

## Retrieval and Storage of Research Information by the Post Graduate Students of Kerala Agricultural University

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### ABSTRACT

The retrieval and storage of research information is an important aspect when it comes to the post graduate students doing research. As far as agriculture students are considered, the research information retrieval is unavoidable for carrying out research works. Therefore, the study was conducted to find out the information retrieval behavior and storage of information by the research graduates in Kerala Agricultural University. A questionnaire was prepared and distributed among 30 post graduate students in various disciplines. The study revealed that more than 50 per cent of students retrieved information regularly. Seventy percentage of students accessed information to supplement their lecture notes. Fifty percentages of respondents utilized the library facilities more than once in a week. Internet was the source used to retrieve information by the respondents. Sixty percentage of respondents stored information occasionally and 76.6 per cent of respondents had the habit of taking prints for storing the information.

**Key words:** Research information, information retrieval

### INTRODUCTION

The retrieval and storage of research information is an important aspect when it comes to the post graduate students doing research. As far as agriculture students are considered, information retrieval is unavoidable for carrying out research works. Our researchers take a lot of pain to gather information and hence it is also important to know from where the information is being retrieved as well as the how the retrieved information is being stored. Therefore, the study was undertaken to understand how the information was collected and was being stored so as to support the research work.

Herner and Mavitt (1954) found that one-fifth of the respondents visited the library very often to do their own literature searching. Osiobe (1988) found that browsing was the most important source of finding references for undergraduate students. Hartmann (2001) concluded that undergraduate students experienced difficulty in locating items from the library collection and did not understand the processes for retrieving journal articles. Majid and Ali (2002) studied the use of information resources by computer engineering students in Singapore and found that the top five information resources in order of preference were books (94%), lecturers (84%), the internet (86%), and friends (84%). They relied heavily on printed sources of information and their use of electronic journals and databases was very low

### METHODOLOGY

Thirty postgraduate students were selected from various disciplines to study their information retrieval and storage behavior. The information was collected from the students using a structured questionnaire with three point continuum namely regularly, occasionally and never with scores 3,2,1 respectively and the score was calculated using the formula :

$$\text{Score} = \frac{\text{Total score obtained}}{\text{Maximum possible score}} \times 100$$

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A research is not that easy to be carried out without relevant information. Information being the base for conducting a research, an attempt was made in the present study to find out the information retrieval and storage by the post graduate students and the results are presented below.

#### 1. Frequency of information retrieval

Table 1 reveals that majority of students (60%) regularly retrieved information. This shows that the students also feel that it is important to retrieve information for their academic purposes.

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**Table 1: Frequency of information retrieval: how often do you retrieve information**

n= 30		
Regularly	Occasionally	Never
18(60%)	12 (40%)	0

**2. Purpose of retrieval of research information**

From Table 2 it is evident that majority of the scholars retrieved information for supplementing the lecture notes and this may be to excel in their academic with good marks. Seventy three percentage of student opined that information was retrieved for research related works. This may be because there is a need for a lot of references once you enter into research works

**Table 2: Purpose of retrieval of research information**

Purpose of retrieval	Retrieval index	
	Total score	Percentage
General awareness	60	66.60
To prepare class notes	60	66.60
Supplement lecture notes	69	76.60
Research work	66	73.30
Publishing papers	54	60.00
Reading	54	60.00
Recreational purpose	45	50.00

**3. Frequency of visit to library**

Table 3 reveals that majority of the students utilized the library more than once in a week which shows their need for retrieving information.

**Table 3: Frequency of visit to library**

Frequency of visit	No. of students	Percentage
Everyday	6	20
Once in a week	9	30
More than once in a week	15	50
Once in fortnight	0	0

**4. Source used for information retrieving research information**

From the above table we can see that 93.3 per cent of respondents use internet as a source for retrieving information and this may be because this is the medium that can be easily accessed any time. Only 56 per cent of respondents used books for retrieving information.

**Table 4: Source used for information retrieving research information**

Source	Score	Percentage
News paper	81	90.00
Journals	69	73.30
Periodicals	60	66.60
Seminar papers	54	60.00
Internet	84	93.30
Books	51	56.60
Television	60	66.60

**5. Frequency of storing research information**

From the Table 5 we can see that 60 per cent of research graduates occasionally stored the information whereas only 40 per cent of individuals stored the information regularly.

**Table 5: Frequency of storing research information**

	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
No	12	18	0
%	40	60	0

**6. Sources used for storing research information**

From the above table 6 we can see that 76 per cent of the respondents take print of the information they find and this may be to use them for the future research needs

**Table 6. Sources used for storing research information**

Sources	Score	Percentage
Pen drives	57	63.30%
CD rom	63	70.00%
Taking print	69	76.00%
Newspaper cuttings	48	53.30%
Store in computer	63	70.00%
Buy books	54	60.00%
By journals	57	63.30%

**CONCLUSION**

The study retrieval and storage of research information by the post graduate students in agriculture was helpful in understanding the information retrieval and storage behavior of post graduate students. The study revealed that more than 50 per cent of students retrieved information regularly. Most of the students retrieved information to supplement their lecture notes. Majority of students visited library more than once in a week. Among the various sources used to retrieve information, it was the internet that was mostly used by the respondents. Sixty percentage of the respondents stored information occasionally and about 76 per cent of the respondents took print as a method for storing the retrieved information. Therefore the study reveals that information is being retrieved and stored by the agricultural post graduates and is considered important by them for carrying out the research.

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