A Study on the Requirement for Information in the Academic Staff of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The need for information is one of the most important requirements in the daily life of a person. This also changes according to the life-style of a person. Therefore, it is timely to be conscious about the information need of different groups. The aim of this study is to investigate the need for information of the Academic Staff of the Rajarata University. The study to collected data on the updated information about the staff, the strategies they use to address their information need and the information sources. Finally, the long-term and short-term steps that the University can take regarding information need was discussed. The sample was selected from the Academic Staff of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The main data collection source was the questionnaire, and the response was 94.30%. Interviews, observation and secondary methods were also used. The software called SPSS was used in analyzing the data along with mathematical calculations. The data was presented using graphs and charts, and to check the accuracy, the P grade was used. The information need of the staff was analyzed under many topics, and the spread was calculated based on the subject and the faculty. The highest information need was seen in lecturing and researching and higher studies. They preferred using the library to searching devices. The use of devices was of a low level. More use of electronic references than printed was seen. Many stated that in completing their information need the service provided by the Rajarata University was not sufficient. The study revealed the need for information sources in relation to preparing lecture notes and research. Suggestions were made to increase the availability of electronic information sources. The need for collective contribution for the information sources which bears a higher expense and the need to establish information services to give an effective service to the staff were emphasized.

Keywords: Electronic Media, Need for Information, Print media