

## Use of Reference Sources by Users of National Law School Libraries in India: A Study

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**Abstract** - *The present study discusses the use of reference sources by the users of five selected National Law Schools in India. The investigator tried to find out the user-wise frequency of use of reference sources with a view to provide valuable data to help users to get a better orientation on the use and importance of reference sources for their study, research work, to guide students, research scholars and teachers on the use of national law school libraries. The survey method was adopted for the study. The random sampling technique was used in choosing the study population. Altogether 1250 questionnaires were distributed and 1058 filled questionnaires were received back.*

**Key words:** Use; Library Reference Sources; Users; National Law Schools; India; A Study

### Introduction:

Reference sources are the essential information resources of modern libraries. Their value is inestimable in the hands of the users, whose requires quality information to meet their needs. Nwogu and Obiagwu (1991) stated that reference sources are the gold mines of knowledge. There are different types of reference sources and each of them contain diverse information ranging from simple definition of words and concepts to detailed explanation of ideas and events. Reference sources are generally classified into two categories, the source and the access types. The source type of reference materials (books) are those that contain the information needed by the users (e.g., encyclopedias, dictionaries, and handbooks) while the access type of reference books are those that refer the users to the source of information required (e.g., indexes, abstracts, and bibliographies). Also, reference books are either general or specific in scope of their subject. What is important about reference books is that the subjects they contain have been well researched and proven to be of high intellectual standard by subject experts. Thus a scholarly work without consultation of good reference books is deemed to be shallow. Igwe

(2004) rightly observed this by asserting that “A search for literature in research work will not be complete without examining some relevant reference materials necessary for exploring the topic”. Some reference works, such as almanacs and encyclopedias, provide information directly. Other works, such as indexes and bibliographies, lead users to where information is. The reference section of a library houses reference sources that have been carefully selected and acquired to aid users in their quest for information in their chosen fields. These books are resources in the library that are designed in a way that users can refer to them in the course of research for specific information. Reference materials contain the origin of events, phenomenon, ideas and sometimes their history while other texts may not necessarily contain such. According to Nwaigwe and Onwuama (2004), reference sources provide significant information regarding the definition of the topic sought and its background. They opined that the information in reference sources are usually authentic, accurate and more reliable than non-reference sources. When users get really familiar with reference materials, they will find out how quickly and efficient it will be to complete their assignment and do their researches. The current study is aimed to know the use of reference resources by students, research scholars and faculty members in selected national law school libraries in India.

## **Objectives of the study**

The following are specific objectives of the study:

- To know the frequency of visit to the national law school libraries, and
- To find out the extent and user-wise frequency of use of reference sources

## **Methodology, Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Keeping in view of the objectives a suitable questionnaire was designed and distributed among the users of national law school libraries in India. The investigator was distributed the questionnaires personally to enable the users to fill the questionnaires properly. In addition to questionnaire method, interview and observation method was also used to collect required information to bring clarity in the data which was essential and used for analysis and interpretation of data.

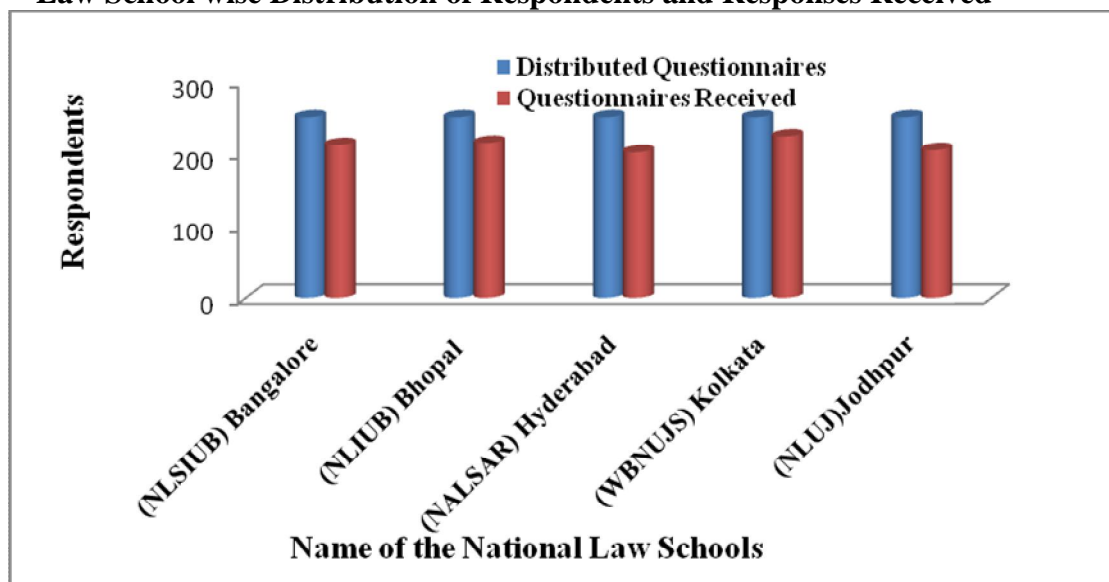
The scope of the study is limited to use of information resources, facilities and services by the users of national law school libraries in India. Geographically the study is confined to only top five national law school libraries of India.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

