DLINE JOURNALS

Journal of Digital Information Management

ISSN: 0972-7272

JDIM 2025: 23 (2)

Users' Information Access Pattern in Kashmir: A Systematic Review

Salik Parveaz[1], Asif Khan[2]

[1]School of Media Studies, Central University of Kashmir
Tulmulla, Ganderbal, Jammu & Kashmir
191131. India

[2]School of Media Studies, Central University of Kashmir
Tulmulla, Ganderbal, Jammu & Kashmir, 191131. India
saliqp@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Information seeking/access is an inherent practice through which humans cope with their environment. Advancements in technology have dramatically changed information-seeking, making it technologically driven and dependent. Due to its importance, the various aspects of information-access behaviour have been explored across populations, contexts, and geographies. A comprehensive analysis that contextualises and coherently integrates the findings of studies conducted in the Kashmir region of India is lacking. A search was conducted in the Google Scholar database to find the existing studies on information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir. Of 389 search results, 37 research studies met the inclusion criteria. This study uses a systematic review to explore the general information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir. Findings reveal that the Internet and libraries are popular sources of information. Research is the primary information needed by most users. Ease of access is the most cited criterion for source selection. Internet connectivity, infrastructure, and political climate are key factors affecting information-seeking behaviour. The Apriori system and content knowledge result in high recall and precision.

Subject Categories and Descriptors: [H.3.3 Information Search and Retrieval] ; [H.3.5 Online Information Services]

General Terms: Information Use, Information Access

Keywords: Information Access Pattern, User Behaviour, Information Use Models, Information Infrastructure, Apriori knowledge

Received: 19 November 2024, Revised: 2 March 2025, Accepted: 10 March 2025

Review Metrics: 0/6; Review Score: 4.85; Inter-reviewer Consistency: 74.2%

DOI: https://doi.org/10.6025/jdim/2025/23/2/75-98

1. Introduction

The integration and application of Information Communication Technologies (ICT), particularly the Internet, into daily social and professional activities have empowered individuals to pursue their interests; they are now "commentators, publishers, and creators" [1] (Dentzel, 2013). Users can customize content to suit their preferences. Information is merely a touch away. The Internet and modern media, functioning in harmony, have facilitated the digital provision and consumption of information [2] (Lazaroiu, 2009). Recent technological advancements have transformed how information is obtained [3] (Jia et al., 2021). Gaining insight into how users access information is becoming increasingly crucial. In his description of information access [4] (1999), Wilson asserts that information-seeking behaviour encompasses a user's actions in response to a recognised information need, leading them to search for information that fulfils this requirement and subsequently utilise or share the obtained information. Kuhlthau [5] (1993) characterised an information need as a deficiency in a user's understanding that hinders their ability to comprehend matters. Thus, information access represents a deliberate activity or series of actions that users engage in to find the information they seek to bridge the gap in their knowledge base.

In their foundational review work, Case and Given [6] (2016) noted that the field of information behaviour has progressed along various avenues while remaining a pertinent subject of discussion. While incorporating new viewpoints, methodologies, and theories, it still retains "themes, theories, and methodologies from half a century ago, with some of these older frameworks continuing to hold value." The diverse research methods employed by scholars to examine information access behaviour have produced substantial and credible datasets, enriching the dialogue surrounding information-seeking. Most studies related to information access in Kashmir are focused on academic environments. Kashmir is a region in the early stages of infrastructure development, suggesting that multiple factors and challenges may hinder or enhance information access. The area also experiences frequent and extended internet shutdowns during which users cannot access the Internet and other sources of information they typically utilise. In light of this, this research aims to analyse studies on Information Seeking Behaviour (ISB) conducted in Kashmir while investigating the influence of these intervening factors in the existing literature. Consequently, the researchers carried out a systematic review of articles published in journals and conference proceedings, with the region serving as a primary criterion for identifying relevant literature. The region is emphasised because this study intends to comprehend users' information access behaviours in Kashmir. As mentioned earlier, the factors distinctive to this area and seemingly correlate directly with information access make it particularly relevant to examine the literature on information access within the studied region, Kashmir.

1.1 Research Background and Issues

This scientific and technical knowledge is generated and stored as text published in peer-reviewed scientific literature. New developments in information access systems provide insights into promising uses of information. Still, in isolation, the systems may not perform well in a particular region or domain because they are not explicitly trained in that environment.

