

Multifaceted Role of Information Services in Multi-Disciplinary and Home Science College Libraries: An Overview

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Abstract

The main objective of this overview and study was to explore the multifaceted role of information services offered in various disciplines including home sciences by the college libraries affiliated with Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, in the tribal region. In the study, a virtual survey was conducted of 36 college libraries, 8 of which were home science libraries. The study reveals that 51% of aided and 33% of unaided college libraries provided conventional information services, while 30% and 06% offered nonconventional services, respectively, to their users. There was 93% diversity in the role of information services to provide multiple sources of information, and 96% in the home sciences, food and nutritional arena. It was recommended that there is a dire need to provide skilled staff, financial assistance, and infrastructure to develop libraries and extension services; otherwise the lifeline will be distressed.

Keywords

College libraries, Librarians, Information Services, Diverse role, Tribal area, Infrastructure

1. Introduction

Information services play a crucial role in advancing education and research in India. Every citizen in society requires information services at all levels. Libraries play a significant role in providing information services on a variety of subjects to users. College libraries are not an exception to this. Libraries provide information on supplementary subjects and other topics according to the users' demands, in addition to the subjects taught in college. Thus, in this century, libraries are recognized as centers of knowledge resources. Information services play a key role in every discipline through libraries for the benefit of the users. Historically, libraries played a vital role in offering traditional services.

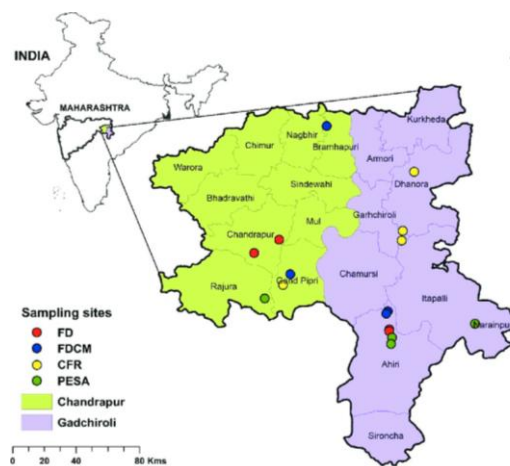
However, these services have now been replaced by non-conventional methods. Since science is a discipline, users are expected to seek information about food and nutritional in home science from librarians. This article aims to explore the roles of information services, librarians and their experiences through an observational study. The college libraries associated with Gondwana University in Gadchiroli served as the basis for observation.

2. Need of the study

Typically, colleges offer a variety of academic disciplines, including arts, commerce, science, home science, education, physical education, management, law, engineering, library and information science, computer science, fashion design, pharmacy, social welfare, and more. Libraries and librarians play a significant role in providing information on a wide range of subjects through various conventional and unconventional information services and sources. In an era of evolving technology, understanding librarians' experiences is crucial for enhancing the information services they provide in multiple disciplines.

3. Scope of the study

The Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, was established on 2nd October 2011 at Gadchiroli by the State Government of Maharashtra to impart and develop higher education in the backwards and tribal region and naxal-affected areas of eastern Maharashtra. This university had 184 aided and unaided colleges affiliated with it in the Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts, encompassing various faculties. The survey and study focused on 36 college libraries.



Map 1: Gadchiroli-Chandrapur

This study examined the experiences of college librarians regard Jurisdiction of GUG University conventional information services offered by libraries in various locations throughout the Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts, as well as their multifaceted roles across multiple disciplines, including home sciences. The article omitted the list of college libraries due to the importance of the facts.

4. Objectives of the study

- To begin with, to learn about the information services normally offered in the college libraries
- Exploring changes in information services during the era of evolving technology
- To explore the perspectives of librarians on the availability of information services in college libraries based on their experiences
- To know the multidimensional role of information services across various disciplines
- To know information services in Home Science College libraries
- To know the role of information services in Home Sciences-Food and Nutritional

5. Information services normally offered in college libraries.

5.1 Table: Information services

Information services	
Conventional information services	Non-conventional information services
Reference service	Digital/Virtual-Reference Service
Circulation service	Computerized Circulation service
Referral service	Online Referral service
Current Awareness Service CAS	E- Current Awareness Service
SDI services	E-SDI Service
Newspaper clippings service	E- Newspaper clippings service
Document Delivery Service	E-Document Delivery Service
Catalogue service	Online Public Access Catalogue
Inter Library Loan Service	Online Inter Library Loan Service
Abstracting Service	Online Abstracting Service
Indexing Service	Online Indexing Service
Bibliographic Service	Online Bibliographic Service
Translation Service	Machine Translation Service
Reprography Service	Modern Reprography Service

Source: Various articles, Virtual data collection and websites

It was evident from Table 1 that libraries are playing a significant role in offering both traditional and non-traditional information services. In the era of technology, non-traditional information services have emerged as the latest innovations in the library arena.

