correlation Coefficient 'r'	Degree of Freedom	Level of Significance	Table Value 'r'	> or <	s/ns
Civil Engineering vs. Mechanical Engineering	0.814	10-2=8	0.05	0.602	>	S

Table 6. The expectation of students of Government Diploma Institutes from library services N=361

Aspects	Mean		Rank
	Score	%	
Qualitative printing materials from the library	4.67	93.40	1
Loan facility for rare books	4.38	87.60	4
Technical support of staff for locating library materials	3.23	64.60	12
Quick delivery of a piece of information within an hour	3.81	76.20	9
Delivery of information within 24 hours	3.84	76.80	8
Direct access to each stack of the library	3.30	66.00	11
Well ventilated place to read more time	4.27	85.40	5
Opening of the library from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M.	4.12	82.40	7
Availability of all types of resources	4.23	84.60	6
Availability of multimedia for each subject	4.41	88.20	3
Provision of the lounge in the premises of library to relax	1.45	29.00	13
Provision to keep books for a longer period (say 1 year)	4.54	90.80	2
Availability of one's favourite reading materials	3.61	72.20	10

Figure 1. Preferred formats by students of government diploma institutes of Odisha.

This implies that the perceived advantages of print media by students of both engineering departments are significantly correlated.

The proof of Hypothesis 2 has been proved from Table 5. It is found that the coefficient of correlation between the Civil and Mechanical Engineering students on their perceived reasons for preference of print media is 0.814 which is more than the table value of 0.602 at 0.05 level with df 8. Hence, they are significantly correlated which implies no significant differences.

Hence, the hypothesis-2 that 'There exists no significant difference between the students of two engineering branches on their perceived reasons for preference to print media' stands valid.

7.4 Perception and Expectations of Students from Library Services

Expectation is an inner desire to yield positive output from any type of service. Here in the present study, expectation covers only the library service aspect of the studied institutions. Concerning the expectations from the library services, the students were given 13 aspects and asked to evaluate on a 5-point rating scale where 5 is for 'Strongly Agree' and 1 is for 'Strongly Disagree'. The results have been analysed as contained in Table 6, which describes the expectations from library services by the students of Government Diploma Institutes.

It is observed that availability of quality printing materials from the library, retaining books for a longer period (up to 1 year), availability of multimedia for all subjects, loan facility for rare books, well-ventilated place to read more time, availability of all types of resources, the opening of the library from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M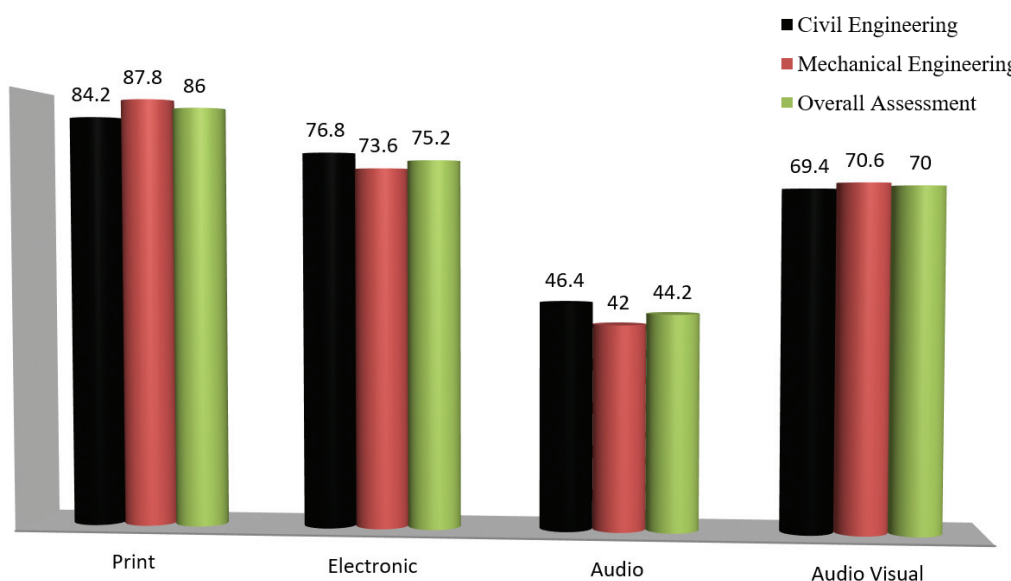. are very important aspects as opined by the students of all the polytechnics of Odisha. The provision for a lounge in the library premises does not feel important to them.

8. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The study in Fig. 1 indicated that:

• Printing materials are the most preferred (86.00 %) format, followed by electronic (75.20 %), audiovisual (70.00 %) and audio is the least (44.20 %).

The use of print materials is paramount to the preparation of class notes (95.50 %), preparation of class assignment (88.50 %), for easy access

to day-to-day general information (80.50 %), and the secondary purpose of getting information for project works (65.17 %) by the students of government diploma institutes of Odisha. The finding supported by Chen et al (2019) emphasises print resources are the more dominant type of documents to provide accurate information than other formats.

The findings in Table 4 show that the printed materials are preferred by the students of the government polytechnic of Odisha due to the reason that it does not require any electric supply (100 %), no keyword is required to collect the right. information (99.20 %), no filter of terms are required to get the right information, and printed ones are available in permanent structures which is non-volatile (98.90 % both), easily circulated among users (97.80 %), no bad effect on the eyes (97.60 %), reliable sources of record (92.30 %), easily traceable on racks either through author/ title/subject when required (92.20 %), comfortable to use (84.00 %) and available in the library in an organised way (76.61 %). The finding supports Verma (2017) has revealed that emotion, anger, and anxiety have an impact on seeking information is reflected when the information is within and without expectation of the user.

