

Exploring Students' Utilization of Library Resources at Laghman University of Afghanistan

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Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

ABSTRACT

This research explores students' use of library resources among students in Laghman University, particularly examining the frequency, availability, and awareness of library resources among students. A quantitative research design with a descriptive approach has been employed to collect data from 70 participants from the faculty of agriculture, education, engineering and literature, and humanity of Laghman University. The data were descriptively analyzed using Statistical Software Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 24 by mean and percentage. The significant finding reveals that the majority of the library users are un-willing from the library staff, they use printed books from the library resource, possess minimal skill of using library resources, and they also did not receive any information about the advanced and update of the library resource at Laghman university. Moreover, library resources' usefulness is not satisfying to the students because there are limited resources such as printed books, journal articles, and electronic resources. The collection is also incomplete, and having power, cut, lack of seating facility and up-to-date material are considered from the problems students were confronting daily. Finally, it is recommended that the university authority provide enough library resources such as books, journal articles, and online resources to meet the students' daily needs.

Keywords: LIBRARY RESOURCES, LIBRARY AWARENESS, LIBRARY RESOURCES AVAILABILITY

Introduction

Libraries are also known from the centuries in Afghanistan. The early cultural establishment of the library dated back to the Zardasht era, in which all written pieces were drawn in the skin of animals. The new libraries of Afghanistan were the Ahmad Shah Abdali's private and public library, Pai Minar Pacha Saib's, Mulla Faizullah Khan, Mulla Ahmad, Ghulam Mohammad Tarzi, Ameer Abdurrahman Khan, Ameer Habibullah Khan, Mahmood Tarzai library were considered from the contemporary libraries of Afghanistan which

contained different types of books and publication for various purposes. Currently, numerous libraries in Afghanistan which readers usually visit, the most common libraries are National Library, Marif, Public, Hirat's Jami Masjid, Republic Arg, followed by Habib, Ghubar Library, Hewadmal, Rafi Library, are still active for users in Afghanistan. Besides, there enrich libraries in the each public university of Afghanistan. Laghman University also has a general library followed by faculty's and department libraries, which fulfill the basic needs of students and users (Nilab, 1361)

Besides, it has been observed that the culture of visiting libraries is very weak in Afghanistan. Students rarely see Laghman University's general library due to a lack of enough published and electronic resources. Therefore, this study aims at exploring students' use of library resources at Laghman University.

Literature review

A library is a place where different published, unpublished, electronic, hard, and soft types of resources are kept while users usually visit to read any desired book. Indeed, all information and services are found in a particular locality to help students achieve their goals by physically visiting a library or online (Reitz, 2004). In line with this, the library is a complex, self-developed and educational center operated in a school environment that comprises various resources, including bibliographic, online, intellectual, or physical, to offer educational services to the audience and users (Mutani, 2016). Library resources are the critical elements of a library that make a library reliable and accessible to the users. Also, (Anyira et al., 2010), library resources are considered from documents, electronic books, databases, electronic journals, media, and different links in a library. More precisely, all resources found in a library is called library resources (Fayose, 2000).

According to (Posey 2009), library users refer to people who come to the library to access the material. Library patron is the group of people or data users that the library has been set up to serve. It not only means active users, and it means everyone within the community's defined limits (BIDA, 2011). Library users in universities can be divided into two significant types external and internal. The internal users are the undergraduate, postgraduate, professor, researchers, and other organization members, and external users are not from the universities or related organizations. Still, they can be served in a library based on official procedures (Orgem, 2012). The needs of users are the key priority of the library. Every library is very interested in ensuring that all users coming into their library receive what they need. When users have come to the library but unable to get everything they need, the library's fundamental goal has not been accomplished (Mairaj & Naseer, 2013).

The degree to which library services are used to enhance clients' academic success is related to resource management. In order to know how much items have been used, the library usually checks a variety of different services used by customers, such as the number of books borrowed from clients or the number of books placed on the table that was initially on the bookshelf of the library (Bida, 2011). However, the usage of library services can also be verified by reports on the books borrowed by users. The use of the library,

therefore, refers to the recorded use of information sources in the library by users (which may be students, lecturers, or researchers) that includes the frequency of library patronization, the frequency of borrowing books, the types, and age of information sources used (Bida, 2011).

