

Uses of Library Resources and Services by the Nursing Students: A Case Study of College of Nursing, RIMS, Imphal

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Abstract

Medical college libraries play a significant role in the dissemination of knowledge not only in the field of medical science but also in paramedical sciences too. The present study aimed to ascertain the frequency of the library visit, the purpose of library visits, and mostly used library resources and services available in the Central Library of the

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal. A questionnaire was distributed among the students of the College of Nursing, RIMS, Imphal. The survey hyperlink was sent via the messaging application WhatsApp and electronic mail, accompanied by a polite solicitation to complete the survey. The data were collected from August to October 2022 until the desired response rate was received. This research used a sample size of 100 drawn at random and 86 students responded to the questionnaire. The collected data were analysed using MS Excel to draw inferences. The majority of the users (50%) visit the library at least once a week, for the purpose of borrowing books (22%), doing assignments (20.33%), and self-study (14.14%). The most preferred resources for the nursing students were books and reference sources (almost 80%). Circulation, reference service and digital service were among the highly used services of the nursing students.

Keywords: Library, Users, Usage, Resources, Services, Medical Library, Nursing Students.

1. Introduction

The medical library plays a vital role in nursing education, if the library does not provide proper effective services, then there is no use in spending lakhs of rupees on information systems. It is essential for medical college librarians to develop collections useful to students and faculty and attract researchers. The main role of a medical college library is to satisfy the needs of its users. The services of librarians also make good customer satisfaction among users. A Librarian should regularly examine customer satisfaction with the library's collection, services and information preferences to ensure that the information needs of users are satisfactorily fulfilled within time.

Nursing students are unpreventable users of libraries, a profession requiring intensive research, intensive clinical processes, research work, and numerous assignments. Libraries are often used as a secondary resource, with library materials serving as foundational support for academic pursuits when necessary. Libraries cannot afford to take nursing students for granted, not only as library patrons but because of their professional sensitivity to society.

2. Review of Literature

In their study, **Mahawariya and Yadav (2022)** find out several challenges faced by government libraries, particularly in terms of professional skilled staff, ICT components, and proper information services. Furthermore, there is a lack of proper information services which is hindering their overall development. **Jatto and Bakare (2021)**. In their study conducted a study to assess how nursing students at Lead City University in Ibadan used the resources and services of the university library. This study used a descriptive survey approach, and the total population of nursing students was around 500 at the time of the study, with only 20% of the population (100) being used. Descriptive statistics were used to assess the data that were collected (frequency counts and simple percentages). The research reveals that just a minority (14%) of respondents utilize the library on a regular basis. Of all the library's information resources, textbooks receive the most use, followed by reference materials, newspapers, accessibility, and user happiness. However, the study suggests that routine internal examination of the library's resources and services, the implementation of an open system for book lending, and the management of the library's environment should be its top priorities. **Varadaraju (2018)** examined students' and faculty's library utilization frequency, library satisfaction and issues. College students and faculty were randomly handed a questionnaire. The study finds that College libraries should address user concerns to improve library and information services for teachers, students, and the public. In their study, **Frandsen et al. (2017)** stressed training sessions to increase the usage of library e-resources. They also found out that it may not increase the overall long-term usage as the librarians lack the skills needed to be able to teach the programme and assist students with problems in the use of e-resources. They implied training academic staff, students, as well as library staff to ensure sustainability and training should be offered frequently and academic as well as library staff should be prepared to inform and assist users. They suggested the need for more

studies to specifically address characteristics of the successful training program and to what extent training must be done.

Parande, M.A., Tapare, V.S and Borle, P. (2017) indicated that the primary reason of undergraduate and post graduate students for going to the library was to study. It further shows the undergraduate students were spending significantly more time during exam days as compared to postgraduate students and the opposite was true during normal days. A majority of the students were pleased with the library services while over half of the students were not happy with the library's IT facilities. It shows that inadequate learning materials coupled with the non-availability of modern equipment and the library's insufficient physical equipment may have a detrimental effect on the students visiting the library. The study suggests that fulfilment of more needs to be done to promote learning by increasing the usage of library, its resources, and services. **Kona, Chagari, and Rudraksha (2017)** in their study, inferred that the selected deemed university libraries maintain good library information resources, services, and users expressed their opinion about library working hours, and physical facility, indicating a major percentage of users are satisfied with the services provided by the deemed universities. **Kona, Chagari, and Rudraksha (2016)** conducted a study, on the status and utilization of the resources and services offered by the library at KL University in Vijayawada. The feedback received from the library users indicated that they are highly satisfied, with the facilities, working hours of the library information sources and overall quality of library services.

