



A Study of the Library Use Practices of High School Students of Surat city

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1. Introduction

Although the public library is considered one of the primary public services available to all citizens, an examination of literature discussing the use of libraries reveals that this is not necessarily true, especially in regard to the availability of resources for children and adolescent users. Unfortunately, a pattern of increasing monetary competition among public service agencies led many libraries to reduce the services available to their young users because of perceived demographic and social trends. Examples of these perceived trends include increased life expectancies that lead to the need for different types of library services, the expansion of electronic and visual media over print media, and the lessening of the need for public libraries because of the privatization of the knowledge industry. Related trends include illiteracy and declining academic achievement, increasing numbers of working and single mothers, youth employment patterns, and a decreasing population of children.

Although it is not clear how the future will affect libraries, it is known that many supervisors and librarians in the area of young adult services lost their positions during the 1970s and 1980s because of budget cutbacks, and these positions have not been replaced. In a 1988 survey, researchers found that 45% of responding libraries did not have a young adult librarian or coordinator on staff. This 1988 survey supported the findings of a 1979 Delphi study in which experts agreed that although young adult services should continue and expand, only 41% of the respondents predicted that this expansion would occur. In 1993, it was found that only 11% of public libraries had a young adult librarian,

whereas young adults comprised 25% of the clientele and used more materials than expected, based on population demographics.

Unfortunately, in many instances youth services are perceived as dispensable. Reasons cited have included a lack of recognition as to the importance and legitimacy of young adult public library services by the community, shortages of staff and library personnel, the perceived relative unimportance of young people in the society, and the belief that young people are an interruption to business. This might have resulted from the belief that teenagers are viewed with suspicion, hostility, or ambivalence. They have often been seen as "noisy sarcastic creatures filled with an abundance of sexual energy". Additionally, there has been no clear understanding of how young adult needs and services differed from the services provided for adults and children. There is also no nationally recognized definition of the age, maturation level, or social status of young adults, which makes it more difficult to provide the appropriate resources and services. Finally, unlike elder populations, young adults do not vote or pay taxes.

In addition to a lack of understanding about the role of young adult library services, there is also a lack of research concerning and justifying the importance of youth services in a library, including an examination of the library's multiple roles in different communities, how and why adolescent library patrons make use of library resources, the resources they use, and how effectively their needs are being met. This lack of knowledge and understanding may have contributed to decreased funding and resources. School libraries also face decreased state and

federal funding. Similar to public libraries, there is a lack of knowledge as to how young adult library patrons make use of the school library.

The lack of knowledge and understanding in both the public library and school library setting is unfortunate, because today's children form the basis of a library's future users and supporters. Larger percentage of the children of former child library users visited and used the library on a regular basis, whereas a smaller percentage of the children of parents who did not visit the library in their youth visited and used the library.

2. Statements of the Problems

A Study of the Library Use Practices of High School Students of Surat city.

3. Objectives

1. To Study the demographic characteristics of the library patrons.
2. To Study the age of the student when he or she first visited the library.
3. To Study any differences in male and female students use the library.

4. Research Question

Five research questions were developed to act as a guide in completing this study. They were:

1. What are the demographic characteristics of the library patrons who participated in this survey?
2. Is the age of the student when he or she first visited the library related to how often he or she visited the library during the current school year?
3. Are there differences in why and how male and female students use the library? If so, what are the differences?

5. Research Design

This quantitative study was designed to use the descriptive and causal-comparative methods to identify and examine how high school students use the library and its resources. The causal-comparative method, also known as ex post facto research, is used to "discover possible causes and effects of a behaviour pattern or personal characteristic by comparing individuals in whom it is present with individuals in whom it is absent or present to a lesser degree". This method was selected because the participants were already in

existing groups and because possible causal variables had already influenced other variables. A student questionnaire was the primary source of data. However, because of the low response rate, qualitative survey interviews were conducted to supplement the quantitative analysis.

6. Population and Sample

The population of this study consisted of all 11th STD students attending high schools located in surat city. Each of the schools was a public high school including in the study. The 11th STD class was selected because the majority of the students should have had two years to visit and use the school library's resources. 11th STD was also selected because their responses could possibly be used to improve their library experiences during their 12th STD year.

Each of the schools was operated by the state government school system. Table 1 shows the study's total population and the sample size. Each school had a varied socioeconomic and ethnic population. The participating classrooms were selected by the principal with the teachers' agreement. The school principals, students, and parents were required to grant written permission before the students participated in the study.

Table 1: Participating Schools

School	Population	Sample Size	Responses	(%) Response Rate
1.	105	45	24	53
2.	122	55	38	69
3.	123	55	42	76
4.	90	30	21	70
5.	120	35	23	66
6.	98	30	19	63
Total	658	250	167	66.80

7. Instrumentation

The instrument used in this study was developed after an examination of similar studies that identified variables considered important in the description of library users and their patterns of library use. The student questionnaire was designed to identify how and why high school students use the public library and school library. It also addressed the influence teachers were perceived by students to have on their library use.

In this instruments total 30 items. There is a difference type sentence in instruments.

8. Data Analysis

Frequency tables were used to identify characteristics of the study's participants in response to the study's research question.

9. Results

A total number of two hundred and fifty (250) copies of questionnaire were administered to public higher secondary school students in each selected school in Surat. One hundred and sixty seven (167) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved representing 66.80 %.

Research Question # 1

What are the demographic characteristics of the library patrons who participated in this survey?

Table 2: Male and Female Students

Male	Urban	45 (26.95%)
	Rural	50 (29.94%)
Female	Urban	33 (19.76%)
	Rural	39 (23.35%)
	Total	167 (100.00%)

Table 3: Frequency Distribution Identifying Where Students Locate Materials to Complete School Assignments

Location	f	%
School Library	115	68.86
Home Library	09	05.39
Public Library	30	17.96
Classroom Library	13	11.38
Total	167	100.00

Table 4: Frequency Distribution Identifying Where Students Locate Books for Recreational Reading

Location	f	%
Book Store	12	7.19
School Library	75	44.91
Home Library	08	4.79
Public Library	23	13.77
Classroom Library	13	07.78
Internet	19	11.38
Friends	17	10.18
Total	167	100.00

Research Question # 2

Is the age of the student when he or she first visited the library related to how often he or she visited the library during the current school year?

Table 5: Statistical Analysis of Library Use as a Child and Library Use during the Previous School Year

Library Use during Previous School Year	f	%
Public Library	42	25.15
School Library	125	74.15
Total	167	100.00

Research Question # 3

Are there differences in why and how male and female students use the library? If so, what are the differences?

Table 5: Regular Use as a Child

Type Of Library	F	%
School Library	111	66.47
Home Library	16	9.58
Class Library	16	9.58
Public Library	24	14.37
Total	167	100.00

10. Discussion of Findings

There is a clear indication that mostly students are used school library more than home, class and public library. 68.86% Students Locate Materials to Complete School Assignments. 44.91% Students are Locate Books for Recreational Reading. 74.15 % Students are school Library Use as a Child and Library Use during the Previous School Year. 66.47 % students are used the school library for the study. After above all discussion we found school library is most useful for school life. There are so many type libraries in the society but school library such a play importance role of school life.

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