According to (Parvathamma & Reddy, 2009), the librarian's function is to ensure that users have access to the right resources to ensure that they are accessible and used. Librarians can achieve this by regularly reviewing library holdings. Besides, library managers must ensure that visitors are given instructions about obtaining resources and how to use catalogs.

Library users need to be given orientation on how to search for books through computers or the catalogs. Without this knowledge, it might not be straightforward for library users to look for the books they need. The impact on users coming to the library and not getting the books they need may lead to some of them not visiting the library next time. So, users must be educated on how computers and catalogs can search for books in the library (Sohail et al., 2012). The librarian's function is to ensure that users have access to the right resources to ensure that they are accessible and used. Librarians can achieve this by regularly reviewing library holdings. In addition, library managers must ensure that visitors are given instructions about obtaining resources and how to use catalogs (Parvathamma & Reddy, 2009).

Each university's role is vital for affecting library users and improving the quality of library resources by collecting ideas from visitors. University libraries are a very significant resource. The library not only supports scholars, but it is also beneficial for academics and lecturers. When an investigator brings his/her investigator, there is no way out that he/she cannot visit the library. It's the only location where you'll get other people's opinions on what you want to study. In this sense, the university library is a building in which all content, including books, magazines, documents, newspapers, and other connections to other resources, can be found (Reitz, 2004)

The library plays a significant role in ensuring that the university's role in delivering information is fulfilled (Aina, 2004). Besides lecturers as information providers, the library is also the sole source of knowledge in educational institutions. This is as even the professors get the experience. They even teach their students in the library. There is a great deal of funding for teaching and studying in the university through the library. The university's all-purpose vision and aims can only be accomplished by the proper use of library services by both students and teachers. Other than knowledge, the library will also include a variety of items, like leisure. For instance, by reading newspapers, which are also elements of the library, the customers of the library get information that will make someone happier and so calm their minds. In addition, users can find various information in the library and learn new things that have not been taught to them by reading books and other tools found in the library; thus, the library plays a significant role in influencing society. The library is an information hub in any educational institution, and that is why you should find a library in any academic institution (Santhalingam et al., 2011).

Materials and methods

This study aimed to explore student library resources at Laghman University. This university's overall population was 4000, including four faculties, namely agriculture, engineering, education, and literature. The sample was selected from the faculty of language and literature comprising four departments, i.e., library and information sciences, English, Pashto, and journalism. We have collected data from 70 (62 male and 8 female).

This research was based on descriptive quantitative research, and an adopted questionnaire was utilized to collect from the respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. The first part of the questionnaire was about the respondents' general characteristics and gathered information on gender, age, education level, field of study, and year of study. While the second part of the questionnaire investigated various aspects of the use of library resources by users, such as the frequency of library resources use, types of library resources used and for what purposes, and the perception of users on the usefulness and adequacy of their university library resources, the problem faced them. Satisfaction level and all included items eliciting information on three specific objectives of the study on library resources use by users. The questionnaire was prepared in Google form and distributed randomly to the desired respondents via WhatsApp and Facebook messenger. The obtained data were descriptively analyzed through Statistical Software Package for Social Science SPSS version 22, and each and construct and its relevant items were tabulated via mean and percentage.

Results

Demography of the respondents

The data obtained from the online survey questionnaire about the respondents' demographic characteristics indicated from Table 1 below that most of the respondents were male (87.3%), and the remaining were female (21.7 %.). Most of the respondents are aging between 18-22 (56.3%), followed by 23-29 (39.4%), and above 30 years old (4.2%). Moreover, it is revealed that the majority of the respondents are pursuing a third class at the English department, followed by a second class at Library and Information Science department (25.4%), the third class at Journalism (49.3%), and the fourth class at Pashto department (14.1%).

