

# Skills and competencies of Users in Panchayath Libraries in Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District

**Dr. M Raghunandana**

Asst. Professor

Dept of Library and Information science  
Bangalore University, Bangalore.

Received: Feb. 19, 2018

Accepted: March 22 , 2018

## ABSTRACT

*Information is a fact provided or learned about something or someone. Literacy is an ability to learn, analyses, comprehend and state of thought process for providing individual conclusion / opinion. The study fixed a goal of finding the skills and competencies of users in Panchayath Libraries in Nelamangala Taluk. This Research article studied user's educational backgrounds, their knowledge on technology.*

## 1. Introduction

The present IT era witnessed the fast growth of knowledge system and more complexity in the human development. To cater the needs of the present corporate world, Lifelong Learning programmes are to be organized. In this regards IFLA has given a guideline to the Libraries to adapt Information Literacy programmes in all disciplines, faculties and all the levels of academic system. This is a paradigm shift from Instructor-centered to Learner-centered skill development system.

With the help of Information Literacy tools a learner can;

- ❖ Access the required information efficiently.
- ❖ Critically evaluate the required information.
- ❖ Apply the selected information to solve the problem and increase one's knowledge base.
- ❖ Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
- ❖ Understand the multi-dimensions of information, and utilize properly.

### 1.1 Definition of Information Literacy

**According to Paul Zurkowski** Information Literacy is "People trained in the application of information resources to their work can be called information literates. They have learned techniques and skills for utilizing the wide range of information tools as well as primary sources in mounding information - solution to their problems."

### 1.2 Need for the study:

Information resources and services and users' level of satisfaction regarding the libraries' documentary sources and services. Findings of the earlier studies have shown the majority of the rural community depend upon informal channels of information communication. One of the possible reasons for this may be illiteracy or lack of awareness about the utility of the library. Hence, there is need to develop library resources and services to satisfy the information needs of literates as well as semi-literates, neo-literates and illiterates.

### 1.3 Objectives:

This study aims at understanding the use of information among the Postgraduate students and faculty members of colleges affiliated to the University of Karnataka. Other important objectives are given below.

1. To evaluate the level of information literacy among the users of Panchayath libraries in Nelamangala Taluk .
2. To compare information literacy among different categories of users among Panchayath Libraries.
3. To know whether the Panchayath library user's applying information seeking skills in searching the needed information.
4. To get an insight from the data provided by the Panchayath library user's in order to develop information literacy Programmes in future.
5. To make suggestions for improving information literacy among the Panchayath library user's.
6. Find out the user awareness of the Library Classification and Cataloguing.

**1.4 Scope of the study:**

The scope of the study is on skills and competencies on the users of Panchayath Libraries. The study was limited to the 17 Panchayath Libraries out of 24 Selected libraries in NelamangalaTaluk.

**1.5 Methodology:**

An author was used simple Random Sampling Techniques. A total of 100 questionnaires were distributed in 17 Library and 82 questionnaires were received back and analyzed for present study. The research study was conducted on the basis of a questionnaire survey and a well-structured questionnaire was distributed to 100 users and 82 questionnaires are responses by the users 18 questionnaires are not answered. The questionnaires prepared with 10 questions. After analyzing the responses of users Findings suggestion and conclusion drawn by the Investigates. References are listed and applied American Psychological Association (APA) method of Bibliography.

**2. Growth and development of Panchayath libraries**

Way back to middle age the kings of Vijayanagara Empire established good libraries and also they had donated land for the libraries. TippuSulthan established a personal library. During Mysore Kings dynasty the translation of ancient literature undertaken by NalwadiKrishnarajaWodeyar and his successes, JayachamarajaWodeyar.

In the development of rural areas Panchayath libraries has a pivotal role by offering information dissemination services based upon knowledge for various public groups, on social, political, economic, cultural and other matters. Panchayath libraries play very dominant role in the welfare of the rural masses. Panchayath library can act as community information center to improve living condition and quality of life by fulfilling each and every information need, those which are assist individual for their day to day problem solving. The Karnataka Panchayath Raj Act, 1993 aims to achieve democratic decentralization especially for the rural areas. Karnataka enacted the new Panchayath Raj Act incorporating all the mandatory provisions of 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution.

**3. Review of Literature**

**Lindstrom, Joyce & Shonrock Diana, D. (2017)** as per the study of more institutions of higher education recognize the importance of information literacy, the collaborative role for librarians is growing. Integration of information-literacy instruction is the key to successful student learning, and librarians are using various collaborative models on teams and as co-instructors in courses, learning communities, and campus-wide information literacy initiatives.