- There exists a significant correlation ship (r=0.814) between the students of civil engineering branch and mechanical engineering branch on their perceived reasons for preference to print media.

- The prime expectations of students from the library services are qualitative printing materials (93.40 %), retention of books for a longer period (90.80 %), availability of multimedia for each subject (88.20 %), loan facility for rare books (87.60 %), well ventilated reading space (85.40 %), availability of all types of resources (84.60 %), the opening time of library from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. (82.40 %). The secondary expectations are delivery of information within 24 hours (76.80 %), quick delivery of a piece of information within an hour (76.20 %), availability of one's favourite reading materials (72.20 %), direct access to each stack of the library (66.00 %) and technical support from library staff to library materials (64.60 %).

9. CONCLUSIONS

The study explored the relevance of print resources among the students of the Government Diploma institutes of Odisha in the face of the rapid development in ICT. It is found that the preference of print format is more than the other types of formats. For daily routine work such as preparing class notes, completing class assignments, and submission of project work, the print media has a significant contribution in comparison to other formats. With a view to Gopeh and Umoh (2020), the present study has also gathered some information about students' expectations where it is felt that the print resources have some unique advantages for which these are still preferred by the students of 32 government diploma institutes of Odisha but the library needs to update its collections to meet the expectations of its users and reorient the management of the library as per the growing expectations of the users all time to come.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Mr Samir Kumar Panigrahi is currently working as a Senior Librarian, School of Electrical Engineering, KIIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
His contribution to the current study is that he carried out the literature review, data collection & analysis and prepared the initial draft of the study.

Prof (Mrs.) Puspanjali Jena, Head, PG Dept. of Library & Information Science, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
In the current study, she conceptualised the study and its framework, designed the research methodology, and presented it in the present form.

Annexure-I

Questionnaire

Questionnaire on the Topic: "Information Gathering Behaviour of Students of Government Diploma Institutes of Odishathrough Print Media- A Study"

Note: 1. Please answer all the questions
2. Please tick mark (√) in the appropriate boxes wherever necessary
3. Please indicate 'Yes' or 'No' by tick marking any one only.
Note: Wherever boxes are provided put a tick (✓) mark in the box/space which you think to be the nearest to your concept (you can even tick 2 or more boxes if you feel so)

PART-1

Demographic Study for Users (Students/Members)

Note: **Wherever boxes are provided please put a tick (✓) mark or write in the relevant box/ Space which you think to be the nearest to your concept (you can even tick 2 or more boxes/options if you feel so)**

1. Name ： …………………………………………….

2. Academic Qualification:
1.   1st Year Diploma
2.   2nd Year Diploma
3.   3rd Year Diploma
4.   If any please specify …………………………………

3. Name of the Institution/School/Polytechnic/ Diploma:…………………………………………

4.   Gender: 1.   Male ☐
2.   Female ☐

5.   Age: 1.   15-20 ☐
2.   20 -25 ☐
3.   25-30 ☐
4.   >30 ☐

6.   Branch/Subject/Discipline/Department

1. Mechanical Engineering ☐

2. Civil Engineering ☐

3. Electrical Engineering ☐

4. Electronics Engineering ☐

5. Computer Science Engineering ☐

6. If any please specify………..........................………………………

7. Please name the language known by
Mother tongue……………….........…………….
Others 1. …………........................……………
2. …………….................……………
3. …………….................……………

Part-II-A-Users Need

1. Which is the most preferred Format to gather information as per following scale?

Sl. No.	Format	1	2	3	4	5
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Print					
2	Electronic					
3	Audio					
4	Audiovisual					

2. What are the Purposes of using PrintFormat?

Sl. No.	Reasons for using print format	1	2	3	4	5
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Easy access to day-to-day general information					
2	Preparation of class assignment					
3	Getting information for project work					
4	Getting information for seminar presentation					
5	Collection of bibliographical references for classroom task					
6	Preparation of class notes					

3. What are the reasons for Preferences of Print Formatover other formats?

Sl. No.	Preferences for using print format	1	2	3	4	5
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Available in organised way in library					
2	Reliable source of record					
3	Available in permanent structure(non-volatile)					
4	Easily circulated among users					
5	Comfortable to use					
6	Does not require any electrical supply					
7	No bad effect on eye					
8	No key word is required to collect right information					
9	No filter of terms are required to get right information					
10	Easily traceable in stack either through author/title/subject when required					

4. What are the expectations from library services? Indicate your preference as per scale below:

Sl. No.	Library Services	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither Agree Nor Disagree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
1	Qualitative printing materials from the library					
2	Loan facility for rare books					
3	Technical support of staff for locating library materials					
4	Quick delivery of piece of information within an hour					
5	Delivery of information within 24 hours					
6	Direct access to each stack of the library					
7	Well ventilated place to read more time					
8	Opening of library from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M.					
9	Availability of all types of resources					
10	Availability of multimedia for each subject					
11	Provision of lounge in the premises of library to relax					
12	Provision to keep books for longer period(say 1 year)					
13	Availability of one's favorite reading materials					