Jamil, Tariq and Jamil (2013). concluded that the libraries were underutilized in their study despite the teachers and students expressing their willingness to use the libraries. They stated that it is primarily due to the lack of human and material resources. Students mostly visit library for academic purposes and gave the view that improved library services and provisions can enhance the relevance and utilization of libraries.

3. Scenario of College of Nursing, RIMS

The College of Nursing, RIMS, Imphal was established in 2009 to offer thorough education in the nursing profession in North Eastern Indian States. It is administered by the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The college is recognized by the Nursing Council of India, New Delhi and affiliated with Manipur University in Canchipur, Imphal. The Institute's College of Nursing has a capacity of 50 seats per year. The nursing college is equipped to meet Indian Nursing Council (INC) standards in its "Foundation of Nursing" Lab, "Nutrition" Lab, "Maternal and Child Health" Lab, "Computer Lab," and "A.V. Aids Room."

The mission of the College of Nursing at RIMS is to foster the intellectual growth of young people in order to achieve academic excellence in nursing education of the highest degree, competence, and to assist the growth of nursing and healthcare leaders whose deeds, discoveries, and voices will extend and improve public health.

Central library of RIMS has a collection of more than more 36110 books, 1101 CD ROM, 103 Journals including foreign journal, 2032 Thesis, 168 complementary journals, etc.

4. Methodology

4.1 Study Area

For this study, the researcher selects Nursing Students from the College of Nursing at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal.

4.2 Data collection method

The survey link was distributed through WhatsApp and Email with a gentle request to fill them out and forward them to their College Student WhatsApp groups. The random sampling method is used for this study. The data were collected from August to October 2022 until the desired response rate was

received. A total number of 86 students responded to the questionnaire counting 86% as response rate.

4.3 Statistics analysis

The data obtained were assembled for data analysis. MS Excel was used to analyze the acquired data and make conclusions.

5. Objectives

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To ascertain the frequency of the use of the library by the students of the College of Nursing.
2. To identify the purpose of library visits by the students of the College of Nursing.
3. To know the most used library resources by nursing students.
4. To identify the services used by the nursing students.

6. Data Presentation and Analysis

6.1 Gender-Wise Respondent

From table 1 below, 79 (91.86%) of the respondents were female, while 7 (8.13%) of the respondents were male. The total number of respondents recorded were 86.

Sl. No	Gender	No of respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Male	7	8.13%
2.	Female	79	91.86%
Total		86	100% (approx.)

Table 1: Gender-Wise Respondents

6.2 Category of respondents

From table 2 below, the total number of respondents was 86. The majority of the respondents were undergraduate students. 86.04% were undergraduate students while 13.95% were postgraduate students.

Sl. No	Category	No of respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	UG	74	86.04%
2.	PG	12	13.95%
Total		86	100% (approx.)

Table 2: Category of the Respondents

6.3 Year-Wise Category of the Respondents

From Table 3 below, UG first-year students have recorded the highest number of respondents i.e. 29 (33.72%), followed by UG third-year students. The lowest respondents were PG final year students i.e. 5 (5.81%).

Sl. No	Category	No of respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	UG 1 st Year	29	33.72%
2.	UG 2 nd Year	13	15.12%
3.	UG 3 rd Year	18	20.93%
4.	UG 4 th Year	14	16.27%
5.	PG 1 st Year	7	8.14%
6.	PG 2 nd Year	5	5.81%
Total		86	100% (approx.)

Table 3: Year-Wise Category of Respondents.