**Julien, Heidi (2016)** explained as information literacy, as a concept, has suffered from terminological confusion and has been burdened with untenable expectations. In addition, insufficient attention has been given to the place of information with the context of information behavior or information practices generally. Significant challenges remain to developing information literacy, but its value remains relevant.

**4. Data Analysis and Interpretation**

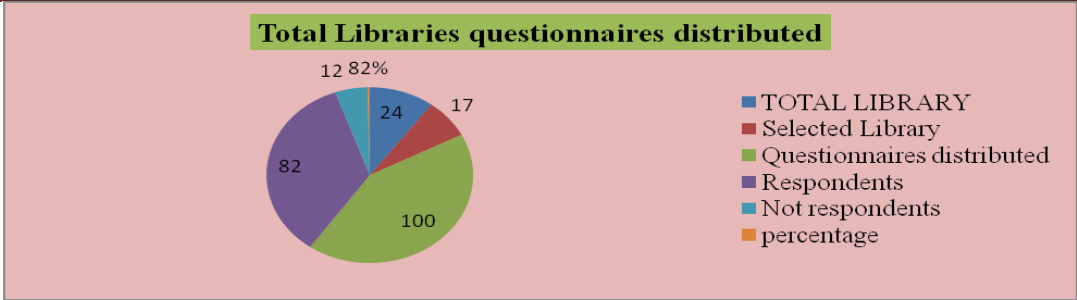
Data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. It is a messy, ambiguous, time-consuming, creative, and fascinating process. Quantitative data analysis is a search for general statements about relationships among categories of data." To complete this study properly, it is necessary to analyses the data collected in order to test the hypothesis and answer the research questions. Data is interpreted in a descriptive form.

This chapter comprises the analysis, presentation and interpretation of the findings resulting from the analysis and study. On interpretation of data is carried out on the basis of the results of the questionnaire which deals with a quantitative analysis of data.

**Table1 Total Libraries and questionnaires distributed**

In this study the investigator was selected information literacy among panchayat libraries in NelamangalaTaluk. Total 24 libraries in the taluk, out of this visited 17 libraries and 100 questionnaires were distributed. Only 82 questionnaires completed. Remaining 18 users were not responded.

Total Library	Selected Library	Questionnaires Distributed	Respondents	Not Respondents	Percentage
24	17	100	82	12	82%



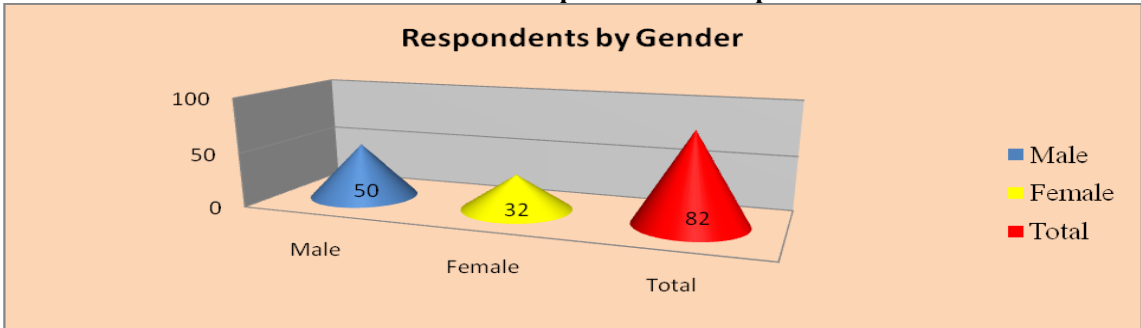
Graph1

**Table 2 Gender wise Respondents**

Male	Female	Total
50(60.97%)	32(39.02%)	82(100%)

The table 2 represents gender wise respondents of the library. 50 (60.97) were male respondents and 32(39.02%) were female respondents.Total 82(100%) respondents.

