

Information Seeking Behaviours and its Aspect in Legal Perspective

Karna Singh¹, Bulu Maharana²

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Abstract

Individuals are thought to be the most intelligent animals in the natural world. He works hard to make his life easier by learning new things through various approaches such as observation and experiments. He employs many strategies to make advantage of all available information in this process. Information is a structured sequence of symbols that can be understood as a message, in the strictest technical meaning. This document attempts to define the terms "information," "information use," and "information seeking." The study examines the trend in the information seeking behaviour legal thought (collaborating, sharing and dissemination) among legal practitioners and seeks to understand it in detail. It also examines as to what is the extent of awareness and use of emergent Internet tools for research collaboration. These will be used by the information community to demonstrate that a number of reasons were contribute for, and accountable to, the various types of digital information service sustainability.

Keywords: Information need; Information seeking behaviour; ICT; Legal practitioners; internet.

INTRODUCTION

Lawyers play a very significant role in society, and their work affects every aspect of human lives; being relevant on all issues, from getting married or buying a home to making investments. They play the roles of both advocates and advisors in the human quest to continuously engage in their

tasks and interact with people in society *Bhardwaj and Madhusudan 2016; Fagbemi 2017*. Information is ubiquitous and has become an integral part of everyone's life. It is necessary in any case, for a common reason, and it can be in any format, such as information required for day by day schedule job, calls from companions, weather figures, and so on. For various reasons, each individual has to refresh his perspective, and he seeks to obtain information required in the field from various sources.

Legal practitioners, Researcher or students, anyone who need information have their own, different purposes behind it. And in order to fulfil their information requirements, they follow a defined sequence of steps that eventually constitute information seeking. This particular behavior involves the understanding of people who need certain information, what type of information and what is the purpose behind this need and

Authors Affiliation: ¹Research Scholar, ²Professor and Head, Library and Information Science Sambalpur University, Sambalpur 768027, Odisha, India.

Address for Correspondence: Bulu Maharana, Professor and Head, Library and Information Science Sambalpur University, Sambalpur 768019, Odisha, India.

E-mail: karan4u358@gmail.com

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eventually how this much needed information is found. It also looks at how this information is evaluated, used for their defined purposes. It is observed that information seeking is carried out purposefully by users which involve stages like searching, selecting, evaluating and finally meeting their needs. Information science is a field that deals with the study of information. Information In general, seeking behaviour refers to determining a legal practitioner's information needs, searching behaviour, and subsequent use of that information. Understanding how individuals seek and use information is the focus of these disciplines.

2. Information

The information is available abundantly on the internet and this has influenced the way users seek information. Information has power to make a person, a society or the very nation itself a more powerful entity. We live in the twenty first century, which is called as information revolution era. Information generated from various sources is recorded and made available for dissemination to the users in different forms such as: books and journals, research papers, technical reports, conference papers, dissertations, patents, standards, etc. Information can be defined as "what are ought to have for his work, his research, his education, his recreation etc." Information in practical sense can be depicted as a sequence of symbols that can be interpreted as a message. "H. Shera (1972) defines "information as a message, a signal or a stimulus that possesses a response potential. However, Davies (1976) defines information as processed data into a form that is meaning ful to the recipient and is of real or perceived value to take present decision or in future. The word Information is derived from Latin word 'Informatio' which means to "to give form to mind', 'instruct' or 'teach' (Doraswamy, 2017)".

2.1 Meaning

Buckland (1991) analyzed the dictionary meanings given in the Oxford English Dictionary and came up with three distinguished meanings as following.

Information as a process: When someone is informed, their knowledge is altered. "Information is the act of communicating knowledge or new of some fact or happening; the act of telling or being told of something," according to this revision.

Information as knowledge: Information can also refer to that which is understood as a process; knowledge provided about a specific fact, subject, or event; that which is assessed or told, intelligence,

and news.

The term "information as a thing: Information is also used as a descriptor for objects such as documents that are regarded as having the ability to teach knowledge or communicate instructive information.

2.2 Defination

According to Kent (1979) states that "Information is the feed stock for knowledge".

According to Oxford English dictionary Information is communication of instructive knowledge, news of some fact or occurrence.