According to Savolainen [7] (2015), there exists a gap in information-seeking behaviour research exploring the affective factors of human behaviour. This review aims to provide an overview of the study conducted on information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir. Therefore, this paper seeks to assess the influence of technology and the internet on information acquisition patterns for various forms of more or less acquirable knowledge

by this generation. Numerous published studies have been conducted on information access, and others have focused on how often people of this generation use technology and the internet for knowledge acquisition. However, to the authors' knowledge, no research exists comparing the importance and relevance of e-learning methods with what has been traditionally used. There is still room for research on whether- and in which form internet-based learning platforms can be eventually integrated in to the traditional information access system, what they would offer in terms of potential benefits, and what would be the role of information professionals in that process. [8] The authors wanted to fill this gap in the literature, hence the impetus for this research.

Individual characteristics and social and family factors have different degrees of influence on farmers' needs and preferences for the information channels they access. [9]. Interrogation of the empirical data identified five categories of source-selection factors: source factors, user factors, user-source relationships, characteristics of the problematic situation, and social influences. Also, the factors include criteria that mediate the impact of the factors on source-selection decisions, including accessibility, quality, operability, interactivity, relevance, usefulness, familiarity, appreciation, anonymity, and appropriateness. [10].

With this backdrop, we fixed a few priorities as follows.

We will analyse the general characteristics associated with information access patterns in the studied region, which is a broad objective. Which variables impact information access, and how do they influence it? While doing so, we are confident in detecting the missing issues not addressed in the literature. The review enables the focus on multidimensional topics associated with information use patterns.

Foul information access had skyrocketed research on improving information provision models by accommodating prior knowledge in the 'knowing process'. While knowledge integration during search processes is commonplace, there is a growing trend for integrating more knowledge, especially further formal knowledge representations. The term a priori refers more broadly to the state of knowledge or the information available before and after the access, a posteriori. Knowledge sources refer to the origin of the prior knowledge that is somehow integrated into information access. We note that the source of 'prior' knowledge can be an established knowledge domain, but it can also be knowledge from individual groups of people who have related experience. [11].

2. Methods

In short, our literature survey addresses the following three questions:

1. Search: Which kind of knowledge is searched?

2. Expression: How is the knowledge represented in the available literature at the target medium?

3. Extraction: Where in the knowledge is it extracted?

While formulating queries, users either directly access their limited contextual knowledge or search with their prior knowledge, which has varied retrieval effectiveness. Figure 1 reveals such differences between novice search and prior knowledge search.

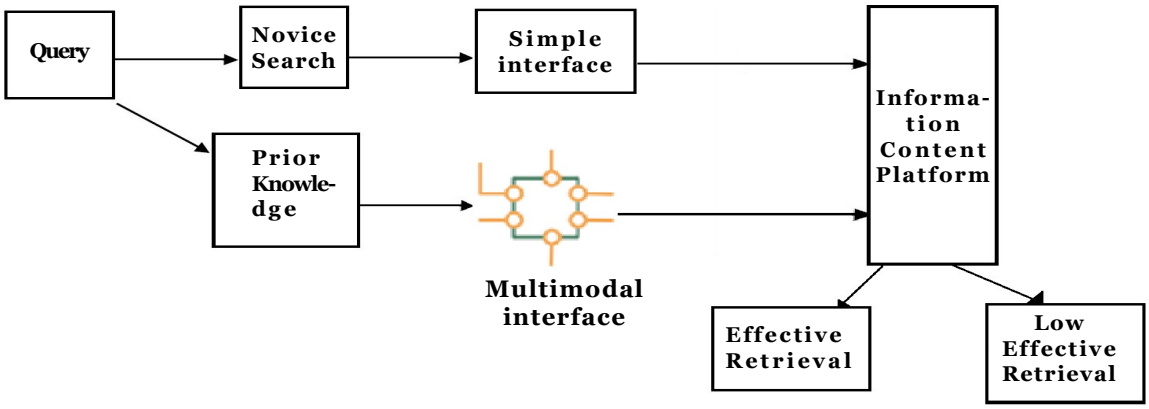

Figure 1. Information Flow in the Search Process

If user queries are formulated optimally, understanding the nature of retrieval systems will make the search more effective with high precision and recall. Many retrieval effectiveness studies document the differences between standard search and search with prior knowledge. At this time, it manifests itself as a data retrieval process first emerging as applied information [12], which is thereafter judged for relevance. Users evaluate the information relating to the world with the inner prior capacities of the brain or relevance measures [13, 14] or by referring to trusted authorities. Explicit modes of evaluation are provided by empirical investigations or scientific experiments [15].

In Figure 1, we show that any prior knowledge of stored information and search systems will result in effective retrieval. Novice users who do not understand information retrieval systems are expected to land in low-effective information retrieval. The priori knowledge is helpful in securing a higher precision/recall retrieval than the search by novice users.