Gender wise Respondents in Graph



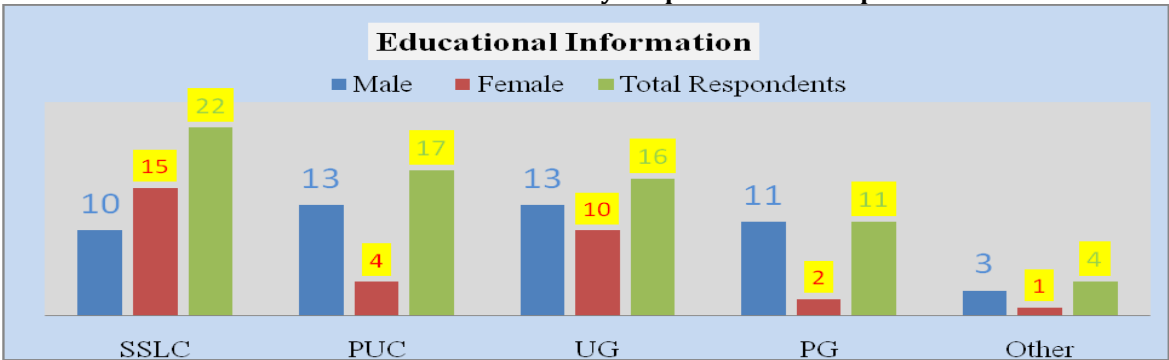
Graph 2

**Table 3Educational Information by Respondents**

Educational Information	Male	Female	Total Respondents
SSLC	10	15	25
PUC	13	4	17
UG	13	10	23
PG	11	2	13
Other	3	1	4
Total	50	32	82

Table 3 shows user Educational information. Starting from S 10 male Students and 15 Female Respondents have qualified SSLC. 13 Male and 4 Female respondents were process PUC. 13 Male and 10 Female Users respondents process UG. 11 Male and 2 Female Respondents qualified PG. 4 respondents have Other Qualification.

Educational Information by Respondents in Graph

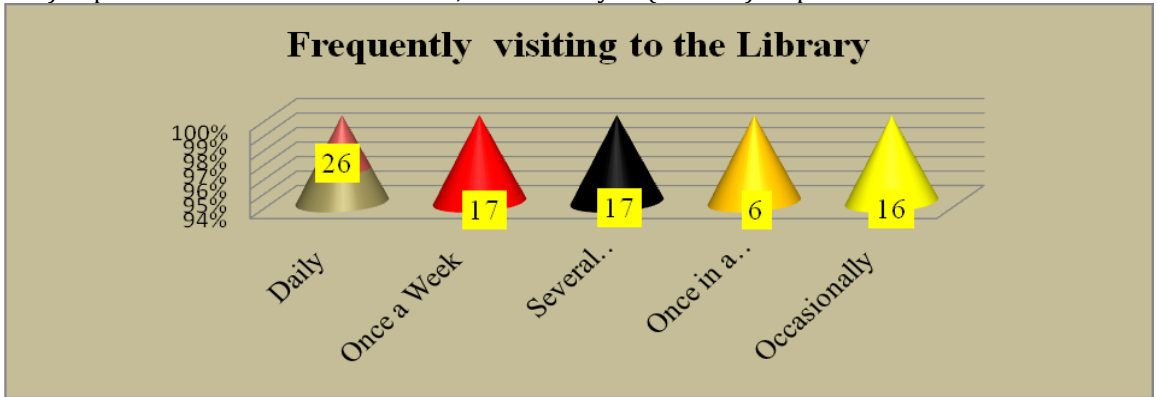


Graph3

Table 4 frequently visiting to the Library

Frequency	Respondents	Total Percentage
Daily	26	31.70%
Once a Week	17	20.73%
Several time in Week	17	20.73%
Once in a Month	6	7.31%
Occasionally	16	19.51%
Total	82	(100%)

The table 4 shows visitors of the Library.26 (31.70%)respondents visitsDaily.17 (20.73%)respondents visitsOnce a Week.17 (20.73%)respondents visits Several time in Week,6 (7.31%)respondents visits Once in a Month, Occasionally 16(19.51%) respondents.



