

Reading Habits and Library Use among Students of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat

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Abstract

This study investigated the reading habits and library use patterns of students at Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat. The descriptive survey design was used for the research. The population was made up of 50 students. Sampling was enumerative. A questionnaire was made in Google form and it's used as data collection. As per Data Collection, the Data collected were analyzed using percentages. Findings indicate that the majority of the respondents spend more than an hour reading every day. The purpose of reading was found to be mainly for entertainment. Respondents were also found to read mostly newspapers and other general-interest magazines. Now In the area of library use, the majority of the respondents browses the shelves in search of reading materials; consult the library staff and make use of online databases. The least used library resource was found to be e-books. Despite using most library resources, respondents affirmed that visit to the library was not a popular activity. Based on the findings, the study concludes that students of VNSGU are involved in reading activities both for entertainment and education purposes although most reading activities took place outside the university library. Considering the role of the respondents as future library professionals the study suggests that students make regular use of the university library to gain valuable practical experience. It was also recommended that students explore the use of e-books, especially through the internet as this would afford them the opportunity of reading books that may not be available in the university bookstore or library. The main limitation of this study is a sampling. Due to covid-19 mostly students avoid coming to the library so I took only students who regularly came into the library after covid-19.

Keywords: Information literacy, Information Resources Management, Library use, Reading culture, Reading habits, VNSGU,

1. Introduction

- “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one.” – **George R.R. Martin**
- “Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary.” – **Jim Rohn**

- “The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest (people) of the past centuries.”
– **Descartes**
- “That perfect tranquility of life, which is nowhere to be found but in retreat, a faithful friend and a good library.” – **Aphra Behn**
- "Nothing is pleasanter than exploring a library." -**Walter Savage Landor**
- "I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card." - **Laura Bush**
- "When you absolutely positively have to know, ask a librarian." - **American Library Association**
- "When in doubt go to the library." - **J.K. Rowling**
- "Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world." - **Lauren Ward**
- "Everything you need for a better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library." - **Henri Frederic Amiel**
- “It was good to walk into a library again; it smelled like home.” — Elizabeth Kostova, *The Historian*
- “The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.” — Albert Einstein

Reading is an activity that engages people everywhere their existence. According to **Henri Frederic Amiel** "Everything you need for a better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library." so, "Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world." - **Lauren Ward**. It is an interactive activity. The reader does not only share the thinking and thoughts of the author but it is moreover the reader can express the feelings and opinions of the author. Reading is most usually connected among literacy as educated persons are assumed to own the capacity to read and write to a sufficient level. Hence it is not remarkable that reading is essential for any undergraduates. Books are the writer's thoughts that are reached with people in any form. Reading is the writer's thoughts which are reached with people as printed, digital, and in written forms. Since the reader does not only get to share the thoughts of the author but is also capable to represent the words of the author. Reading is mostly correlated with literacy since we will expect that every educated person can read and write to a satisfactory level. It is hence common that reading is essential for educated persons.

As planned knowledge providers, it's the main duty for them to assure the use of learning materials during the terms of policies and services that encourage reading. Having in mind the suggestion of their education on information literacy and use of data centers, it is, accordingly, not out of place to examine their reading habits and library use patterns.

Statement of the problem

Reading is a vital action proposed to enhance the awareness of learners not only in academic interests but in other spheres of life. Research, despite, shows that there may be a reduction in positive reading habits thereby adding to the low use of libraries. The present study reviews reading habits and library use among students of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University.

Research objectives

The general objective of this study is to investigate the reading habits and library use patterns of readers at Veer Narmad South Gujarat University. The specific objectives are to:

- Find out the reading habits of readers of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University.
- To know the library use the pattern of readers of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University.

Literature review

The main purpose of university libraries is to provide facilities for all teaching, learning, education, and research programs of the University. Libraries should create the information needs of teachers, students, researchers, associated with the university. Therefore, by providing the latest knowledge to teachers in their field for effective teaching it makes transmission of knowledge possible. It seems that an educational institution without a library is like a vehicle without petrol and a body without a soul.

Methodology

A detailed survey Google form was used for the study. The population was made up of 36 readers of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, registered for several courses in the study, and many more outside readers. Sampling was enumerative as all readers of the target population were given the opportunity of participating in the study. A questionnaire titled “Reading Habits and Library Use among Students of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat” was used for data collection. Reading habits were surveyed using these points: regularity of reading, the purpose of reading, reading preference, and reading environment while library use was measured by use of library resources/e-resources and services. Data collected were analyzed using frequency and percentage counts.

Presentation of findings

Out of 45 copies of the questionnaire sent via email, 36 were successfully retrieved. This represents a response rate of 80%.

Table 1: Demographic information

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	18	50%
Female	18	50%

Table 1 shows that 18(50%) of the respondents were male while 18(50%) were female. The presence of similarities between male and female respondents is an indication that there is all gender is aware of the library. The majority of the respondents were also found to be in the library & information science field

Table 2: Reading habits

No.	Statement	Yes	No	Maybe
1	I do less than an hour reading each day	11(30.55%)	24(66.67%)	1(2.78%)
2	I read as per my requirements	30(83.33%)	5(13.89%)	1(2.78%)
3	I read meanwhile I want	24(66.67%)	10(27.78%)	2(5.55%)
4	Mostly, I do reading only textbooks of my study	12(33.33%)	20(55.56%)	4(11.11%)
5	I do reading only myself prepared notes	5(13.89%)	27(75%)	4(11.11%)
6	I do read newspapers and some other publications in my spare time	29(80.56%)	3(8.33%)	4(11.11%)
7	I read mostly literature books	11(30.56%)	20(55.55%)	5(13.89%)
8	I do read for relaxation	17(47.22%)	13(36.11%)	6(16.67%)
9	I do read for current affairs for competitive exams	31(86.11%)	3(8.33%)	2(5.56%)
10	I read for only UPSC/GPSC exams	9(25%)	24(66.67%)	3(8.33%)
11	I read while I have to do assignments	13(36.11%)	20(55.56%)	3(8.33%)
12	I do read for my research work	24(66.66%)	6(16.67%)	6(16.67%)
13	I use only e-resources for reading	12(33.33%)	19(52.78%)	5(13.89%)
14	Do you believe that a Library is an Excellent place for reading	36(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)

Conclusions from Table 2 shows that the majority of the respondents use more than an hour reading every day as declared by the level of opposition 11 (30.55%) to the statement “I do less than an hour reading each day” which is a sign that majority of the respondents use more than an hour reading every day.