**Table-1**  
**Law Schools wise Distribution of Respondents and Responses Received**

Sl. No.	Name of the national law schools	Distributed Questionnaires	Questionnaire Received	Percentage
1	National Law School of India University, Bangalore (NLSIUB)	250	212	84.80%
2	National Law Institute University, Bhopal (NLIUB)	250	215	86.00%
3	NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad (NALSAR)	250	202	80.80%
4	National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS)	250	224	89.60%
5	National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ)	250	205	82.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1250</b>	<b>1058</b>	<b>84.64%</b>

**Figure-1**  
**Law School wise Distribution of Respondents and Responses Received**

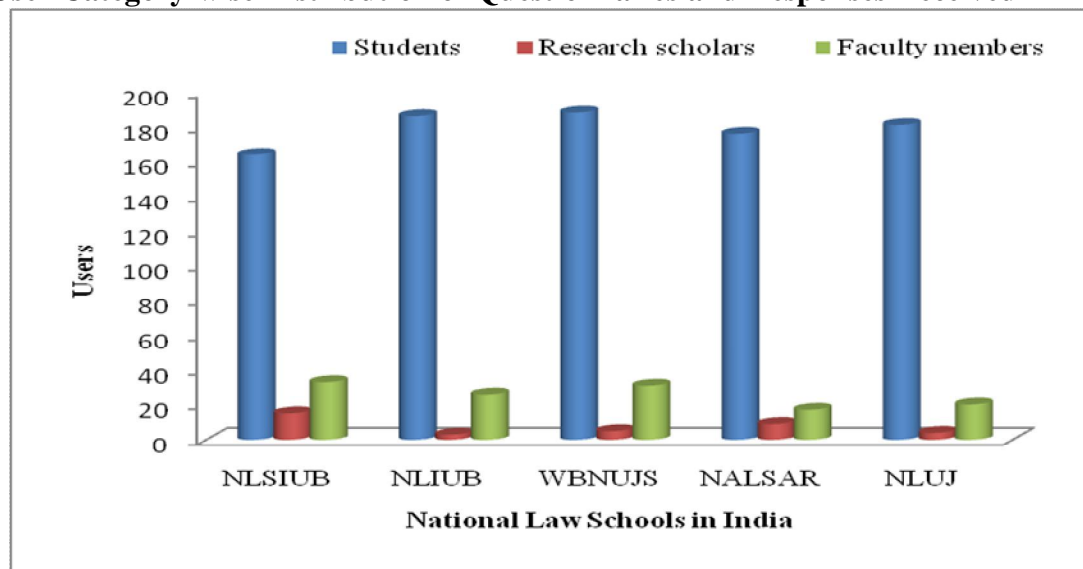


Altogether 1250 questionnaires were distributed and 1058 filled questionnaires were received back. The investigator has distributed 250 questionnaires each among users of five selected national law school libraries in India. There are 224 (89.60%) responses received from National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS), followed by 215 (86.00%) are from National Law Institute University, Bhopal (NLIUB), 212 (84.80%) are from National Law School of India University, Bangalore (NLSIUB), 205(82.00%) are from National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ) and 202(80.80%) are from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad (NALSAR). It is found that number of respondents is more from National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS).