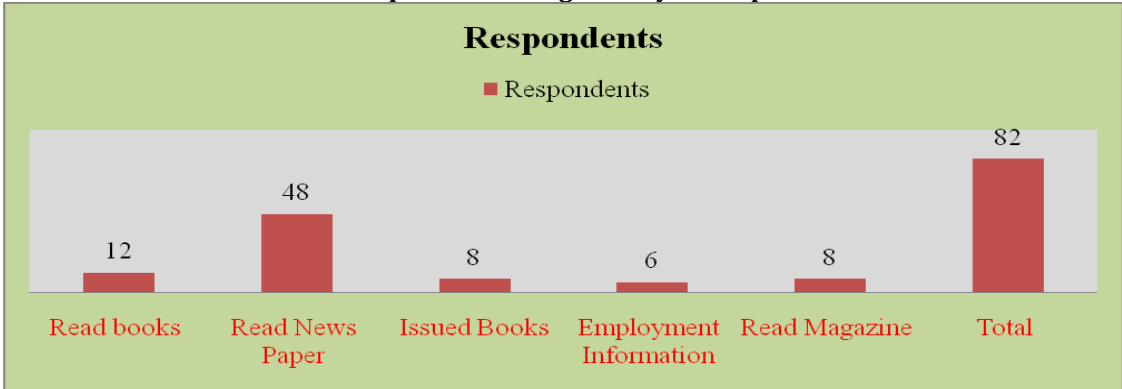
Graph 4

Table 5Purpose of visiting Library

Frequency	Read books	Read News Paper	Issued Books	Employment Information	Read Magazine	Total
Respondents	12(14.63)	48(58.53%)	8(9.73%)	6(7.3%)	8(9.73%)	82

The table 5 shows purpose of visiting the Library.12 (14.63) visits forReadingbooks, and 48(58.53%) visits to readNewsPaper.8 (9.73) visitsforIssued Books. 6 (7.3%) visits to read Employment Information, 8(9.73%) visits toRead Magazine.

Purpose of visiting Library in Graph

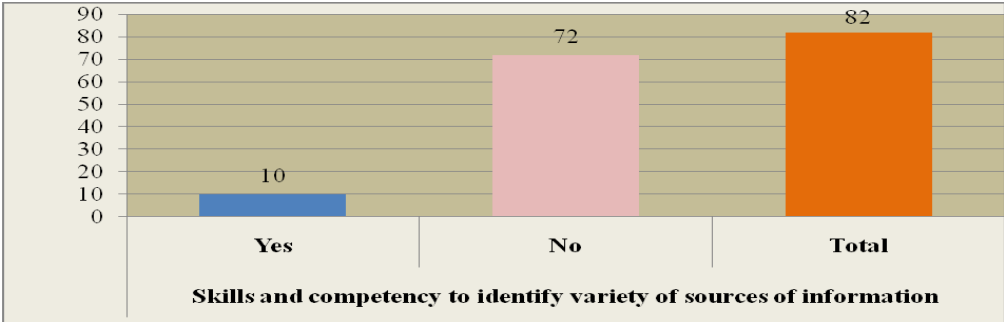


Graph 5

Table 6Skills and competency to identify variety of sources of information

Yes	No	Total
10(12.19%)	72(87.80%)	82(100%)

The Table 6data showsaboutSkills and competency to identify variety of sources of information of the respondents.10 (12.19%) respondents are have the skills to identify the resources and 72(87.81%) respondents do not have the skills.

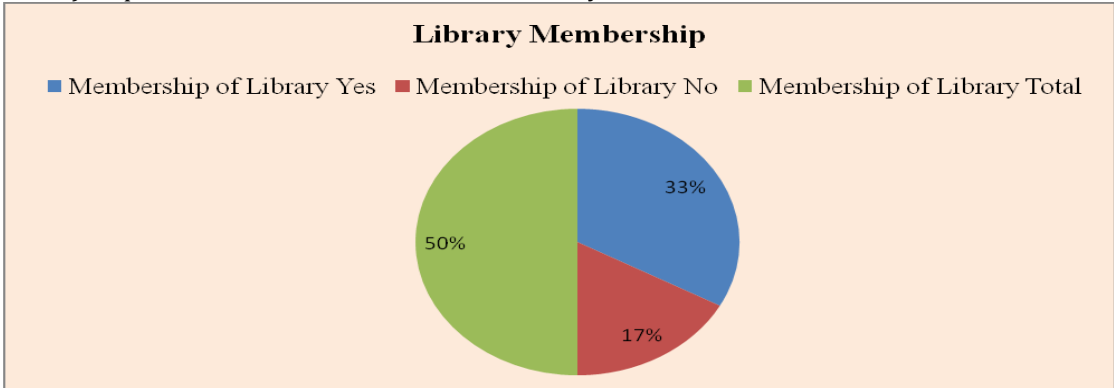


Graph 6

Table 7Membership of Library by respondent

Membership of Library		
Yes	No	Total
54(65.85%)	28(34.14%)	82 (100%)

The Table 7 data shows the Membership of Library. 54(65.85%) respondents having membership in library. 28(34.14%) respondents were not member of the Library.



