

# **Use of IT in Information Gathering of Schedule Tribe Researchers: A Study**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The paper focuses on the use of Information Technology in Information Gathering of schedule Tribe students in Vidarbha Region. A total of 600 research students selected from the PhD degree programme at the various faculties in the university constituted the population of the study. Through a survey design, questionnaire was administered to gather data from the respondents. Four research questions were developed and answered by the respondents. The results indicated that major information needs of research students at the various faculties were considered for academic purpose and their primary purpose of seeking for information is for their reading activities.*

**KEYWORDS:** Information Technology, Role of Library, Researchers, Schedule Tribe Students.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Information is an essential ingredient of the socio-economic fabric of our country. It is a part of our lives. It is universal. We receive the information from and to our seniors, our peers, and our subordinates. Information is where it is concerned, there are haves and have nots.

Information seeking is a necessary but preliminary activity to the more significant Endeavour of using information for new knowledge to accomplish tasks and goals that encompass the work of a researcher or a professional.

Information Seeking is human process that requires adoptive and reflective control over the afferent and efferent action of the information seeker. Information Seeking is a dynamic and changeable process despite its final problem solving attributes. Information seeking is a great influence of personality thoughts, feelings, behaviour that distinguishes one person to another.

## **Scope and Limitations of the Study**

“Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Schedule Tribe Students in the Area of Vidarbha: A Study”. Scope of the study is Vidarbha and the study limited to the Social Sciences and Humanities faculty only.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

There are following objectives of the study:

- To study the use of ICT in information gathering of the Schedule Tribe students in Vidarbha area.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Gender of Respondents

**Table 1:** Gender wise distribution of Respondents

Gender	Respondents	Percentage
Male	514	85.7
Female	86	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Chi-square 305.307; df: 1,  $P < 0.05$ ; Table Value: 3.84

Above **Table 1** shows information regarding the gender wise distribution of tribal students of Vidarbha region. It is observed from the collected data, that majority of the tribal students i.e. 85.7% are male however, 14.3% respondents are females.

### Medium of the Research Study

**Table 2:** Medium of the Study of the Respondents

Medium of the Study	Respondents	Percentage
Marathi	478	79.7
Hindi	42	7.0
English	80	13.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Chi-square 583.24; df: 2,  $P < 0.05$ ; Table Value: 5.99

Above **Table 2** shows information regarding the medium of study of the tribal students of Vidarbha region. It is observed from the collected data, that 79.7% tribal students have completed their education in Marathi medium. In addition to it 13.3% respondents have studied in English medium whereas 7% respondents have taken education in hindi medium. Thus, on the basis of the study results, it is evident that majority of the tribal students of Vidarbha region have completed education in Marathi medium.

### Faculty of Research Work

**Table 3:** Faculty of Research Work undertaken by respondents

Faculty of Research Work	Respondents	Percent
Social Science	362	60.3
Humanities	238	39.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Above **Table 3** shows information regarding the faculty of research work of the tribal students of Vidarbha region. It is observed from the collected data, that 60.3% tribal students have done their research work in social science faculty however are post graduates. In addition to it 39.7% respondents have done their research work in humanities. Thus, on the basis of the study results, it is evident that majority of the tribal students of Vidarbha region are have done their research work in social science.

**Distribution of respondents with respect to University to which they belong**

**Table 4:** University wise distribution of respondents

Name of the University	Respondents	Percent
Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur	289	48.2
Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati	178	29.7
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli	133	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Above **Table 4** shows information regarding the distribution of the tribal students of Vidarbha region vis-à-vis the university to which they belong. It is observed from the collected data, that 48.2% tribal students are enrolled in the Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur, 29.7% tribal students are enrolled in the Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. In addition to it 22.2% respondents are enrolled in the Gondwana University, Gadchiroli. Thus, on the basis of the study results, it is evident that majority of the tribal students of Vidarbha region are enrolled in Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur.

**Preference for information source (Formal & Informal) and its use per week**

**Table 5:** Ranking of formal and informal sources of information used by the Respondents

**Electronic Information Sources**

Type of sources	Type of source	Ranking	Frequency of use (per week)
Electronic Information Sources	CD/DVD	5	Less than one
	Internet / Intranet	1	12
	E-Journals	2	9
	E- books	3	6
	Online databases	4	3
Other Technical Material of Information	Microfilms	9	Less than one
	Macrofiche	10	Less than one
	Magnetic Tapes	11	Less than one
Non Book Material	Maps	6	2
	Globes	8	Less than one
	Pamphlets	7	1

Above **Table 5** presents ranking of formal and informal sources of information used by the tribal students of Vidarbha region. It is observed from the collected data, that CD/DVD (electronic information source) is used less than once by the respondent and is ranked on 5<sup>th</sup> position. However Internet/Intranet is ranked on 1<sup>st</sup> position and is used by the respondents 12 times a week. In addition to this E-Journals are ranked on 2<sup>nd</sup> position while 9 times used in a week by the respondents. Moreover, E-Books ranked on 3<sup>rd</sup> position are used 6 times in a week by the respondents. Furthermore, online database ranked on 4<sup>th</sup> position is used 3 times a week.