**Table-2**  
**User Category-wise Distribution of Questionnaires and Responses Received**

Sl. No.	National Law Schools in India						
	Users category	NLSIUB	NLIUB	WBNUJS	NALSAR	NLUJ	Total
1	<b>Students</b>	164 (77.36%)	186 (86.51%)	188 (83.93%)	176 (87.13%)	181 (88.29%)	895 (84.59%)
2	<b>Research scholars</b>	15 (7.08%)	3 (1.40%)	5 (2.23%)	9 (4.46%)	4 (1.95%)	36 (3.40%)
3	<b>Faculty members</b>	33 (15.57%)	26 (12.09%)	31 (13.84%)	17 (8.42%)	20 (9.76%)	127 (12.00%)
<b>Total</b>		212 (100.00%)	215 (100.00%)	224 (100.00%)	202 (100.00%)	205 (100.00%)	1058 (100.00%)

**Figure-2**  
**User Category-wise Distribution of Questionnaires and Responses Received**

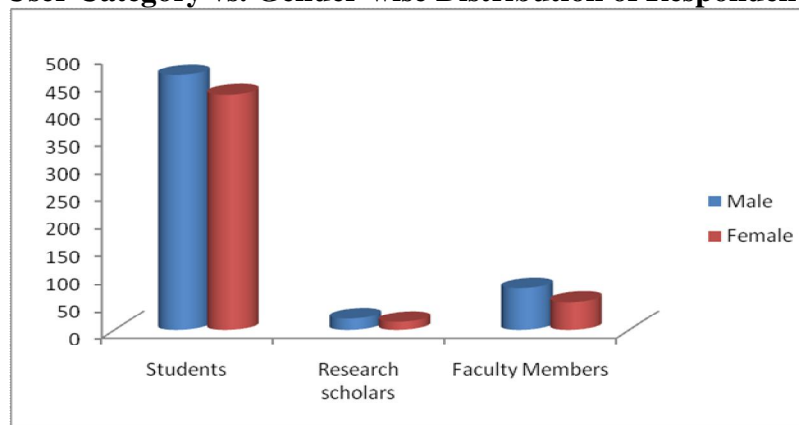


The table and figure 2 shows university-wise distribution of questionnaire to the users. Out of 1058 respondents of selected five national law school libraries, 895 respondents are students, 36 are research scholars and 127 are faculty members representing 84.59%, 3.40% and 12.00% respectively. Out of 212 respondents in NLSIUB, 164 (77.3%) are students, 15 (7.08%) are research scholars and 33 (15.57%) are faculty members; out of 215 respondents in NLIUB, 186 (86.51%) are students, 3 (1.40%) are research scholars and 26 (12.09%) are faculty members; out of 224 in WBNUJS, 188 (83.93%) are students, 5 (2.23%) are research scholars, 31 (13.84%) are faculty members; out of 202 in NALSAR, 176 (87.13%) are students, 9 (4.46%) are research scholars 17 (8.42%) are faculty members and out of 205 in NLUJ, 181(88.29%) are students, 4(1.95%) are research scholars and 20 (9.76%) are faculty members.

**Table-3**  
**User Category vs. Gender-wise Distribution of Respondents**

Sl. No.	User Category-wise Distribution	Category-wise Distribution of Male and Female Respondents			
		Students	Research scholars	Faculty Members	Total
1	Male	465 (51.96%)	21 (58.33%)	76 (59.84%)	<b>562</b> <b>(53.12%)</b>
2	Female	430 (48.04%)	15 (41.67%)	51 (40.16%)	<b>496</b> <b>(46.88%)</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>895</b> <b>(100.00%)</b>	<b>36</b> <b>(100.00%)</b>	<b>127</b> <b>(100.00%)</b>	<b>1058</b> <b>(100.00%)</b>

**Figure-3**  
**User Category vs. Gender-wise Distribution of Respondents**

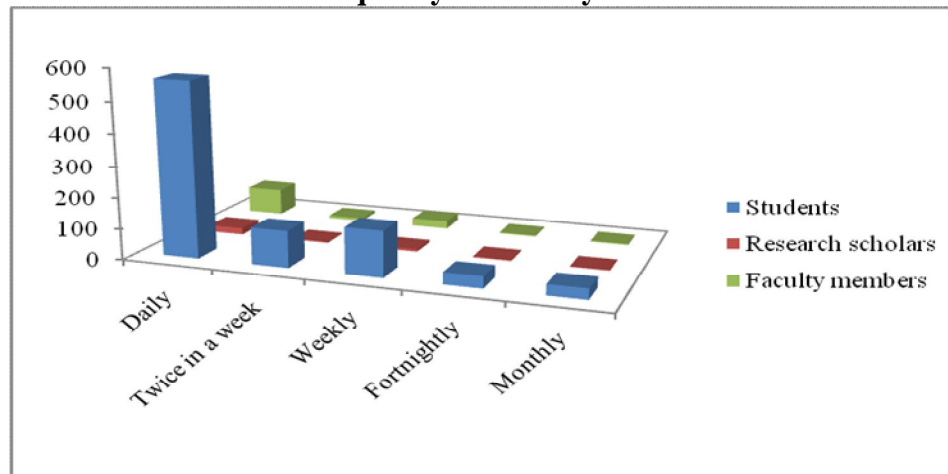


The table and figure 3 shows the category-wise vs. gender-wise distribution of users in national law school libraries. Out of 1058 respondents, 562(53.12%) respondents are male and 496(46.88%) respondents are female. Out of 895 students, 465 (51.96%) are male, 430(48.04%) are female; out of 36 research scholars, 21(58.33%) are male and 15(41.67%) are female; out of 127 faculty members, 76(59.84%) are male and 51(40.16%) are female.