6.4 Frequency of the Library Visit

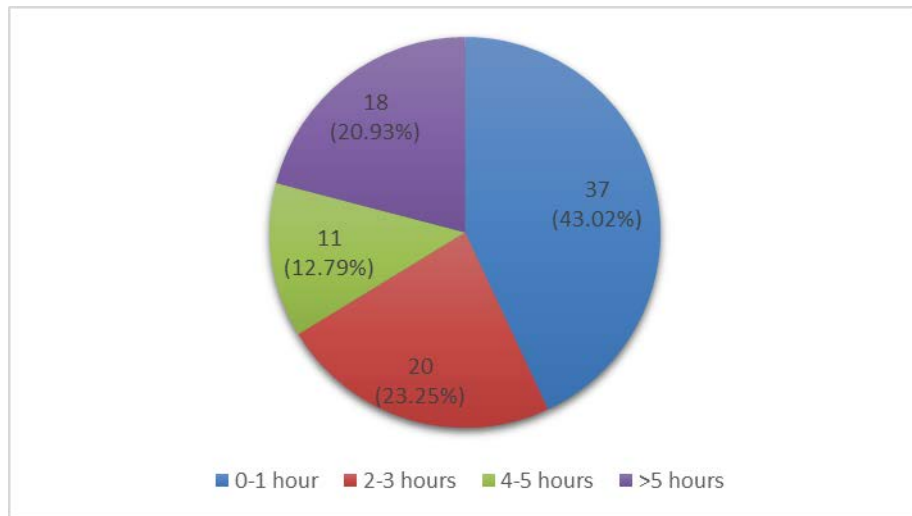
The response to the Frequency of using the Library varies from daily to occasionally. The below data in Table 4 shows that 13 (15.11%) respondents visit the library daily. 9 (10.46%) visiting the library thrice a week. 23 (26.74 %) users visit the library weekly, 3 (3.48%) visit the library fortnightly. While 17 (19.76%) and 21 (24.41%) visit the library monthly and occasionally. It is found that majority visiting once in a week.

Sl. No	Frequency of the library usage	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Daily	13	15.11%
2.	Thrice a week	9	10.46%
3.	Once in a week	23	26.74%
4.	Fortnightly	3	3.48%
5.	Monthly	17	19.76%
6.	Occasionally	21	24.41%
Total		86	100% (approx.)

Table 4: Frequency of the Library Usage

6.5 Time Spent in the Library

From figure 1, it is observed that 37 (43.02%) spent 0-1 hour in the library, 20 (23.25%) spent 1-2 hours, 11 (12.79%) spent 4-5 hours, and 18 (20.93%) spent greater than 5 hours in the library. The majority of the respondents prefer to



spend only up to one hour of time in the library.

Figure 1: Time Spent in the Library

6.6 Preferable Time to Visit Library

Every student has their preferred time to visit the library, depending upon their schedule. From figure 2, it is learned that 7 (8.13%) of the respondents prefer to visit the library in the morning hours, 46 (53.48%) prefer the afternoon hours, 24 (27.9%) prefer the evening hours, and 9 (10.46%) prefer night hours. The majority of the respondents prefer to visit library in the afternoon hours.