3.1 Information Need

Information needs refers to the way user search and utilize information for improve their knowledge. Information needs are indication of a knowledge gap which needs to be satisfied. The legal practitioners are the transporter of learning. Is an individual or a group's desire to locate and obtain information to satisfy a conscious or unconscious need. Information need refers to individual user needs regarding information needed by each person. Information need is understood as evolving vague awareness of something from missing and as culminating in locating the information that contributes for understanding and meaning. (Doraswamy, 2017)".

The concept of information needs is the outcome of the combination of two terms, 'Information' and 'Needs' "Information need' as a state of knowledge which is different from standard or expected knowledge" (Belkin et al. 61-62).

According to Atkin, "the term 'information need' is his demand that he seeks to achieve to meet his information requirements" (Clarke 307).

3.2 Information Seeking Behaviour

The way people look for and use information is referred to as information seeking behaviour. Wilson originated the term in a 1981 study, arguing that the then-current concept of "information needs" was in effective as a basis for a research programme because "need" could not be directly observed, whereas "how people behaved in obtaining information" could. People hunt for information and use it to complete their assigned work when they engage in information seeking behaviour. Data that has been structured or processed is called information. People in all walks of life require information. Concerns about how employees use information in the workplace have prompted research into information seeking behaviour. The

demand for information originates as a result of the information user's perception of a need. Legal professionals make demands on official or informally information sources or services to meet it, with success or failure as a result.

However, research in the field of information seeking is increasingly linking behaviours to underlying requirements.

The study of information behaviour involves:

- i. *Information Behaviour*: The totality of human.
- ii. conduct in regard to information sources and channels.
- iii. *Information Seeking Behavior*: Information seeking behaviour is the deliberate search for information in order to achieve a goal.
- iv. *Information Search Behaviour*: The information seeker's micro-level behaviour when interacting with various types of information systems.
- v. *Information Use Behaviour*: This refers to the mental and physical actions that go into absorbing new information into an existing knowledge base a person.

Definitions

According to King Information Seeking Behaviour is "a manner information in which a user conducts himself in relation to a given information environment."

Case defines information seeking behaviour as "information behaviour that surrounds information seeking as well as the entirety of other undesirable or inactive behaviour that involves avoiding information (Case 235)."

3.3 Information Seeking In Digital Era

With the invention of computers and technology, modern times have seen rapid changes. This is a digital-age period. The written word has experienced a quantum transformation from printed page to digital page, which has had a huge impact on the research process. Letters, memoranda, bulletins, corporate brochures, booklets, manuals, reports, monographs, textbooks, reference books, as well as other written communication were all paper bound. These are still available on the internet. Not just these, but also all other types of technical articles are available on the internet. Everything has moved to the technological realm in the face of revolutionary change, keep peace. We should go online and study how to compose good e-mails and construct a useful website. The use of the Internet is increasing on a daily basis. The Internet is a

decentralised medium that may be accessed from anywhere. Internet allows us to travel from our computer to information site worldwide.

3.4 Information seeking of legal professionals

The nature of a certain job, as well as criteria such as age, career stage, area of specialization, and geographic location, might influence the formulation of information needs, according to studies on professional information seeking. In the field of law, the practitioners of law have the tremendous development in winning cases and knowledge in all aspects. The information centers give the aware of constitutional knowledge to them. The progress of modern society depends a great deal upon the provision of right kind of information in the right form at right time. Accordingly the collection of right information for right person for right use at right time is essential for success in all walks of life.

The foresaid truth is opted for the profession also like practitioners who must have the information from the centers to know the legal knowledge for the successful career. The Supreme Court, High Court in all states, District Courts, Munsiff Courts, etc., in India, all the lawyers are not have the entire knowledge and information.

3.5 Factors affectivity Information need legal professionals

Sources of information-professional seek information from an endless number of sources, such as colleagues, librarians, handbooks, journals, articles and their own personal knowledge and experience. Personal experience and knowledge have been separated as distinct traits since they are frequently over looked as a key source of information. It should be emphasised that selecting a source of information is not always binary; to meet an information need, a combination of various sources (either simultaneously or sequentially) may be required. As a variable affecting information seeking, this constant interaction adds to the source's total complexity.