**Table-4**  
**Frequency of Library Visit**

Frequency of Library Visit	Users			Total
	Students	Research scholars	Faculty members	
Daily	560 (62.6%)	21(58.3%)	87(68.5%)	668(63.1%)
Twice in a week	117 (13.1%)	3(8.3%)	9(7.1%)	129(12.2%)
Weekly	146 (16.3%)	7 (19.4%)	25(19.7%)	178(16.8%)
Fortnightly	38 (4.2%)	3(8.3%)	3(2.4%)	44(4.2%)
Monthly	34 (3.8%)	2(5.6%)	3(2.4%)	39(3.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>895 (100.0%)</b>	<b>36 (100.0%)</b>	<b>127(100.0%)</b>	<b>1058(100.0%)</b>

**Figure-4**  
**Frequency of Library Visit**



The data about frequency of library visit by respondents shows that Out of 1058 respondents, 668 (63.1%) respondents visit the library daily, followed by 178 (16.8 %) respondents visit the library weekly and 129 (12.2%) visit the library twice in a week. There are 44 and 39 respondents who visit the library fortnightly and monthly representing 4.2% and 3.7% respectively.

**Table-5**  
**Frequency of Use of Reference Sources by Users**

Reference sources	Frequency	Users			Total	Statistics
		Students	Research scholars	Faculty members		
Handbooks & Manuals	Very Frequently	310(34.6%)	15(41.7%)	53(41.7%)	378(35.7%)	$X^2=303.399$ ; p=.000 C. V=.057; p=.541
	Frequently	185(20.7%)	6(16.7%)	22(17.3%)	213(20.1%)	
	Sometimes	243(27.2%)	12(33.3%)	32(25.2%)	287(27.1%)	
	Rarely	99(11.1%)	1(2.8%)	15(11.8%)	115(10.9%)	
	Never	58(6.5%)	2(5.6%)	5(3.9%)	65(6.1%)	
Dictionaries	Very Frequently	195(21.8%)	13(36.1%)	19(15.0%)	227(21.5%)	$X^2=268.664$ ; p=.000 C. V=.077; p=.134
	Frequently	227(25.4%)	5(13.9%)	38(29.9%)	270(25.5%)	
	Sometimes	304(34.0%)	14(38.9%)	50(39.4%)	368(34.8%)	
	Rarely	112(12.5%)	3(8.3%)	15(11.8%)	130(12.3%)	
	Never	57(6.4%)	1(2.8%)	5(3.9%)	63(6.0%)	
Encyclopedias	Very Frequently	279(31.2%)	8(22.2%)	48(37.8%)	335(31.7%)	$X^2=154.193$ ; p=.000 C. V=.075; p=.160
	Frequently	235(26.3%)	9(25.0%)	36(28.3%)	280(26.5%)	
	Sometimes	119(13.3%)	9(25.0%)	13(10.2%)	141(13.3%)	
	Rarely	119(13.3%)	2(5.6%)	16(12.6%)	137(12.9%)	
	Never	143(16.0%)	8(22.2%)	14(11.0%)	165(15.6%)	
Bibliographies	Very Frequently	353(39.4%)	11(30.6%)	45(35.4%)	409(38.7%)	$X^2=242.662$ ; p=.000 C. V=.109; p=.002
	Frequently	132(14.7%)	11(30.6%)	12(9.4%)	155(14.7%)	
	Sometimes	120(13.4%)	5(13.9%)	34(26.8%)	159(15.0%)	
	Rarely	178(19.9%)	4(11.1%)	21(16.5%)	203(19.2%)	
	Never	112(12.5%)	5(13.9%)	15(11.8%)	132(12.5%)	
Biographical Sources	Very Frequently	105(11.7%)	10(27.8%)	12(9.4%)	127(12.0%)	$X^2=247.643$ ; p=.000 C. V=.079;
	Frequently	346(38.7%)	13(36.1%)	53(41.7%)	412(38.9%)	
	Sometimes	130(14.5%)	2(5.6%)	23(18.1%)	155(14.7%)	