6. Perspectives of librarians on the availability of information services in college

libraries based on their experiences-Colleges affiliated with Gondwana University, Gadchiroli.

6.1 Changes in information services during the era of evolving technology in library

- Conventional Information services-Traditional, Manually
- Non-Conventional Information services-Computer based, Non-Traditional

Table 6.1: Conventional Information services-Experience of librarians

Information Services	Granted College Libraries			Non-Granted College Libraries		
	Total	Avail.	%	Total	Avail.	%
Services offered 36 Libraries	18			18		

Reference service	18	18	100	18	18	100
Circulation service	18	18	100	18	18	100
Referral service	18	18	100	18	18	100
CAS services	18	09	050	18	00	000
SDI services	18	08	044	18	00	000
Newspaper clippings service	18	11	061	18	06	033
Document Delivery Service	18	09	050	18	05	028
Catalogue service	18	14	078	18	07	039
Inter Library Loan Service	18	18	100	18	09	050
Abstracting Service	18	05	027	18	00	000
Indexing Service	18	04	022	18	00	000
Bibliographic Service	18	04	022	18	00	000
Translation Service	18	00	000	18	00	000
Reprography Service	18	05	027	18	02	011
Average number of libraries providing services	252	141	51%	252	83	33%

Source: Questionnaire and website

Table 6.1 shows a total number of 36 libraries were studied and divided into 18 granted and non-granted college libraries. Various college libraries, both granted and non-granted, provide conventional information services to their users. It was observed that 100% of granted and non-granted libraries rendered Reference, Circulation and Referral services under conventional information services.

Granted college libraries were rendering 50% Current Awareness Service, 44% Selective Dissemination of Information Service SDI, 61% Newspaper clippings service, 50% Document Delivery Service, 78% Catalogue service, 100% Inter Library Loan Service, 27% Abstracting Service, 22% Indexing Service, 22% Bibliographic Service, 00% Translation Service, 27 % Reprography Service to their users.

Non-Granted college libraries were rendering 33% Newspaper clippings service, 28 % Document Delivery Service, 39% Catalogue service, 50% Inter Library Loan Service,

11% Reprography Service and the libraries were not providing Abstracting, Indexing, Bibliographic, Translation Service, and to their users.

Overall, 51% of the granted college libraries provided conventional information services to their users, and 33% of the non-granted college libraries provided information services. The number of unaided college libraries providing information services is comparatively less.

Table 6.2: Non-Conventional Information services-Experience of librarians

Information Services	Granted College Libraries			Non-Granted College Libraries		
	Total 18	Available	%	Total 18	Available	%
Services offered 36 Libraries						
Digital/Virtual-Reference Serv.	18	06	33	18	05	28
Computerized Circulation serv.	18	11	61	18	05	28
Online Referral service	18	08	44	18	00	00
E- Current Awareness Service	18	05	28	18	00	00
E-SDI Service	18	04	22	18	00	00
E- Newspaper clippings service	18	00	00	18	00	00
E-Document Delivery Service	18	05	28	18	00	00
Online Public Access Catalogue	18	11	61	18	06	33
Online Inter Library Loan Serv.	18	10	56	18	00	00
Online Abstracting Service	18	05	28	18	00	00
Online Indexing Service	18	05	28	18	00	00
Online Bibliographic Service	18	06	33	18	00	00
Machine Translation Service	18	00	00	18	00	00
Modern Reprography Service	18	00	00	18	00	00
Average number of libraries providing services	252	76	30%	252	16	06%

Source: Questionnaire and website


Table 6.2 shows that, 33% of granted college libraries rendered Virtual/Digital/Online Reference Services, 61% Computerized Circulation, 44% Online Referral 28% E-Current Awareness Service, 22% Selective Dissemination of Information Service SDI, 00% E-Newspaper clippings service, 28% E-Document Delivery Service, 61% OPAC service, 36% Online Inter Library Loan Service, 28% Online Abstracting Service, 28% Online Indexing Service, 33% Online Bibliographic Service, 00% Translation Service, 00 % Reprography Service to their users.

Non-Granted college libraries were rendering 28% Virtual/Digital/Online Reference Services, 33% OPAC, and 28% Computerized Circulation Service. The libraries were not providing on line referral, E-Newspaper clippings service, E-Document Delivery Service, Online Inter Library Loan Service, Online Abstracting and Indexing, and Bibliographic, Translation and Modern Reprography Service to their users.