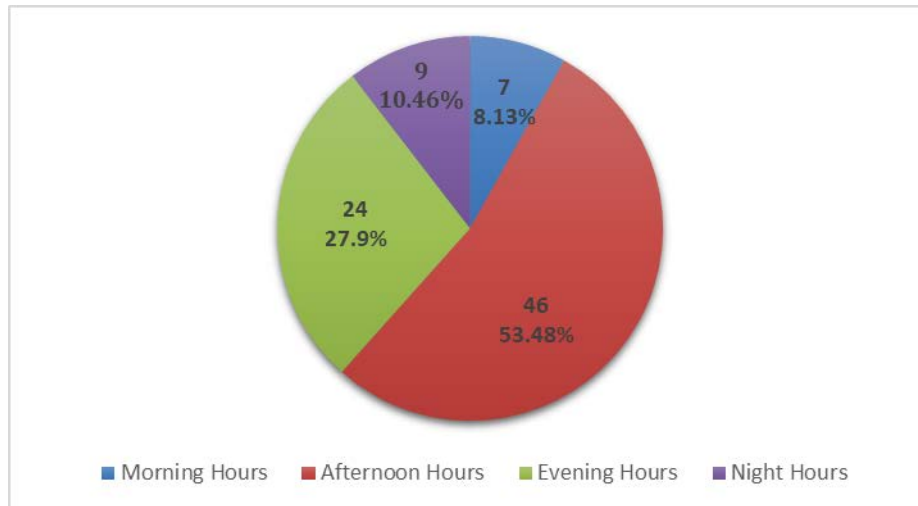


Figure 2: Preferable Time to Visit Library

6.7 Purpose of Visiting the Library

From the below table 5, shows that 34 (14.4%) respondents visited library with the purpose of self-study, followed by 49 (20.3%) to do assignments, 53 (22%) for borrowing or return books, 34 (14.1%) were reading reference books, 12 (4.97%) to read journal. While 8(3.31%) visiting library to read newspapers and magazines, 5 (2.07%) to access online resources, 7 (2.9%) to access internet facilities, 20 (8.3%) for getting information about patient's diagnoses. However, 16 (6.64%) visits library for photocopy of documents and only 3 (1.24%) for recreational readings. The above analysis indicates majority users are visiting the library for doing their assignments.

Sl. No	Purpose	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Self-Study	34	14.14%
2.	To do assignments	49	20.33%
3.	Borrowing /Returning Books	53	22%
4.	To read reference book	34	14.1%
5.	To read Journals	12	4.97
6.	To read Newspaper/Magazines	8	3.31
7.	To access online resources	5	2.07
8.	To access the Internet	7	2.9
9.	To get Information about	20	8.3

	patients		
10.	For photocopy of documents	16	6.64
11.	Recreational Reading	3	1.24
Total		241	100 (approx.)

(multiple responses are allowed)

6.8 Mostly Used Library Resources

The data in the below figure 3, shows that 37 (43.02%) respondents mostly used text books and subject books. followed by 31 (36.04%) using reference resources, 7(8.14%) referring electronic resources. 3 (3.48%) users are reading newspapers and magazines. While 6 (6.97%) and 2(2.34%) using print journals and online journals respectively. The analysis found that majority users mostly used Text books or Subject books.

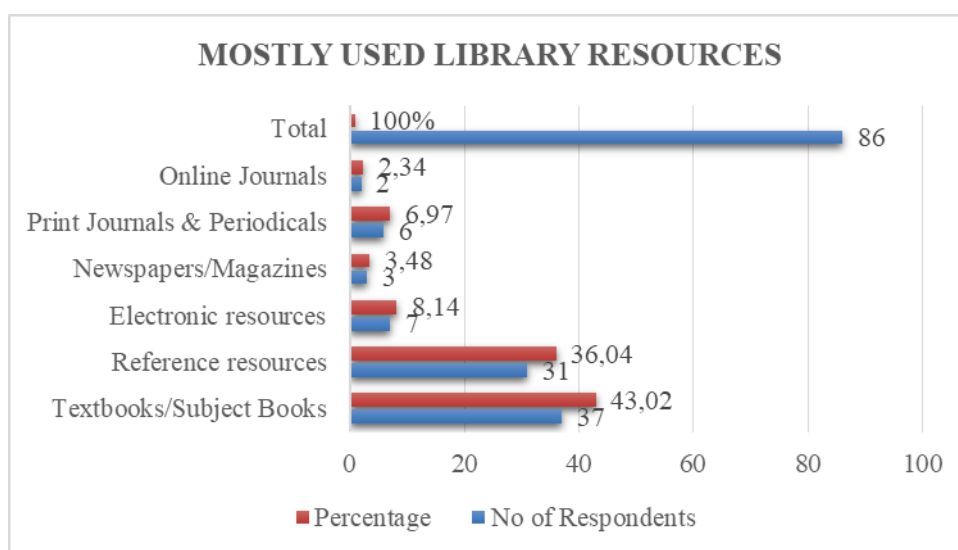
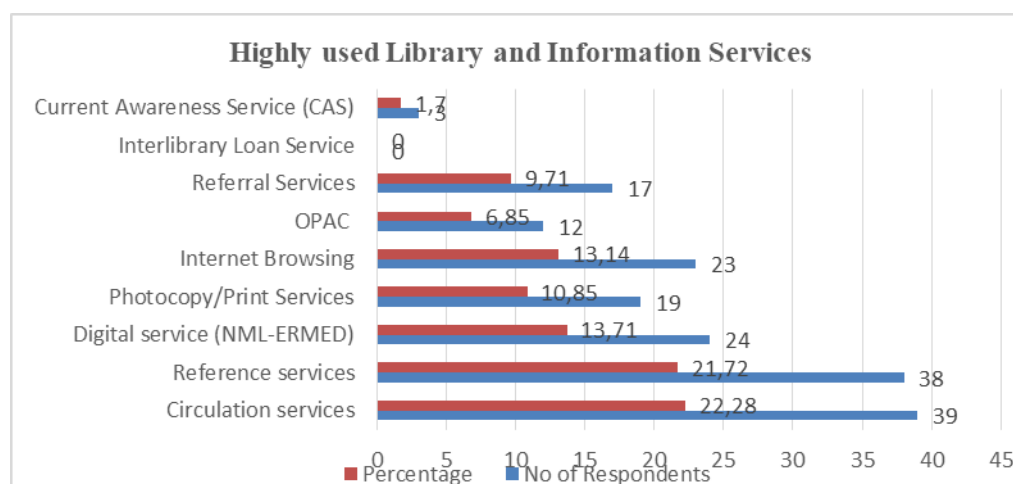