	<b>Rarely</b>	161(18.0%)	7(19.4%)	22(17.3%)	190(18.0%)	p=.102
	<b>Never</b>	153(17.1%)	4(11.1%)	17(13.4%)	174(16.4%)	
<b>Directories</b>	<b>Very Frequently</b>	49(5.5%)	1(2.8%)	6(4.7%)	56(5.3%)	$X^2=395.752$ ;
	<b>Frequently</b>	348(38.9%)	17(47.2%)	56(44.1%)	421(39.8%)	p=.000
	<b>Sometimes</b>	185(20.7%)	3(8.3%)	19(15.0%)	207(19.6%)	C.V=.059;
	<b>Rarely</b>	83(9.3%)	4(11.1%)	15(11.8%)	102(9.6%)	p=.501
	<b>Never</b>	230(25.7%)	11(30.6%)	31(24.4%)	272(25.7%)	
<b>Yearbooks</b>	<b>Very Frequently</b>	229(25.6%)	11(30.6%)	32(25.2%)	272(25.7%)	$X^2=122.662$ ;
	<b>Frequently</b>	224(25.0%)	12(33.3%)	41(32.3%)	277(26.2%)	p=.000
	<b>Sometimes</b>	114(12.7%)	5(13.9%)	16(12.6%)	135(12.8%)	C.V=.065;
	<b>Rarely</b>	233(26.0%)	6(16.7%)	22(17.3%)	261(24.7%)	p=.337
	<b>Never</b>	95(10.6%)	2(5.6%)	16(12.6%)	113(10.7%)	
<b>Almanacs</b>	<b>Very Frequently</b>	178(19.9%)	5(13.9%)	15(11.8%)	198(18.7%)	$X^2=306.991$ ;
	<b>Frequently</b>	320(35.8%)	12(33.3%)	41(32.3%)	373(35.3%)	p=.000
	<b>Sometimes</b>	257(28.7%)	13(36.1%)	37(29.1%)	307(29.0%)	C.V=.100;
	<b>Rarely</b>	68(7.6%)	3(8.3%)	24(18.9%)	95(9.0%)	p=.007
	<b>Never</b>	72(8.0%)	3(8.3%)	10(7.9%)	85(8.0%)	
<b>Geographical sources (Maps, globes, atlases, etc.)</b>	<b>Very Frequently</b>	338(37.8%)	13(36.1%)	40(31.5%)	391(37.0%)	$X^2=473.248$ ;
	<b>Frequently</b>	234(26.1%)	7(19.4%)	31(24.4%)	272(25.7%)	p=.000
	<b>Sometimes</b>	33(3.7%)	1(2.8%)	5(3.9%)	39(3.7%)	C.V=.062;
	<b>Rarely</b>	244(27.3%)	14(38.9%)	47(37.0%)	305(28.8%)	p=.414
	<b>Never</b>	46(5.1%)	1(2.8%)	4(3.1%)	51(4.8%)	
<b>Gazetteers</b>	<b>Very Frequently</b>	243(27.2%)	8(22.2%)	40(31.5%)	291(27.5%)	$X^2=196.858$ ;
	<b>Frequently</b>	251(28.0%)	9(25.0%)	31(24.4%)	291(27.5%)	p=.000
	<b>Sometimes</b>	112(12.5%)	12(33.3%)	11(8.7%)	135(12.8%)	C.V=.100;
	<b>Rarely</b>	233(26.0%)	6(16.7%)	31(24.4%)	270(25.5%)	p=.006
	<b>Never</b>	56(6.3%)	1(2.8%)	14(11.0%)	71(6.7%)	
<b>Indexing sources</b>	<b>Very Frequently</b>	110(12.3%)	11(30.6%)	13(10.2%)	134(12.7%)	$X^2=178.522$ ;
	<b>Frequently</b>	254(28.4%)	7(19.4%)	32(25.2%)	293(27.7%)	p=.000
	<b>Sometimes</b>	228(25.5%)	9(25.0%)	42(33.1%)	279(26.4%)	C.V=.094;
	<b>Rarely</b>	236(26.4%)	4(11.1%)	31(24.4%)	271(25.6%)	p=.016
	<b>Never</b>	67(7.5%)	5(13.9%)	9(7.1%)	81(7.7%)	
<b>Abstracting sources</b>	<b>Very Frequently</b>	257(28.7%)	12(33.3%)	45(35.4%)	314(29.7%)	$X^2=126.036$ ;
	<b>Frequently</b>	205(22.9%)	5(13.9%)	27(21.3%)	237(22.4%)	p=.000
	<b>Sometimes</b>	128(14.3%)	10(27.8%)	14(11.0%)	152(14.4%)	C.V=.076;
	<b>Rarely</b>	217(24.2%)	6(16.7%)	24(18.9%)	247(23.3%)	p=.139
	<b>Never</b>	88(9.8%)	3(8.3%)	17(13.4%)	108(10.2%)	
<b>Statistical sources</b>	<b>Very Frequently</b>	239(26.7%)	9(25.0%)	55(43.3%)	303(28.6%)	$X^2=97.274$ ;
	<b>Frequently</b>	212(23.7%)	6(16.7%)	25(19.7%)	243(23.0%)	p=.000
	<b>Sometimes</b>	204(22.8%)	5(13.9%)	25(19.7%)	234(22.1%)	C.V=.109;
	<b>Rarely</b>	113(12.6%)	5(13.9%)	11(8.7%)	129(12.2%)	p=.002
	<b>Never</b>	127(14.2%)	11(30.6%)	11(8.7%)	149(14.1%)	