Table 1 Demography of the respondents

Demography	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	62	87.3%
Female	8	12.7%
Age		
18-22	39	56.3%
23-29	28	39.4%
Above 30	3	4.2%

Year of Studies		
First	9	12.7%
Second	8	11.3%
Third	17	23.9%
Fourth	36	50.3%
Department		
English	34	48.6%
Library and Information Science	18	25.7%
Journalism	11	15.7%
Pashto	7	10.0%

Availability of library at Laghman University

The data from the Table 2 indicates the availability of library resources in the Laghman university; it is stated that most the respondents 46 (65.7%) believed that there is available library resource in Laghman University, a smaller number of students 20 (28.2%) replied that there are no available library resources available. In comparison, 4 (5.6%) were unsure about it.

Table 2 Availability of Library Resources

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	Available	46	65.7%
2	Not available	20	28.6%
3	Not sure	4	5.7%

Awareness of students on Library Resources

As can be seen in Table 3 about the awareness of students on Library Resources in Laghman University, it has resulted that majority of the respondents were aware of library resources 22 (31.4%) followed by moderate familiar with 13 (18.6%). In comparison, a lower number of students were not aware of library resources 17 (24.3%) followed by slightly 10 (14.3%) and somehow aware 8 (11.4%) about library resources.

Table 3 Awareness of students on Library Resources

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	Extremely aware	22	31.4%
2	Moderately aware	13	18.6%
3	Somehow aware	8	11.4%
4	Slightly aware	10	14.3%
5	Not at all aware	17	24.3%

Awareness and use of Library Resource

The data show from Table 4 about the awareness and use of Library Resources by the students at Laghman University. It is asserted that most of the students are aware and use reference books, printed journals, articles, books, and photocopied materials 58 (82.9%). At the same time, a very limited number of the respondents utilized electronic books, article, journals, OPAC, database and library website (2.9%) followed government publication, newspapers, and other resources 1 (1.4%), 6 (8.6%), 3 (4.3%).

Table 4 Awareness of Library Resource

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	Reference books, Printed journals, articles, books, and photocopy	58	82.9%
2	Electronic books, articles, journal, OPAC, Databases, and Library website	2	2.9%
3	Government publication and newspapers	1	1.4%
4	Both of the above	6	8.6%
5	Other	3	4.3%

Conduction of orientation program on the uses of Library Resources

The data from Table 5 indicate that more than half of the respondent believed that they received an orientation program on the uses of library resources 39 (56.6%) in Laghman University, while the limited number of them did not receive any orientation program on it 31 (43.4%)

Table 5 Orientation program on the uses of Library Resources

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	39	56.6
2	No	31	43.4

Skills to use Library Resources

It is seen from Table 5 below; it has resulted that most of the students have very poor skills on the use of library resources 19 (27.1%); 12 (17.1%), while a minimal percent of the respondent possesses enough skills on the use of library resources 10 (14.3%); 15 (21.4%).

Table 6 Skills to use Library Resources

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	Very low	19	27.1%

2	Low	12	17.1%
3	Moderate	10	14.3%
4	High	15	21.4%

Availability of updated services and library resources from the library staff

As can be seen from Table 7 about the availability of up-to-date services from library staff to the students, it is indicated that most of the students have never received any information about the new development and recent updates about the library services 32 (45.4%); 8 (11.4%) in Laghman University, while the minimum number of them received up-to-date news about library resources in Laghman University 18 (25.7%); 12 (17.1%).

Table 7 Availability of updated services from the library staff

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	Always	18	25.7%
2	Mostly	12	17.1%
3	Sometimes	8	11.4%
4	Never	32	45.7%

Frequency of using Library Resources

The data from Table 8 show the degree of library resources uses among students in Laghman university, and it is reported that most of the students uses library resources daily and weekly 30 (42.9%); 10 (14.3%),

Table 8 Frequency of using Library Resources

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	Weekly	10	14.3%
2	Daily	30	42.9%
3	2-3 times per week	15	21.4%
4	Four or more times per week	4	5.7%
5	Never	11	15.7%

Purposes of using library resources

It is reported from Table 9, most of the students utilize library resources for private studies 29 (42%), and for research activities 21 (30.4%). In comparison, a minimal number of them borrow library collection 9 (13%), using library computer and internet connection 1 (1.4%), followed by obtaining references and for other purposes 7 (10.1%); 2 (2.9%). Moreover, the respondents were asked the followed question that what is the reason for using the library in Laghman University resulted, most of the students do not use a library for the

limited availability of enough sources, or even there is no specific library and professional staff. Also, students are not treated very well by the library staff that they do not use the library.