2.1 Search Strategy

A search query was run in October 2023 in the Google Scholar database using the following words: "information-seeking behaviour" + "Kashmir." The researchers decided to review all the papers that matched the selection criteria set for the study. The review is not bound by any period for two reasons:

1. No systematic review has been conducted on information access in Kashmir earlier.

2. Not being bound by a time frame allows us to examine earlier studies and find their focus and approach. This helps us track the research trends and progression of information-seeking behaviour as a research area.

2.2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Research Studies that have explored the Users' Information-Seeking Behaviour in Kashmir were sought. The study adhered to the following inclusion criteria:

(1) The paper has to be either partially or wholly focused on investigating the information-seeking behaviour of users.
(2) The paper has to investigate information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir, India.

(3) Publication types Journal articles, review papers, and conference papers are considered.

The Exclusion Criteria for the papers were as follows:

1) If papers were not written in the English language.

2) Papers focused on using technology to enhance information-seeking practices, such as how to utilise search engines, the impact of ICTS on libraries, or how technology can facilitate information-seeking or improve library services. The reason for omitting such studies is that they primarily focus on improving a user's ISB, while the present research focuses on understanding the user's existing information-seeking behaviour.

3) Book chapters, books, dissertations, or theses.

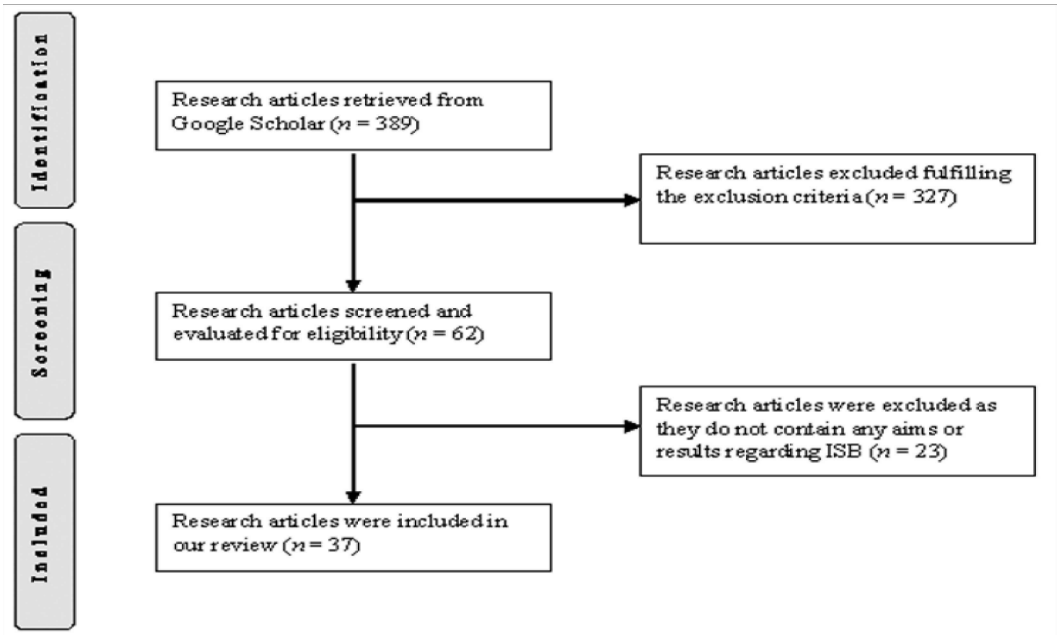

Figure 2. The flowchart depicting various stages of exclusion and inclusion of research studies

3. Overview of Reviewed Articles

As illustrated in Figure 1, three hundred eighty-nine research articles, whose titles and abstracts were carefully read by the researchers, were retrieved in response to the search query. Of the 389 articles retrieved, 327 were directly excluded as they did not fulfil the criteria outlined in Section 2.2. The primary reason for excluding these research articles was geography, i.e., they were not conducted in Kashmir, India. It is pertinent to distinguish between Kashmir, India, and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, as both regions are colloquially called Kashmir. These are two different geographical locations. Researchers mention this because some information-seeking studies were conducted in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, but have not been included here. The remaining 62 articles were thoroughly screened and analysed to identify their focus and objectives. After the screening process, 23 research articles were excluded because their aims and results were unrelated to information-seeking behaviour. Finally, 37 articles fulfilling the selection criteria were selected for the review.

A subset of 37 articles was robustly examined. All the publications originated from the Library and Information Sciences field. As depicted in Figure 2, most of them explore the information-seeking behaviour of academics, such as faculty, research scholars, postgraduate students, and college students.