Figure3: Mostly Used Library Resources

6.9 Library Information Services Used by Library Users

The data in (figure 4) shows that 39 (22.28%) used circulation services, followed by Reference Services 38 (21.72%), Digital service (NML-ERMED) 24 (13.71%), Photocopy or Printing services 19 (10.85%), Internet Browsing 23 (13.14%) while OPAC is being used by 12 (6.85%), Referral Service 17

(9.71%), Current Awareness Service(CAS) is being only used by 3 (1.7%). Unfortunately, Interlibrary loan services were not used by respondents. It is found that the majority of the respondents are using the Circulation service.



(multiple responses are allowed)

Figure 4: Highly used library and information services

7. Findings

The major findings of the study are:

1. From the above data analysis, the nursing profession in the study is predominantly female, with 91.86% of respondents being female and 8.13% being male.
2. The majority of respondents belong to the undergraduate (UG) category (86.04%), with 33.72% being UG first-year students. PG category constitutes 13.95%, with the lowest representation from PG final year students (5.81%).
3. The above data shows that 13 (15.11%) respondents visit the library daily. (10.46%) visiting the library thrice a week. 23 (26.74 %) users

visit library weekly, (3.48%) visit library fortnightly. While (19.76%) and (24.41%) visit the library monthly and occasionally. It is found that the majority visit once a week.

4. Nursing students prefer to spend only a few hours in the library. From the data, it is observed that (43.02%) spent 0-1 hour in the library, (23.25%) spent 1-2 hours, (12.79%) spent 4-5 hours, and (20.93%) spent greater than 5 hours in the library.
5. From the data analysis, it is learned that the majority of respondents (53.48%) prefer to visit the library in the afternoon, followed by the evening (27.9%). A smaller percentage prefers morning (8.13%) or night hours (10.46%).
6. From the below table 5, shows that the primary purposes of library visits include self-study (14.4%), assignments (20.3%), borrowing/returning books (22%), and reading reference books (14.1%). The study suggests a strong focus on academic-related activities.
7. The data in the below figure 3, shows that Textbooks and subject books are the most commonly used resources (43.02%), followed by reference resources (36.04%). Electronic resources (8.14%) have a lower preference.
8. The data in the (table) shows that Circulation services are the most used (22.28%), followed by reference services (21.72%). Digital services, photocopy/printing services, and internet browsing are also utilized, while interlibrary loan services are not used.

Conclusions

These results shed light on the characteristics, practices, and preferences of nursing students with regard to library use. There is a demand for specialized library services and resources to assist students' academic aspirations, as shown by the focus on academic pursuits and the widespread usage of basic resources such as textbooks. It is commonly believed and acknowledged that the nursing profession is one that favors women. It was found that (91.86%) were female visitors. The response to the Frequency of using the Library varies from daily to occasionally. The majority of the users (50%) visit the library at least once a week, for the purpose of borrowing books (22%), doing assignments (20.33%), and self-study (14.14%). The most preferred resources for the nursing students were books and reference sources (almost 80%). The results of this study support the idea that nursing students would benefit from library services and resources that are specifically designed to meet their needs and interests. This might include initiatives to enhance the availability of relevant physical materials, as well as efforts to promote and facilitate the use of electronic resources.

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