**Handbooks & Manuals:** Out of 1058 respondents, 378(35.7%) use handbooks & manuals ‘very frequently’, 287(27.1%) of them use ‘sometimes’, 213(20.1%) of them use ‘frequently’, 115(10.9%) of them use ‘rarely’ and remaining 65(6.1%) of them ‘never’ use. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of ‘very frequently’, ‘frequently’, ‘sometimes’, ‘rarely’ and ‘never’ with  $X^2$  value of 303.399 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use handbooks & manuals ‘very frequently’ to

‘sometimes’. Further, Cramer’s V revealed a non significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.057; p=.541), indicating a similarity in their response pattern.

**Dictionaries:** Out of 1058 respondents, 368(34.8%) respondents use dictionaries ‘sometimes’, 270(25.5%) of them use ‘frequently’, 227(21.5%) of them use ‘very frequently’, 130(12.3%) of them use ‘rarely’ and remaining 63(6.0%) of them ‘never’ use. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of ‘very frequently’, ‘frequently’, ‘sometimes’, ‘rarely’ and ‘never’ with  $X^2$  value of 268.664 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use dictionaries ‘sometimes’ to ‘frequently’. Further, Cramer’s V revealed a non significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.077; p=.134), indicating a similarity in their response pattern.

**Encyclopedias:** Out of 1058 respondents, 335(31.7%) respondents use encyclopedias ‘very frequently’, followed by 280(26.5%) of them use ‘frequently’, 165(15.6%) of them ‘never’ use, 141(13.3%) of them use ‘sometimes’ and remaining 137(12.9%) of them use ‘rarely’. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of ‘very frequently’, ‘frequently’, ‘sometimes’, ‘rarely’ and ‘never’ with  $X^2$  value of 154.193 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use encyclopedias ‘very frequently’ to ‘frequently’. Further, Cramer’s V revealed a non significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.075; p=.160), indicating a similarity in their response pattern.

**Bibliographies:** Out of 1058 respondents, there are 409(38.7%) respondents use bibliographies ‘very frequently’, followed by 203(19.2%) of them use ‘rarely’, 159(15.0%) of them use ‘sometimes’ 155(14.7%) of them use ‘frequently’ and remaining 132(12.5%) of them ‘never’ use. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of ‘very frequently’, ‘frequently’, ‘sometimes’, ‘rarely’ and ‘never’ with  $X^2$  value of 242.662 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use bibliographies ‘very frequently’ to ‘rarely’. Further, Cramer’s V revealed a significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.109; p=.002), revealing that more students used ‘very frequently’ and more researchers scholars use ‘frequently’ than faculty members.

**Biographical Sources:** Out of 1058 respondents, 412(38.9%) respondents use biographical sources ‘frequently’, 190(18.0%) of them use ‘rarely’, 174(16.4%) of them ‘never’ use, 155(14.7%) of them use ‘sometimes’ and remaining 127(12.0%) of them use ‘very frequently’. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of ‘very frequently’, ‘frequently’, ‘sometimes’, ‘rarely’ and ‘never’ with  $X^2$  value of 247.643 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use biographical sources ‘frequently’ to ‘rarely’. Further, Cramer’s V revealed a non significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.079; p=.102), indicating a similarity in their response pattern.