Overall, 30% of the non-granted college libraries provided conventional information services to their users, and 06% of the non-granted college libraries provided information services

7. A review of the developmental roles of library information services across academic disciplines - Librarians' views

Table 7.1: Multidimensional role of library information services in various disciplines

Aspects of role of services	In-all	Facts	Opinion	Information
Educational-Academic support	30	30	100	
Research-Digital & E-Resources	30	30	100	
Extension education	30	30	100	
Lifelong learning	30	21	070	
Current knowledge	30	26	092	
Services individuals-Personalized	30	30	100	
Strong organization	30	22	080	
Decision making power	30	30	100	
Cultural preservation	30	27	075	Library- Collect, process and disseminate information through Information services
Social development	30	30	100	
Employment, Common citizens	30	30	100	
Nation's capacity building	30	30	100	
Average ratio	360	336	093 %	In the interest of users

Source: Virtually data collection-Mobile device

Table 7.1 indicates that 93% of information services perform diverse and valuable roles across various branches of the educational and research sector and contribute to national development.

8. Home Science Colleges affiliated with Gondwana University

Gondwana University has 184 colleges in various academic disciplines affiliated with it in the Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts, of which 8 were Home Science colleges.

Table 8.1: Status of Home Science colleges

Sr. No.	Name of college and their Libraries	Location
Gadchiroli District-Granted		
1	D.K. Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kurkheda Dist. Gadchiroli	Kurkheda
2	S. Chandra Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Ashti, Ta. Chamorshi,	Ashti
Non Granted		
1	Dr. Arun Motghare Mahavidyalaya	Kurkheda
2	Dr. Arun Motghare Mahila Mahavidyalaya	Wadsa
3	Dr. Sweta Smruti Mahila Mahavidyalaya	Dhanora
4	K.K. Mahila Mahavidyalaya	Armori
Chandrapur District- Non-Granted		
1	S.R.V. Mahavidyalaya , Nagbhid	Nagbhid
2	Vimaltai Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Saoli	Saoli

Source: University website

Table 8.1 shows that eight Home Science Colleges operate under the jurisdiction of Gondwana University in Gadchiroli. Among these, six colleges exist in the Gadchiroli district, two of which are aided and four are unaided. Additionally, there are two unaided colleges in the Chandrapur district. This proportion averages 5% of all colleges.

Table 8.2: Role of information services in-Home Sciences Discipline

Information services	Information statement	A	B	A+B
Reference service	Food science & nutrition, family diet therapy, balanced diet, food technology, food engineering, food processing, food packaging, food safety, food preservation, food security, health and nutrition, human nutrition and health sciences, health science, sport nutrition, Human, and as per syllabus.	100	100	200
Circulation service		100	100	200
CAS services		040	050	090
SDI services		030	050	080
Newspaper clippings service		080	040	120
Document Delivery Service		025	040	065
Catalogue service		060	040	100
Abstracting Service		000	020	020

Indexing Service		000	020	020
Reprography Service		020	030	050
Role of information services-Average ratio		45%	51%	96%

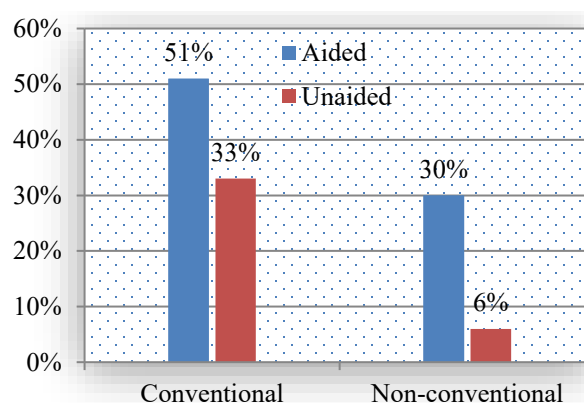
Source: Mobile communication and syllabus

Table 8.2 reveals that 96% of the information services in the college library provide users with information about various aspects of food and nutrition science. The reference service accounted for the lion's share (100%) of this. Demand for traditional information services was 45%, while non-traditional services attracted 51%, indicating a higher demand for non-traditional services.

9. Overall view of information services

The college libraries are providing conventional and non-conventional information services to their users. It was found that 51% of aided and 33% of unaided college libraries provided conventional information services, while 30% and 06% offered nonconventional services, respectively, to their users.

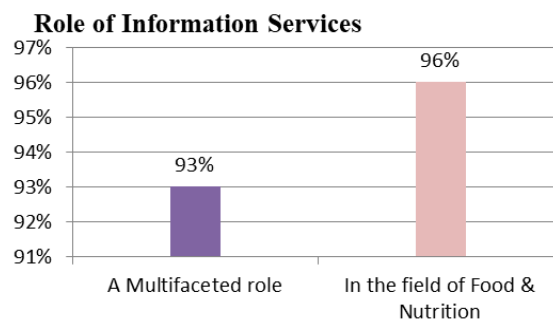
Graph: 1



9.1 Role of information services

There was 93% diversity in the information services function to offer numerous sources of information, and 96% diversity in the Food and Nutritional Sciences field of home sciences.

Graph: 2



10. Findings and recommendations

This study revealed that both traditional and non-traditional information services play a crucial role in delivering information to users in college libraries. However, a reengineering and fortifying information services in the era of evolving technology is essential at this moment.

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