In addition to it Microfilms (Other Technical Material of information) ranked on 9<sup>th</sup> position is used less than once a week. However, Macrofiche ranked 10<sup>th</sup> position is used less than once a week whereas Magnetic Tapes are used less than once a week and it is on 11<sup>th</sup> position.

In addition to it Maps (Non Book Material) ranked 6<sup>th</sup> position is used twice a week. However, Globes ranked at 8<sup>th</sup> position is used less than once a week whereas Pamphlets are used once a week and is on 7<sup>th</sup> position.

### Methods adopted for searching useful references of your interest

**Table 6:** Method for searching reference by the respondents

Methods adopted for searching references	Respondents	Percent
Library catalogues (OPAC/Web OPAC)	48	8.0
Consulting colleagues and publishers	80	13.3
References from bibliographies & review literature	69	11.5
Consulting Library Staff	264	44.0
Citations in books, reports, Journals articles	94	15.7
E-mail content alerts from publishers	206	34.3
Browsing online	388	64.7
Browsing library shelves	146	24.3

Above **Table 6** shows information regarding the method of searching reference by the tribal students of Vidarbha region. It is observed from the collected data, that 8% respondents use library catalogues (OPAC/Web OPAC) for searching reference whereas 13.3% respondents consult colleagues and publishers. In addition to it 11.5% respondents use bibliographies and review of literature however 44%, 15.7% and 34.3% respondents consult library staff, refer citations in books, reports, journal articles and refer e-mail content alerts of publishers respectively for searching references. Moreover 64.7% and 24.3% respondents browse online and browse library shelves for searching references. Thus, on the basis of the study results, it is evident that majority of the tribal students of Vidarbha region browse online for searching references.

### Method of abreasting the current developments in your field

**Table 7:** Method of abreasting the current developments in your field

Method of abreasting current development	Respondents	Percentage
Scanning current issues or print/Online journals	104.0	17.3
Scanning recent issues of abstracting tools	87.0	14.5
Attending conferences	30.0	5.0
Internet/E-mail alerts	245.0	40.8
Through services from library	48.0	8.0
Personal communication	22.0	3.7
List server, E-archive, database as ADS, etc.	64.0	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>600.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Chi-square 405.638; df: 6, P=<0.05; Table Value: 12.59

Above **Table 7** shows information regarding the method of abreasting of current development of their field done by the tribal students of Vidarbha region. It is observed from the collected data, that 40.8% tribal students abreast the current development by means of internet/e-mail alerts however 17.3% and 14.5% tribal students do this by scanning current issues or print/online journals and scanning recent issues of abstracting tools respectively. In addition to it 10.7% and 8% tribal students do the collection development through list server, e-archive, and database as ADS etc. and through library services respectively. Furthermore, a 5% and 3.7% tribal student does collection development by attending conferences and by means of personal communication respectively. Thus, on the basis of the study results, it is evident that majority of the tribal students of Vidarbha region abreast current development by means of internet/e-mail alerts.

### **CONCLUSION**

Information accessing from the library, online sources e-resources and on internet needs particular training. Without such training no one can't seek, use information properly. 582 research scholars get formal training to sort out needed information and most of them said that the training was useful. Photocopying, internet and computers are the preferred objects by the research scholars in information gathering process. Most of the research scholars feel impact of IT on their library visit. Average impact in percentage is recorded by the research scholars is 50-75%. It means IT plays a tremendous role in information communication. Research scholars usually prefer Library and internet cafe for use of internet. Today's generation is deeply blended with social media. Earlier it seems that it was used for fun. But today it came into existence as a mode of information communication. Research scholars can use such media for information gathering too. It is occurred from the study that most of the respondents use social media and they are using it as a mode of information gathering. Facebook and WhatsApp are the popular apps among the respondents of the study. Some of the research scholars face difficulties while seeking information through online sources. According to the research scholars sorting, scanning of particular piece of information from huge data is time lagging. They face difficulty while handling of IT based devices.

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