Therefore, the present researcher has selected the lawyers in order to analyse the information seeking behavior of lawyers in district courts. Since the professionals research has become so depend upon on effective information support system that it gets crippled in the absence of a good libraries like special, academic and public libraries.

Therefore, the lawyers play a very significant role in enriching the law and order by providing them with the information concerning the areas of

interest.

4. The importance of legal information

To comprehend the idea "lawful Information" it is necessary to firstly comprehend what is implied by the term "Information". "Information is essential to individuals in different livelihoods. For instance judges, legal advisors and law under studies, as they require Information in their everyday exercises. For example, they need Information on the most proficient method to decide the case (judges), contend or speak to a customer under the watchful eye of the law court (legal counsellors), and how to breeze through the law assessment (law under studies). In present day lawful society, Information is an imperative instrument required for the everyday exercises of individuals in the legitimate calling, who need lawful Information to settle on crucial and level headed choices that may straight forwardly include human life. When ever recovered law ful Information is exact, at that point there is a high likelihood of using sound judgment. On the off chance that Information is mistaken, the capacity to settle on right choices is decreased. Better Information generally prompts better choices" (Walonick, 2004).

5. ICT in Legal profession

The present age may be called an electronic information age and is caused by the explosion of electronic methods in every specialized field. Electronic media is helping libraries to increase their efficiency and effectiveness of information communication in all its dimensions. In an ICT environment, information is available in sources like, e-books, e-journals, and institutional repositories, CD-ROMs, DVDs, Databases and Internet.

The emergence of information communication technologies has influenced all stages of human life. Access to internet has become essential in facilitating access to information. It is observed that the internet provides access. University/college law libraries are transitioning from the traditional model of providing manual sorts of assistance to an electronic structure, delivered via ICT channels, to provide consumers with compelling and productive information dissemination administration. Ele-ctronic diaries, electronic information bases, electronic books, PCs, advanced libraries, online, remote systems, and other ICT equipment have been developed as a result of the evolving idea of ICT use in the law library context. The internet provides a cost-effective and straight forward form of communication that is accessible

from any location. Researchers, scientists, judges, legal experts, and under studies in the legal control can all benefit from the web's current information administrations.

Some models have been developed to examine information seeking behaviour:

1. Wilson's model is not derived from any theory but from an analysis behaviour of detailed human information.
2. Carol Kuhithau's information searching Behaviour, which consists of six stages focuses on the process.
3. The Devid Ellis approach focuses on activities rather than processes.
4. The *Krikelas model (1983)* is an early model that has been widely acknowledged. There are thirteen parts to the model. It is a broad model that can be used in everyday life.
5. In *Johnson's (1987)* model, there are seven components listed under three sections. The basic process flows from left to right.
6. The Nicholas J Belkin episodic model is built on intuition and insight, and it focuses on interactions with information.
7. Nicholas Belkin's Anomalous State of Knowledge is founded on the fact that the researcher notices a gap in the state of knowledge.
8. Thomas Wilson proposed Wilson's Information Behavior Theory. Information behaviour, according to Wilson, encompasses all facets of human information activity. The searcher interacts with the information system in this model.
9. Stuart Card, E.D., H. Chi, and Peter Pirolli created information foraging based on anthropological beliefs. The information seeker in this paradigm uses links, summaries, and visuals to determine how close they are to the desired information.
10. Elfreda Chatman's Life in the circle focuses on reality at its most mundane, predictable enough that seeking information is unnecessary unless a problem arises first.
11. Brenda Dervin's Meaning Making Model focuses on the notion that information seekers make sense of unclear situations. It outlines how the information seeker evaluates data in order to make data-related judgments.
12. The principle of smallest effort is founded on

the idea that the information seeker should prioritise the easiest path to satisfactory information.

CONCLUSION

The Future scenario indicates very clearly the importance of information as a vital resource for all human material progress. If the present day information society wants to become more responsive to the needs of the potential legal users/ practitioners, the libraries, information and documentation centres must offer a higher level of information service taking into consideration the information seeking preferences of the users rather than adjusting with the existing system. The information environment has greatly impacted on legal field, teaching, learning and research methods of higher education worldwide and India is no exception. The new technologies have facilitated smooth and systematic transformation of data into digital format. Access to accurate information is necessary for every profession but in the legal field professional survival is not possible without up-to-date legal information.

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