Table 9 Purposes of using library resources

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	For private Studies	29	42.0%
2	For research activities	21	30.4%
3	For borrowing library collection	9	13.0%
4	To use a library computer and internet connection	1	1.4%
5	To obtain reference sources	7	10.1%
6	Other	2	2.9%

Method of using available library resources

As can be seen from Table 10 below that the most usable method of using library resources are borrowing library materials 33 (47.1%) and reading in the library or house 33 (47.6%), while there is a minimal method of using available library through websites link very rarely 4 (4.3%). Moreover, most of the respondents believed that electronic resources are easy to navigate to find the needed information in the library of Laghman University 63 (63%). It is also thought that library resources are adequate to support their needs 61 (61.1%). In contrast, half the respondents claimed that printed library resources contained up-to-date information 36 (34.4%).

Table 10 Method of using library resources available

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	By borrowing library materials	33	47.1%
2	By reading in the library (in the house)	33	47.6%
3	By using the library website link	4	4.3%
Facilities of Library Resources in Laghman University			
4	The electronic resources are easy to navigate to find the needed information	63	63%
5	Do you think that library resources are adequate to support your needs?	61	61.6%
6	Printed library resources contained up-to-date information	36	36.4%
Sources of Awareness about Library Resources			
7	From friends	24	34.3
8	From workshops	34	48.6
9	From librarians	7	10.0
10	From library web	5	7.1

Problems facing you in the library and when using resources

Table 11 below show the data obtained from the respondents about the problems they are facing when using the library resources at Laghman University, less than half of the respondents believed that the common problem is the unwillingness of the library staff 31 (44.3%) and collection are also inadequate for readers 20 (28.6%). In comparison, the minimal number of them asserted that incomplete information 6 (8.6%), power cut of 5 (7.1%), lack of seating facilities 5 (7.1%), and timeliness of the information 3 (4.3%) are also from the rare problems when using the library resources. On the other hand, the respondents' data about the usefulness of library resources indicated that the majority of the respondents argued that book collection is useful 53 (75.7%). In comparison, a minimal number of them responded that electronic journal and articles 12 (17.1%), printed journals and related periodicals 5 (7.1%), are less useful also they asserted that electronic books 0 (0%), thesis/dissertation 0 (0%), encyclopedia 0 (0%), magazine/newspaper 0 (0%) are not useful sources of library

Table 11 Problems facing you in the library and when using resources

No	Scale	Frequency	Percentage
1	Library staffs are unwilling	31	44.3
3	Collections are inadequate	20	28.6
5	Incomplete of information/Missing of pages	6	8.6
6	Power cut off	5	7.1
7	Lack of seating facilities	5	7.1
8	Information sources are not up to date	3	4.3
Usefulness of library resources			
9	Books collection	53	75.7%
10	Electronic journals and articles	12	17.1%
	Printed journals and related periodicals	5	7.1%
12	Electronic books	0	0%
13	Thesis/Dissertation	0	0%
14	Encyclopedia	0	0%
15	Magazine/ Newspaper	0	0%
16	Others (please specify)	0	0%

How current are the information resources in your library?

As it can be seen in Table 12 below about the recentness of the library resources in Laghman University, initially, it can be reported that less than half of the respondents believed the library resources are fairly current 30 (42.9%). Still, half then a quarter number asserted that such resources are not present at all 22 (31.4%). At the same time, a very limited number of them exposed that library resources are very existing 10 (14.3%), and moderately current 8 (11.4%). Furthermore, it is indicated that library resources are easy to find (62.9%), but more than a quarter of them not easily 26 (37.1%). Finally, it is indicated most of the students are slightly satisfied with library resources availability at Laghman University.

