ABSTRACT

In the present research, the researcher has made an attempt to study on Information Search and Information Literacy skills of Faculty Members of Polytechnic Colleges in Karnataka in utilizing Information Resources: An Analytical Study. 30 Government Polytechnic, 20 Aided Polytechnic and 18 Private Polytechnic colleges has been covered under the study.

For the purpose of collection of Data, a structured questionnaire was prepared for members of faculty of polytechnic colleges based on ACRL Information Literacy Competency for Higher Education. One more questionnaire was prepared for librarian of polytechnic colleges to know information resources available. The investigator conducted pilot study in Hassan district, 110 faculty members were randomly selected from various branches of 03 government and 02 private polytechnic colleges. Based on the output and inference by the pilot study the questionnaire was further revised and polished in its standard format, content and sequence for final use in the research.

A total of 1000 questionnaire were distributed randomly among the faculty member of polytechnic colleges in Karnataka State, out of which 730 filled up questionnaire were received back consisting of 73.0% response rate. The data collected is analysed by using SPSS 15.0 package. Hypothesis were tested and findings were drawn based on the objectives of the research. Statistical techniques such as frequency, percentage, chi-square test, ANOVA test and t-test were used.

The content of the thesis has been designed in the following six chapter. The first chapter begins with the topic of research. Then establishes the need and importance of the study. It states the research problems, definition of the concept, objectives and hypothesis of the study. It presents the methodology adopted for the study i.e. data collection, data collection tools. Further it explains statistical techniques used in data analysis and interpretation. It also explains in brief the organization of thesis.

The Second chapter gives the glimpses of information literacy Skills related areas. The reviews of the study is presented in the following heading such as
information search skills and information literacy skills. These studies are further arranged in ascending chronological orders.

The third chapter introduces the concept of information search and information literacy skills, then explains the concept with important meaning and definition. Further it states and explains the important models and standards of information literacy.

The fourth chapter reveals the historical development of polytechnic education in Karnataka. It also highlights importance, objectives, missions, functions and other activities of polytechnic education in Karnataka. It explains polytechnic colleges covered under study, institution establishment year. Further it explains about the library resources and services available in polytechnic colleges under study.

Chapter five explains the background information of the respondents covered under study in details including series of respondent’s demographical data, branch they belong to, designation, college they belong to, gender, age, education qualification, publication. The total numbers of questionnaire distributed and received back are presented. Further this chapter describes the interpretation of data on Information search and Information Literacy Skills with suitable statistical techniques such as Chi-Square test, ANOVA test, t-test. The data has been presented in the form of tables, graphs and figures.

The chapter six presents the summary of findings; it gives suggestions to improve information search and information literacy skill of members of faculty. Then concludes the study with suggestions for further research on the concerned field in India. The bibliography, faculty member and Librarian questionnaire are provided at the end of the thesis.

The study has served as a benchmark for the study on Information Search and Information Literacy skills of Faculty Members of Polytechnic Colleges in Karnataka in utilizing Information Resources. Further it is hoped that the result of the study facilitates the faculty members to evaluate and improve the information literacy skills to become lifelong learners.