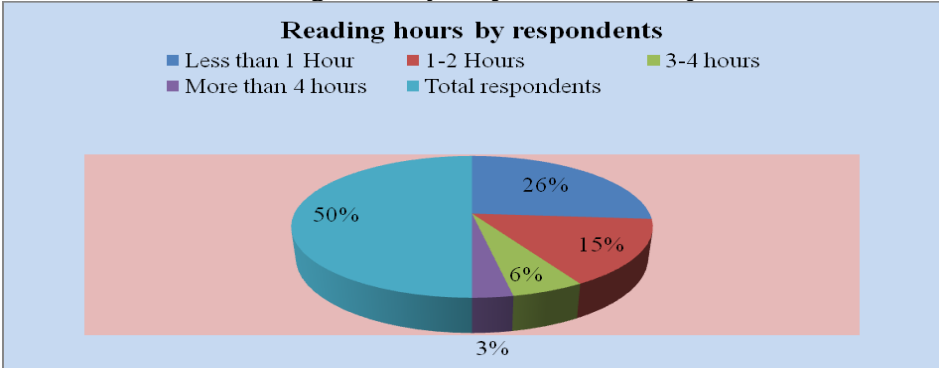
Graph7

Table 8User Reading hours in Library

Reading Hours by Users				
Less than 1 Hours	1-2 Hours	3-4 Hours	More than 4 Hours	Total respondents
43(52.43%)	25(30.48%)	9(10.97%)	5(6.09%)	82(100%)

The table 8 represents the reading hours of the users. 43(52.43%) respondents read less than 1 hour.25(30.48%) respondents read 1-2 hours, 9 (10.97%) respondents read 3-4 hours, 5(6.09%) respondents read more than 4 hours.

Reading Hours by Respondents in Graph

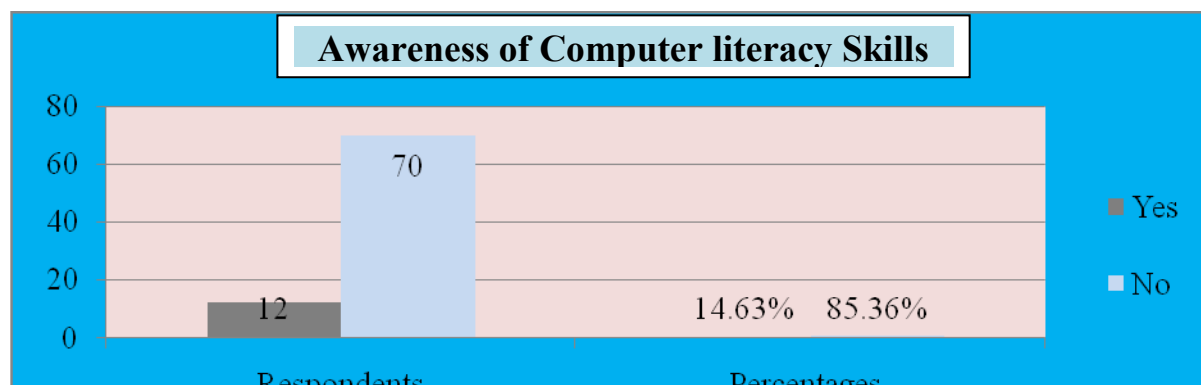


Graph 8

**Table 9Aware of computer Literacy skills**

The table 9 shows the Data of Awareness of Computer Literacy Skills .12(14.63%)Users Aware of Computer Literacy, Reaming70 Users were do not Aware of Computer Literacy.

Frequency	Respondents	Percentages
Yes	12	14.63%
No	70	85.36%

**Graph 9**

## 5. Findings, Suggestion and Conclusion

### 5.1 Findings

- ❖ The Problem of Panchayath Library users Not Aware of Computer Literacy Skills.
- ❖ Highest Number of users respondents from SSLC 30% using Library in every day.
- ❖ 28(34.14%) users they are not having membership ID.
- ❖ 44(55.32%) respondents spent to less than 1 hours for reading.
- ❖ 31.70% of users well response in daily visiting to the Library.
- ❖ 57.49% respondents are not satisfactory of Library furniture.
- ❖ The respondents are not fully satisfied with the library facilities and infrastructure.