The purpose of reading was found to be mainly for current affairs for competitive exams 31(86.11%) and respondents affirmed that they find time to read as per their requirements 30(83.33%) Respondents were also found to read mostly newspapers and some other publications in their spare time as affirmed by 29(80.56%) respondents; Most of the respondents read for research work and meanwhile, they want 24(66.66%); Although some of the respondents read mostly for class assignments only 13(36.11%) positively identified with the statement “I read while I have to do assignments.” And many respondents do read only self-prepared notes 5(13.89%). A little above average 9(25%) also reads for UPSC/GPSC exams”. The majority of the respondents 12(33.33%) also affirmed that they read only print textbooks in their field of study.

Respondents confirmed that they mostly read literature books 11(30.56%); Now respondents affirmed that they do reading for relaxation, 17(47.22%). So, when put negatively, 19(52.78%) respondents still disagreed on the use of only e-resources for reading means they prefer reading print materials rather than electronic materials. On the overall study of library reading and services, 36(100%) respondents believed that a Library is an excellent place for reading.

Table 3: Library use

No.	Statement	Yes	No	Maybe
1	I use the library software/catalogue/library employee for getting reading materials	34(94.44%)	2(5.56%)	0(0%)
2	I use Theses/Dissertations kept in the library	24(66.67%)	7(19.44%)	5(13.89%)
3	I use the e-resources in the library's lab	25(69.44%)	5(13.89%)	6(16.67%)
4	I use the Library while I want to prepare my class notes	27(75%)	7(19.44%)	2(5.56%)
5	I use the library to read newspapers only	4(11.11%)	31(86.11%)	1(2.78%)
6	I use the Reprography Service to get copies of some resource	26(72.22%)	6(16.67%)	4(11.11%)
7	I use reference books that are store in the reserved section	27(75%)	4(11.11%)	5(13.89%)
8	I go to the library for the book issue-return	29(80.56%)	4(11.11%)	3(8.33%)
9	I go to the library daily	29(80.56%)	5(13.89%)	2(5.55%)
10	Overall, how satisfied are you with library services?	36(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)

Table 3 shows the respondents' use of the university library. The majority of the respondents 34 (94.44%) use the library software/catalogue/library employee for getting reading materials; 29 (80.56%) respondents go to the library for the book issue-return; 27(75%) respondents use the library for reference books that are store in the reserved section and while they want to prepare my class notes; 25(69.44%) make use of e-resources in the library's lab while 24 (66.67%) make use of Theses/Dissertations kept in the library. The least used library service was found to be read newspapers with only 4(11.11%) respondents using it. Notwithstanding using most library resources/services respondents revealed that a visit to the library on a daily basis was at some point a popular activity as only 29 (80.56%) were found to do so.

Discussion of findings

It indicates that respondents spend more time reading. Maybe related to the fact that readers read to pass an exam for more education. The fact that this study observed that readers believed that a Library is an Excellent place for reading.

Although respondents in this study read for research work and assignments, a higher majority of the respondents declared on reading for current affairs and as per their need into the study. As per this study, readers came into the library for current affairs and further study, so the librarian should be aware of this kind of resources and provide them with the latest resources/e-resources to attract more readers. At last, it indicates that this university library has a good collection of resources so readers spent more time reading after this pandemic situation.

Even though the respondents belong to Library and Information Science and many readers belong to current affairs, they were however found to read more latest technology and current trend related resources than library and information science.

Respondents were also found to have a choice for print resources rather than e-resources. That is maybe strange that e-resources are more available than print resources, but most respondents use print resources in the library. So it's confirmed that readers prefer the library rather than this electronic world.

Although the majority of the respondents did affirm that a library is an excellent place for reading and readers satisfied with library services. Most of the study respondents do make use of the library software/catalogue/library employee for getting reading materials. Make use of the Reprography Service to get copies of some resources. At last, the usual common use of the library by readers is for reading, followed by using the library for borrowing books, using reprography services, using the reference section and searching the library catalogue.

Conclusion and recommendations

Based on the conclusions, the study concludes that readers of VN SGU involve reading activities both for competitive exams and education, although most of the utmost readers haven't come since covid-19 otherwise there are a large number of readers coming into the library for reading activities.

As future data specialists who all will be tried for managing libraries inside and outside Surat, the study makes the following suggestions:

- The reader of VNSGU should make much use of the university library as this will show them to library services thereby providing them with practical expertise.
- It will also be useful for the readers to search the use of e-books, e-resources, mainly the use of the internet as this will use the reading books which may not be available in the library. And today, many e-resources are available on the internet and most readers come for competitive exams so they will find their current affairs and many more on the internet. And researchers will find their research-related material into it.
- Viewing that most readers used the library when they were searching for reading materials, libraries should also try to provide new reading materials and services/facilities and to make them aware of new technologies to hold bringing readers to the library.

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