Table 12: Recentness of the library resources

How recent are the library resources in Laghman University?			
1	Fairly current	30	42.9%
2	Not current at all	22	31.4%
3	Very current	10	14.3%
4	Moderately current	8	11.4%
Are Library Resources easy to find?			
5	Yes	44	62.9%
6	No	26	37.1%
Are you satisfied with library resources available?			
7	Very satisfied	24	34.3%
8	Moderate satisfied	12	17.1%
9	Slightly satisfied	29	41.4%
10	Not at all satisfied	5	7.1%

Discussion

Awareness of students on Library Resources

This study was aimed to explore students' Utilization of library resource, and particularly it sought to explore student's awareness of library resources, usage and skills, availability, frequency, purpose, method, problems faced by users, and the recentness of library resources in the Laghman University of Afghanistan.

First of all, it has resulted from that majority of the respondents were aware and even used library resources such as references books, printed journal, books and photocopied resources of the library in Laghman University in which the awareness is due to the taking of a special course at the beginning of the semester to teach them about all aspects, rules, and regulation of university. In addition, The four factors are influential in enhancing the Utilization of library and information services and resources, among other things developing individuals to be literate information awareness of the role of the library in learning activities, its policies, and procedures, as well as its resources (Loftin, 1983), familiarity with various resources' role in a learning activity (Morgan, 2004), library competency, information literacy, are developmentally (Mwatela, 2013). Individuals have to attain competency with the lower level to be motivated to pursue the higher one. Students empowered with the highest level of information literacy can use information effectively to learn, create new knowledge, and solve problems and make decisions. It has also been found that most of the students have minimal skills of using library resources, never received information about the new advanced and updates about the library services that why the majority of them do not use library resource at Laghman University.

Secondly, it has resulted that most of the students use library resource for private studies, and a minimal number of them use for borrowing books and for research purpose. Even though there is a library at Laghman University, but most of the students claimed that there are not enough resources, professional staff, and

standard library. In contrast, a moderate level of students believed that they are not treated very well by the library staff. Moreover, it is indicated that the most common method of using library resources and borrowing library material, reading in house or library while a very limited number of them use through websites and electronic resources. In line with, it is asserted that for students to be able to find information about a topic from a variety of sources, they are expected to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding of the information environment they are in and also develop their ideas of using ICT tools to enhance the quality of their work (Loveless et al., 2001). Moreover, Competencies gained through Information Literacy programs in colleges are transferable to work situations and empower students to be self-directed learners. For students to be able to use the virtual library effectively, all or most of the traditional library skills and additional information skills will be required (Mwatela, 2013).

Thirdly, this study also discovered problems that students are facing while using library resources at Laghman University. One of the most common issues that most of the students were facing was the un-willingness of the library staff at Laghman University. Such un-willingness and treatment can be from a massive workload on the library and a minimal number of library staff; that's why most students are treated well. While the collection is also incomplete, power, cut, lack of seating facility, and up-to-date material were considered from the problems that students were confronting. On the other hand, library materials' usefulness is not convincing, and there are minimal journal articles' resources.

Finally, the data about library resources' timeliness has indicated that materials are somewhat updated while most of them asserted that library material is not current that fulfill their education needs. Furthermore, it is stated that library resource is easy to find (62.9%). Still, more than a quarter of them are not easily slightly satisfied with library resources availability at Laghman University.

Conclusion

This research study was aimed to explore students' library resources at Laghman University. It has been discovered that most of the students were aware of library resources and material and rarely used library resources at Laghman University. The majority of the students claimed that library staff is un-willing against them and only use printed books from the library resource. They possess the minimal skill of using library resources, and they also did not receive any information about the advanced and update of the library resource at Laghman University. Most of the students utilized library resources for private studies and a minimal number of them for research purposes, while most of them use borrow as a library resource method. Also, library resources' usefulness is not satisfying to the students because there are limited resources such as printed books, journal articles, and electronic resources. The collection is also incomplete, and having power, cut, lack of seating facility and up-to-date material were considered from the problems students were confronting. Finally, the data about the timeliness of library resources has indicated that materials are relatively updated. At the same time, most of them asserted that library material is not currently fulfilling their educational needs.

Finally, it is recommended that the university authority provide enough library resources such as books, journal articles, and online resources to meet the students' daily needs.

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