### 5.2 Hypothesis Tested

1. **The various services provided by the Panchayath libraries are not effective and not efficient to meet the various needs of the users.**  
According to the data in the table 6, the various services provided by the Panchayath libraries are not effective and not efficient to meet the various needs of the users. Hence the hypothesis has been accepted.
2. **There is no significance difference among the respondents awareness of various information resources and services provided in Panchayath Libraries.**  
According to the data in table:13there is no significance difference among the respondents awareness of various information resources and services provided in Panchayath Libraries therefore the hypothesis can be valued.
3. **There is no proper building and infrastructure facility to the Panchayath library.**  
According to data in the table 12, there is no proper building and infrastructure facility to the Panchayath library hence the hypothesis has been accepted.
4. **Majority of Librarian would not be conducted Information Literacy Programs.**According to the data represented in table 14 majority of Librarian would not be conducted Information Literacy Programs therefore the hypothesis can be valued.

### 5.3 Suggestions

- ❖ The library staff should be skilled enough to assist the users when they face any problem in accessing library collections and its services.
- ❖ It is suggested OPAC facility must be provided in the library premises as well as outside the premises.

- ❖ It is suggested that computer networking facility be made available in the library campus of the panchayath libraries.
- ❖ It is suggested that library should make an arrangement to provide current or latest information to the visitors.
- ❖ It is suggested that the sharing of online library catalogue to webpage be promoted.
- ❖ It is suggested that proper documentation of the services of panchayath libraries be done with the help of library personnel.

#### 5.4 Conclusions

It is a responsibility of Public Library to up to date collection and give importance to collect the general books on all subjects keeping in the mind the different kinds of users. The Panchayath Library should be automated and well networked to provide web-based service to the rural student community. It is the responsibility of a Panchayath Library to fulfill the needs of the users to encourage them to visit and use the library. This study is a small attempt to know the information search, literacy & access of information level of the Panchayath library user's because information literacy skills are very essential to search, access and retrieving of information from the library. This research provided insight in to the Information Search and Information Literacy Skills of Panchayath library users in utilizing Information Resources.

#### Bibliography

1. Amritpal, Kaur (2012). Information Literacy among the students in the electronic environment: A case study of Punjab Agricultural University: Professional Journal of Library and Information Technology, 2 (1)
2. AzuraMokhtar, IntanMajidshaheen& Foo Schubert (2008). Information Literacy Education: Applications of mediated learning and multiple intelligences: Library & Information Science Research, 30, 195-206.
3. Balasubramanian, B. &Vijaya Kumar, S. (2014). Attitudes of Faculty Members, Research Scholars and Students Towards Information Literacy: IASLIC Bulletin, 59 (2), 73-81.
4. Chen,Yu-Hui (2014). Testing the impact of an Information Literacy course: Undergraduate's perceptions and use of the University Libraries Web Portal – Library & Information Science Research, 37, 263-274.
5. Christine, Bruce (2000). Information Literacy dimension of the emerging collections: consciousness ALIA.
6. Cowan, Sandra & Eva, Nicole (2016). Changing Our Aim: Infiltrating Faculty with Information Literacy:Communication in information Literacy, 10 (2).
7. Donna, Witek& Teresa Grettano (2012). Information Literacy on Face book: an analysis: Reference Services Review, 40 (2), 242-257. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/00907321211228309>
8. Dunne, Siobhan & Sheridan, Vera (2012). Developing First Year Student Information Literacy: Reflections on The Learning Process: All Ireland Journal of Teaching And Learning in Higher Education, 4 (1)
9. EbeleAnyaku, ChinweAnunobi&Monicaeze, Eberechukwu (2015). Information Literacy Skills and Perceptions of Librarians in Colleges of Education in Nigeria: Information & Knowledge Management 5 (8), ISSN-2224-896X
10. Ejedafiru, Efe Francis (2015). Public Library and Information Literacy Programme: Mainstreaming Rural Populate for Information Literacy in Delta State. Developing Country Studies, 5 (10) ISSN 2224-607X Google Scholars-scholar.google.com
11. Hadimani, Manjunath B. &Rajgoli, Iqbalahmad U. (2010). Assessing Information Literacy Competence among the Undergraduate Students of College of Agriculture, Raichur: A Case Study: DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology, 30 (2), 70-78.
12. Harding, Jane (2008). Information Literacy and the Public library: we've talked the talk, but are we walking the walk: Australian Library Journal, ISSN: 0004-9670