**Directories:** Out of 1058 respondents, 421(39.8%) respondents use directories ‘frequently’, 272(25.7%) of them ‘never’ use, 207(19.6%) of them use ‘sometimes’, 102(9.6%) of them use



'rarely' and remaining 56(5.3%) of them use 'very frequently'. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of 'very frequently', 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'rarely' and 'never' with  $X^2$  value of 395.752 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use directories 'frequently' to 'never'. Further, Cramer's V revealed a non significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.059; p=.501), indicating a similarity in their response pattern.

**Yearbooks:** Out of 1058 respondents, 277(26.2%) respondents use yearbooks 'frequently', 272(25.7%) of them use 'very frequently', 261(24.7%) of them use 'rarely', 135(12.8%) of them use 'sometimes', and remaining 113(10.7%) of them 'never' use.

Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of 'very frequently', 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'rarely' and 'never' with  $X^2$  value of 122.662 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use yearbooks 'frequently' to 'very frequently'. Further, Cramer's V revealed a non significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.065; p=.337), indicating a similarity in their response pattern.

**Almanacs:** Out of 1058 respondents, 373(35.3%) respondents use almanacs 'frequently', 307(29.0%) of them use 'sometimes', 198(18.7%) of them use 'very frequently', 95(9.0%) of them use 'rarely' and remaining 85(8.0%) of them 'never' use. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of 'very frequently', 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'rarely' and 'never' with  $X^2$  value of 306.991 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use almanacs 'frequently' to 'sometimes'. Further, Cramer's V revealed a significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.100; p=.007), where it is found that students frequency of use are higher than research scholars and faculty members.

**Geographical sources (Maps, globes, atlases, etc.):** Out of 1058 respondents, 391(37.0%) respondents use geographical sources (maps, globes, atlases, etc.) 'very frequently', 305(28.8%) of them use 'rarely', 272(25.7%) of them use 'frequently', 51(4.8%) of them 'never' use and remaining 39(3.7%) of them use 'sometimes'. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of 'very frequently', 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'rarely' and 'never' with  $X^2$  value of 473.248 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use geographical sources 'very frequently' to 'rarely'. Further, Cramer's V revealed a non significant association between respondent categories and respondents (CV=.473; p=.248), indicating a similarity in their response pattern.

**Gazetteers:** Out of 1058 respondents, 291(27.5%) each of the respondents use gazetteers 'very frequently', and 'frequently', 291(25.5%) of them use 'rarely', 135(12.8%) of them use 'sometimes', and remaining 71(6.7%) of them 'never' use. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of 'very frequently', 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'rarely' and 'never' with  $X^2$  value of 196.858 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use gazetteers 'very frequently' to 'frequently'. Further, Cramer's V revealed a

significant association between respondent categories and respondents ( $CV=.100$ ;  $p=.006$ ), where it is found that faculty members used more compared to students and faculty members.

**Indexing sources:** Out of 1058 respondents, 293(27.7%) respondents use indexing sources 'frequently', 279(26.4%) of them use 'sometimes', 271(25.6%) of them use 'rarely', 134(12.7%) of them use 'very frequently' and remaining 81(7.7%) of them 'never' use. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of 'very frequently', 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'rarely' and 'never' with  $X^2$  value of 178.522 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use indexing sources 'frequently' to 'sometimes'. Further, Cramer's V revealed a significant association between respondent categories and respondents ( $CV=.094$ ;  $p=.016$ ), indicating that students used more of indexing resources than researchers and faculty members.

**Abstracting sources:** Out of 1058 respondents, 314(29.7%) respondents use abstracting sources 'very frequently', 247(23.3%) of them use 'rarely', 237(22.4%) of them use 'frequently' 152(14.4%) of them use 'sometimes' and remaining 108(10.2%) of them 'never' use. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of 'very frequently', 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'rarely' and 'never' with  $X^2$  value of 126.036 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use abstracting sources 'very frequently' to 'rarely'. Further, Cramer's V revealed a non significant association between respondent categories and respondents ( $CV=.076$ ;  $p=.139$ ), indicating a similarity in their response pattern.

**Statistical sources:** Out of 1058 respondents, 303(28.6%) respondents use statistical sources 'very frequently', 243(23.0%) of them use 'frequently', 234(22.1%) of them use 'sometimes' 149(14.1%) of them 'never' use and remaining 129(12.2%) of them use 'rarely'. Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between groups of frequencies of 'very frequently', 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'rarely' and 'never' with  $X^2$  value of 97.274 and significance level of .000, revealing that majority of the respondents use statistical sources 'very frequently' to 'frequently'. Further, Cramer's V revealed a significant association between respondent categories and respondents ( $CV=.109$ ;  $p=.002$ ), revealing that faculty members used more statistical sources than students and research scholars.

