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EVALUATION OF TIME LAG BETWEEN PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION AND ITS USE

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ABSTRACT

Selection, collection, organization and dissemination are the basic functions to be performed by the library. How much time library takes to disseminate the information to the users once it is published? Such types of time span or flow of information studied in this research. The books classified under Science and Social Science faculties are selected as a population. On the basis of analysis of data it was observed that there is no significance difference between mean time lag in Science faculty and Social Science faculty.

KEYWORDS: Information, Time Lag & T Test

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INTRODUCTION

Information is bedrock pillar of national development. It plays a fundamental and dynamic role in the development of policies and programs. It is a key factor in decision making and improved efficiency and effectiveness in production and service sector. It has a great importance in socio-economic development of nation. Information is of no use unless it is stored in such a way that it retrieved easily.

Selection, collection, organization and dissemination are the basic functions to be performed by the library. How much time library takes to disseminate the information to the users once it is published? As time factor is important in the dissemination of information, such types of time span or flow of information should be studied. The flow of information from different directions has been studied by eminent library scientists. Garvey and Griffith (1964), Rajgopalan and Sen (1964), Elliot (1969), Roland and Kirkapatrik (1975), Shukla (1984) and many more studies are available on this important facet. However, a further time lag which has not been studied so far by anyone is the time lag between publications of information to its first use by the users. In the present study I examined the time lag between publications of information to its use to the first user.

Author has studied the time span between two phenomenons as ‘date of publication of information’ and ‘date of its use very first time’. Here I have considered the information which is published in the form of books only and date of its use means the date on which the book is being issued. This time interval is considered as time lag for the present study.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives were formulated for the present study.

- To examine the average time lag between publications of information to its use by the first user in selected

faculties i.e. Science and Social Sciences.

- To compare time required to receive the information to the first user in the two faculties.
- To elicit factors responsible for this time lag in Swami Ramteerth Marathawada University library Nanded.
- To suggest the remedies to minimize this time span.

Scope

The books classified under Science and Social Science faculties are selected as a population. This study is further confined to the subjects and period of its purchased by the selected library. Books on Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science from Science wing and Economics, Sociology and Library & Information Science from Social Science wing that are purchased during the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 by Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Library, Nanded.

Hypothesis

Ho: No significance difference in the mean time lags between the publication of information to its use in science and social science faculties.

Methodology

The accession register is used for collecting data regarding year of publication of concerned books on subjects under study. Since publisher provides only the year of publication and do not give the actual date of publication of books, I have considered 1st January-a date, in each case for the sake of convenient to calculate time lag. Similarly the date of accessioning of books considered as a date of processing and date of the invoice of concerned books on subjects under study considered as date of receiving those books in the library. So far as the data regarding date of issuing of books on subjects under study is concerned, the author has collected this data from available sources viz. daily transaction register, book cards and the database developed in computers of respective library. The interview and questionnaire methods were adopted to study the Acquisition policy. The questionnaires were sent to the Head of the Department of concerned subjects of university.

Limitations

- The book does not show the actual date of publication when it is being published. Hence 1st January is considered as date of publication of every book on the subject under study. It means that if the book is published in the month of December, its date of publication is considered as 1st January. In this process the time lag in such a case is increased by complete one year.
- In certain cases the collection of libraries which is transferred to its sub centers is excluded from collecting data.
- Some University libraries do not have past record regarding transaction of books. In such cases data is collected through book card which is obtained directly either from stack or circulation desk.
- Wherever, the open access system is in practice the users select books directly from the stack for reference. Such referred books are not considered in the present study.

Analysis of Data

The library of Swami Raman and Teerth Marathwada University Nanded is the nucleus of the teaching learning program. It is established in the year 1998. Though the collection is not larger by number, it is rich in quality. The details of various time lags so far studied that occurred at different phases are extracted in table 1

From table 1, it is observed that, maximum delay occurred at the stage of year of publication of books to the books received to the library. For Physics, it was 109.17 months and for Library &Information Science, it was 36.63 months. In other subjects it ranges from 25.14 months to 29.75 months. Further delay occurred at the stage of books received to library to its first use. In all the subjects it ranges in between 14.36 months to 21.82 months. At the last stage i.e. year of publication of books to the books issued first time to users, delay was maximum for Physics i.e. 103.66 months and in other subjects it ranges in between 40.31 months to 45.76 months.

Table 1: Subject Wise Mean Time Lags (In Months)

Sr. No.	Subjects	Mean Time Lag between Year of Publication of Books to the on which Books Received in the Library	Mean Time Lag between Books Received to the Library to Processed Date of Books	Mean Time Lag between Date on which Books Received to the Library to Books Issued First Time to Users	Mean time Lag between Year of Publication of Books to the Books Issued First Time to Users
1	Computer Science	26.34	2.40	21.82	40.31
2	Physics	109.17	1.22	18.33	103.66
3	Chemistry	25.14	1.44	19.21	39.40
4	Library & Information Science	36.63	0.59	14.36	45.76
5	Sociology	29.75	1.24	15.54	43.36
6	Economics	29.36	1	-	-

The details of various time lags so far studied that occur at different phases are extracted in table 2.

