INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF PhD SCHOLARS UNDER THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, TU.

A thesis submitted to the
Central Department of Library and Information Science
In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the
Master's Degree in Library and Information Science

Submitted by
RAMESH NIRAULA

Central Department of Library and Information Science
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
July, 2011

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of Library and Information Science

Kirtipur,
Kathmandu
Tel. No. 4331316
Date: .....

E-mail: lisd@healthnet.org.np
Website: http://www.tulisd.edu.np

Reference No.:

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that **Mr. Ramesh Niraula** has prepared this thesis entitled "INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF PhD SCHOLARS UNDER THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, TU" under my supervision and guidance. I recommend this thesis for final approval and acceptance.

Date: 13 July 2011

....
Nirmala Shrestha
Thesis supervisor

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of Library and Information Science

Kirtipur,
Kathmandu
Tel. No. 4331316
Date: .....

Reference No.:

E-mail: lisd@healthnet.org.np
Website: http://www.tulisd.edu.np

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This thesis entitled "INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF PhD SCHOLARS UNDER THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, TU" prepared and submitted by **Mr. Ramesh Niraula** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Masters' Degree of Library and Information Science in here by accepted and approved.

Date: 13 July 2011

....
Nirmala Shrestha
Thesis supervisor

....
Bhola Kumar Shrestha
External Examiner

....
Dr. Madhusudan Karki
Department Head

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Ramesh Niraula

ABSTRACT

The thesis entitled "INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF PhD SCHOLARS UNDER THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, TU" has mentioned the situation of information, information seekers, and PhD researchers in social sciences in TU and library services available for providing PhD thesis research. The important aspects such as: background of the study in which definition of information, seeking of information, users behaviour, information explosion etc. has been defined. With having the above fact and situation the study has found out certain problems in information seeking behaviour within the library services such as: the researchers have not appropriate way to gain needed information; the varies on retrieval tools are not in uniform order etc. To find out the goal certain objectives such as: necessity of information seeking behaviour of PhD scholars, to gauge the difficulties while seeking of them etc. has been listed. The study was conducted within certain time and area limit. The time was taken October, 2010 to May 2011 and within the Kathmandu valley only.

The thesis has reviewed 17 related literatures on the information seeking behaviour and related topics. Within those reviewed literature 9 articles are reviewed from different national and international journals as well as conference papers, 5 are from different thesis and 3 literatures are from books. Those reviewed articles and books are mostly related with the information seeking behaviour.

This study has focused on the aspects of the retrieval of available information housed in or served through the library exploiting available tools. Five libraries of TU, Tribhuvan University Central Library (TUCL), The Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA), Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS), Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology (RECAST) and Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID) have been selected. However, the respondents were on the available basis; not only within the libraries but on the other parts of the city too. Total 32 researchers were taken for the study. Out of them only 27 respondents returned the questionnaire distributed to them for the study. Among 27, form English and Nepali departments, each 9 respondents returned the question with their response. 67% population was from two departments maintained above. Other 22% were from Economic department, 4% respondents were from Linguistics following the same percentage by Population Studies and History departments. The researcher has used a set of questionnaire and informal interview. The questionnaire had 2 parts including a cover letter clarifying about the task. Part I was to fill up with personal information of the respondents. Part II consist the actual questions.

According to the tabulation of the study, most of the library users' (48%) are visiting the library once a week. Minimum presence in library of the users is the less availability of needed information. Out of 27, only 13 (48%) users give their time to library according to priorities. Only 6 (22%) respondents have the membership of special library. 21 (78%) respondents have no any membership of special library. They (100%) seek such types of membership but lack of special library on social science hurdles them. Manual tools are using heavily 41% by users in libraries of TU. The manual system follower; 41% among them 58% use the catalogue only. Most of the users use the catalogue card for retrieving needed information due to familiarity of catalogue card. 50% users of library database use it because of its familiarity. These all data are presented on 21 tables and 9 figures.

Lack of proper knowledge on information technology users are forced to use manual tools such as catalogue card, classification number, index, abstracts etc. Therefore the gap in technology is responsible for retrieval of the right information, to the right users, at the right time.

On the part of recommendation 15 points are recommended for improvement of the libraries and its services. For sound development of information exchange between users and library (Client-Server) every library specially libraries of Tribhuvan University should implement mechanical project economically, institutionally and morally too. Without proper and readymade user education the way handing over information is not clear. To implement a clear way of information distribution, training, workshops, refresher course and proper network not only within TU libraries but all source of information is must.

Ramesh Niraula

The Researcher

PREFACE

Prepared for the partial fulfillment of Masters' Degree of Library and Information Science, this thesis presents an overview of the existing condition of the resources and services of the five academic libraries of TU. It focuses lie on the PhD scholars of TU and their satisfaction level at the time of retrieval of needed information from those libraries. It serves as a problem founding materials so as to elicit their views and suggestions for the further improvement of the library services on offer.

An advanced academic degree awarded by universities is PhD degree. Research is the fact finding process and PhD degree can achieved after a long and deep research. PhD is the highest degree one can earn. The PhD has become a requirement for a carrier as a university professor or researcher in most fields. Most of the universities today recruit the researchers for serious study on their related field and award them by the doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

For serious research the society should be advanced in knowledge preservation to presentation. Library can play vital role for the research process. Without information there is no possibility of research; and library housed large amount of information in various forms and formats. In information advanced society most of the information products should be available easily. Storage of the information is not more valuable if that is not available in easy way.

To reach the targeted group; the researcher used descriptive research design. Data collection and data analysis procedure are the other methods used for the research analysis. Some scholars' were interviewed indirectly and the recorded interview was analyzed at the time of data analysis. This thesis has documented various important aspects of libraries of TU.

This research study consists of six chapters. First chapter deals with the introduction of the study. The second chapter deals with literature review. The third chapter is focus of study. Research methodology, population, data collection and data analysis procedure are discussed in the fourth chapter. Fifth chapter presents analyzed data, presentation and interpretation to evaluate for set objectives are positively met or not. Sixth, the last chapter deals with summaries, conclusions and recommendations.

The Researcher

CATALOGUE OF THE THESIS

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ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

AD:	Christian period
APCTT:	Asian-Pasific Centre for Transfer of Technology
BS:	Bikram Sambat
CAS:	Current Awareness Services
CD:	Compact Disk
CD-ROM:	Compactable Disk-Read Only Memory
CEDA:	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
CERID:	Centre for Educational Innovation and Development
CNAS:	Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies
DVD:	Digital Versatile Disk
FoHSS:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
ISBN:	International Standard Book Number
IT:	Information Technology
LIS:	Library and Information Science
MA:	Master in Arts
MAN:	Metropolitan Area Network
Mphil:	Master of Philosophy
NESP:	National Education System plan
OPAC:	Online Public Access Catalogue
PhD:	Doctor of Philosophy
RECAST:	Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology
R&D:	Research & Development
SDI:	Selective Dissemination of Information
SM:	Scientific Management
TU:	Tribhuvan University
TUCL:	Tribhuvan University Central Library
UGC:	University Grand Commission
UK:	United Kingdom
UN:	United Nation
US:	United States
WAN:	Wide Area Network
WWW:	World Wide Web