“Grey Literature in Engineering Sciences and Technology and its Use Pattern in the Research Institutions in India: The Case Study of Karnataka State

By

N. Chowdappa
Chief Librarian
B.M.S. College of Engineering, Bangalore, India.

C.P. Ramasesh
Deputy Librarian
University of Mysore, Mysore, India.
Objectives

- To understand the use pattern of GL by the research supervisors (Faculty Guides) and research scholars
- To know the extent of sharing of GL among the regional libraries
- To comprehend training requirements of librarians and the users
- To suggest measures for facilitating access to GL

Scope


Methodology

- Questionnaire was used to capture the responses from the librarians, as well as, the users.
- Category of Users: 340 Faculty Guides and 930 Research Scholars.
- The percentage of total users covered in the study is 84.6.
- Out of 172 engineering colleges in Karnataka, 65 are recognized as research centres.
61.5% of faculty guides and 63% of the research scholars frequently or most frequently access GL.
- Large segment of users depend to a moderate extent of 25% to 50%
- Users mainly seek technical reports and proceedings
- Users need to be educated about the resources and services of regional libraries
Method of locating GL in the libraries

- 36.1% rely upon catalogues
- 27.3% refer new arrival lists
- 31.3% browse at the shelf
Professors and Associate Professors with long experience use GL frequently than the Lecturers. Theses, Dissertations, Tech. Reports and Proceedings are useful in the Highest Range of 75% to 100%.
Large majority of researchers rely upon theses, dissertations, tech. reports and proceedings of CSW in the highest range of 75% to 100% for research endeavour.
Large segment of female users are unaware of GL collections of Regional Libraries.

They need union lists / on-line catalogues / Orientation.
Response on Weeding-out of Old GL Collection

TOTAL GL COLLECTION: 131795

Theses: 0.6%
Dissertations: 60.6%
Inst. Pubn.: 7.2%
Trade Lit.: 2.6%
Tech. Rep.: 16.8%
Proceedings: 12.5%

Users: 1260

67% of the respondents prefer to retain the old collection of GL
The large majority of the faculty and researchers need orientation / training.
The large majority of the working librarians need orientation / training to a Higher Extent.
Conclusions / Recommendations

1. Maintain Institutional Publications and Trade Literature in coloured box files, arranged in the chronological order.
2. Irrespective of cadre, every faculty and researcher be encouraged to participate, recommend and provide feed-back for collection development.
3. Organise O.P. periodically to facilitate access to GL.
5. Vidyanidhi Project of Indian digital theses may also cover theses available with VTU
6. Creation of open repository by VTU is recommended. Digitization of Proceedings to be taken-up on feed back of users:
   - Digitise entire collection of proceedings
   - Digitise only the recent ones of 3 to 5 years
   - Digitise only the active collection / those that are in demand
   - Digitise considering areas of research interest / thrust areas of research

Digital repositories facilitating on-line access is recommended. VTU has to venture in this direction to augment quality research.