## Discussion of the Findings

- Altogether 1250 questionnaires were distributed and 1058 filled questionnaires were received back. The investigator has distributed 250 questionnaires each among users of five selected national law school libraries in India.
- Majority of respondents i.e. 89.60% respondents are from National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS) followed by 86.00% are from National Law Institute University, Bhopal (NLIUB), 84.80% are from National Law School of India University, Bangalore (NLSIUB), 82.00% are from National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ) and 80.80% are from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad (NALSAR). It is

found that number of respondents is more from National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS).

- Out of 1058 respondents of selected five national law school libraries, 895 respondents are students, 36 are research scholars and 127 are faculty members representing 84.59%, 3.40% and 12.00% respectively. It shows majority of respondents are students and faculty members
- Majority of respondents, i.e. 63.1% respondents visit the library daily, followed by 16.8% respondents visit the library weekly and 12.2% visit the library twice in a week. There are 4.2% and 3.7% respondents visit the library fortnightly and monthly.
- There are 35.7% respondents use handbooks & manuals 'very frequently', followed by 27.1% of them use 'sometimes', 20.1% of them use 'frequently', 10.9% of them use 'rarely' and remaining 6.1% of them 'never' use.
- There are 34.8% respondents use dictionaries 'sometimes', 25.5% of them use 'frequently', 21.5% of them use 'very frequently', 12.3% of them use 'rarely' and remaining 6.0% of them 'never' use.
- There are 31.7% respondents use encyclopedias 'very frequently', followed by 26.5% of them use 'frequently', 15.6% of them 'never' use, 13.3% of them use 'sometimes' and remaining 12.9% of them use 'rarely'.
- There are 38.7% respondents use bibliographies 'very frequently', followed by 19.2% of them use 'rarely', 15.0% of them use 'sometimes' 14.7% of them use 'frequently' and remaining 12.5% of them 'never' use.
- There are 38.9% respondents use biographical sources 'frequently', 18.0% of them use 'rarely', There are 16.4% of them 'never' use, 14.7% of them use 'sometimes' and remaining 12.0% of them use 'very frequently'.
- There are 39.8% respondents use directories 'frequently', 25.7% of them 'never' use, 19.6% of them use 'sometimes', 9.6% of them use 'rarely' and remaining 5.3% of them use 'very frequently'.
- There are 26.2% respondents use yearbooks 'frequently', 25.7% of them use 'very frequently', 24.7% of them use 'rarely', 12.8% of them use 'sometimes', and remaining 10.7% of them 'never' use.
- There are 35.3% respondents use almanacs 'frequently', 29.0% of them use 'sometimes', 18.7% of them use 'very frequently', 9.0% of them use 'rarely' and remaining 8.0% of them 'never' use.

- There are 37.0% respondents use geographical sources (maps, globes, atlases) ‘very frequently’, 28.8% of them use ‘rarely’, 25.7% of them use ‘frequently’, 4.8% of them ‘never’ use and remaining 3.7% of them use ‘sometimes’.
- There are 27.5% each of the respondents use gazetteers ‘very frequently’, and ‘frequently’, 25.5% of them use ‘rarely’, 12.8% of them use ‘sometimes’, and remaining 6.7% of them ‘never’ use.
- There are 27.7% respondents use indexing sources ‘frequently’, 26.4% of them use ‘sometimes’, 25.6% of them use ‘rarely’, 12.7% of them use ‘very frequently’ and remaining 7.7% of them ‘never’ use.
- There are 29.7% respondents use abstracting sources ‘very frequently’, 23.3% of them use ‘rarely’, 22.4% of them use ‘frequently’ 14.4% of them use ‘sometimes’ and remaining 10.2% of them ‘never’ use.
- There are 28.6% respondents use statistical sources ‘very frequently’, 23.0% of them use ‘frequently’, 22.1% of them use ‘sometimes’ 14.1% of them ‘never’ use and remaining 12.2% of them use ‘rarely’.

## Conclusion

The findings of the study show that the majority of the respondents aware about the reference sources in the library. This can be contributed to the orientation, induction and information literacy skill programs organized for the students. These afforded them a sound knowledge of what constitute reference sources in the library. However, only about a few of the respondents rarely and never used the references sources. A sizeable number of the respondents claimed that they consulted only online sources because they are easier to use. Nevertheless, there are still a handful of the respondents that consulted both hard copies and online sources. Consequently, libraries and librarians need not despair over the use of huge resources in their holdings. Furthermore, almost all respondents had, at one time or another used a physical reference material.

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