Table 2: Faculty Wise Mean Time Lags (In Months)

Sr. No.	Faculties	Mean Time Lag between Year of Publication of Books to the Date on which Books Received in the Library	Mean Time Lag between Books Received to the Library to the Processed Date of Books	Mean Time Lag Between Date on which Books Received to the Library to Books Issued First Time to Users	Mean Time Lag between Year of Publication of Books to the Books Issued First Time to Users
1	Science	37.81	2.08	20.84	49.80
2	Social Science	34.48	0.76	14.58	45.72

Table 2 shows that, delay occurred at various stage, firstly the mean time lag between years of publication of books to its arrival in the library was 37.81 months for Science and 34.48 months for Social Science. However, mean time lag between books received to the library to its first use was 20.84 months for Science faculty and 14.58 months for Social Science faculty. At the last phase the mean time lag was 49.80 months for Science faculty and 45.72 months for Social Science faculty.

To compare the time lag between publication of information to its first use in both faculties i.e. Science and Social Science was one of the objectives of the study. Null hypothesis was laid down during the study i.e. 'No significance difference between year of publication of books to the books issued first time to users in two faculties Science and Social

Science. The t test is applied to test the null hypothesis. The result is depicted in table 3.

Table 3: T Test for Comparing Mean Time Lag in Two Faculties

Sr. No.	Faculties	Number of Books Issued	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Mean Error	Mean Difference	D.F.	'T' Test for Equality of Means
1.	Science	389	49.8	70.68	3.6	4.08	445	0.4304
2.	Social Science	58	45.72	37.44	4.92			

From table 3, it is observed that, while comparing time lag between year of publication of books to its first use in both faculties i.e. Science and Social Science by applying 't' test it comes 0.4304. Similarly, the table value of 't' identified from statistical table at 445 degrees of freedom at 5% level of significance was 1.960. Here calculated value of t is less than table value of t. Hence hypothesis accepted, it means that there is no significance difference in mean time lag between year of publication of books to the books issued first time to users. .

The following findings are drawn from the present study. The analysis has given the clear picture of the time required for the different phases from publication of books to its use.

CONCLUSION

The mean time lag calculated on basis of the issued books only and it was found that for science faculty the mean time lag between publication of information to its use to first users was 49.80 months for Science faculty and for social science faculty it was 45.72 months. Further it is identified that, Here calculated value of t is less than table value of t. Hence hypothesis accepted, hence there is no significance difference in the mean time lag between publication of information to its use in two faculties i.e. Science and Social Science.

The Factors Influencing the Time Lags

- Time lag between years of publication of books to the date on which books received to the library.
  - The time lag was 37.81 months in Science faculty and 34.48 months in Social Science faculty
- Time lag between books received to the library to processed date of books.
  - The time lag was 0.08 months in Science faculty and 0.76 months in Social Science faculty.
- Time lag between dates on which books received to the library to the books issued first time to users.
  - The mean time lag in Science faculty was 20.84 months and for Social Science faculty it was 14.58 months.

Suggestions: Responsibility of Librarians

- Latest books must be acquired in the library.
- Latest publisher catalogue should be distributed amongst the teaching departments in the university campus.
- Queuing techniques must be applying for processing of books.
- OPAC must be maintained time to time.
- The provision should be made so that OPAC must be reached to end users. It can be done by developing internet or portal facilities in the library.

- Stack should be maintained properly so that the users will get the books on time as and when they required.
- Organized books exhibition of specific library collection on different occasions. It helps to aware the users regarding the existing library collection that can reduced the gap between library collection and its users.
- Awaring the users regarding new arrivals by sending list of books currently purchased by the library to the respective departments as well as displaying the new books on books display racks. New arrivals can be update on the websites of the library.
- Conduct users survey periodically.
- User Education and Information Literacy Programmes must be organized to aware the users regarding library facilities.
- Syllabus must be framed on university level for these programmes and also weightage of the marks for it must be given.
- Incorporate the time schedule in the regular academic time table for these programmes.

Responsibilities of Faculties

- Latest books must be recommended for making it available in the library.
- Latest publishers' catalogue must be used for recommending the books.
- List of recommended books must be sent immediately to the library as and when it required to library.
- Help librarian to organize user Education and Information literacy programme.
- Aware the students regarding the latest collection arrived in the library on their respective subjects.
- Visit to books exhibitions organized by the library and also encourage the students to visit the exhibitions.
- Encourage the students to visit library for more references for their study and research.
- List of recommended books given in the syllabus must be updated time to time taking into consideration the content of the syllabus.
- While sending the recommendation to the library by the Heat of Departments, the suggestions of the faculties as well as students of the department must be considered.

These suggestions definitely help to reduce the time lag between publications of information to its use up to large extent.

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