Some studies also examine the information-seeking behaviour of surgeons and physicians. Two studies explore the information needs and information processing behaviour of farmers. Thus, the study of information access patterns is either generic, not confined to any domain or field, or domain-specific information needs tapping.

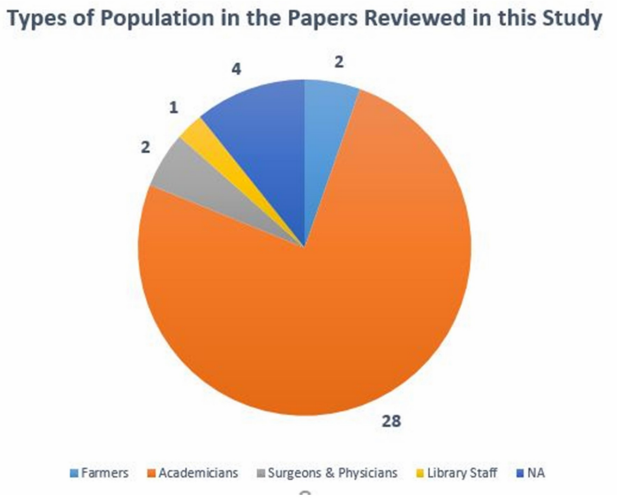

Figure 3. Types of population studied in the papers reviewed in this study

The articles were published relatively recently, from 2010 to 2023. Looking at these studies chronologically enabled the researchers to trace studies conducted over a decade ago, creating a yardstick against which researchers can evaluate the changes in patterns and preferences observed in subsequent studies on users' information-seeking behaviour. Studies on information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir have been conducted yearly since 2010, as illustrated in Figure 3.

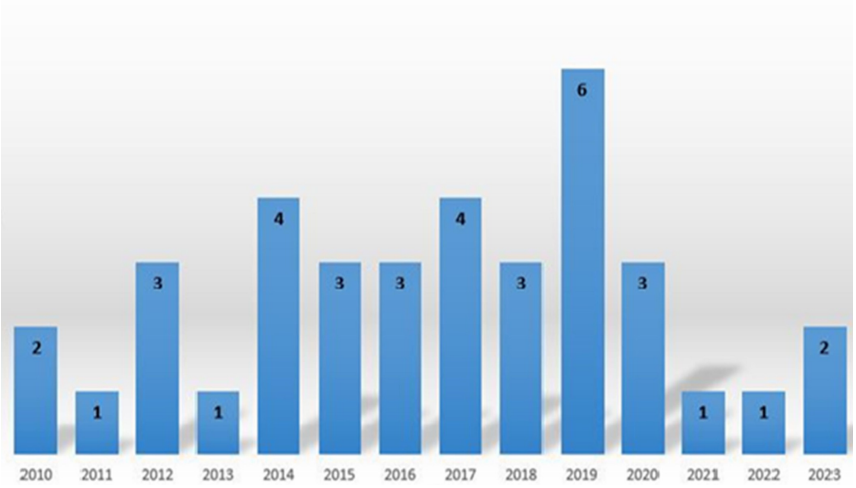

Figure 4. The period of published papers

Year	Author(s)	Journal	Research design	Data collection method	Sample size	Subjects	Data analysis
2023	Yousuf et al., (2023)	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International	Quantitative	Survey	N=300	Farmer	Descriptive
2023	Kethavath et al.,(2023)	Journal of Community Mobilization and Sustainable Development	Quantitative	Survey	310	Fanner	Descriptive
2022	Baba et al. (2022)	International Journal of Knowledge Managernent And Practices	Quantitative	Survey	N=1656	College students	Descriptive
2021	Ayoub & Wani (2021)	International Conference on Knowledge Managernent inHigher Education Institutions	Quantitative	Survey	NA	NA	Descriptive
2020	Ali &Jan (2020)	Library Philosophy and Practice (E-Journal)	Quantitative	Survey	N= 280	Postgraduate students	Descriptive
2020	Jabeen et al, (2020)	Journal of Knowledge & Communication Management	Quantitative	Survey	N=120	Post graduate students and faculty members	Descriptive
2020	Jabeen & Ganaie (2020)	Library Philosophy ArendPractice (E-Journal)	Quantitative	Survey	N=80	College students	Descriptive
2019	Jabeen & Ganaie (2019)	Library Philosophy AndPractice (E-Journal)	Quantitative	Survey	N=120	College students and faculty members	Descriptive
2019	Nasreen et al., (2019)	Library Philosophy And Practice (E-Journal)	Quantitative	survey	N=205	Post graduate students	Descriptive

2019	Wani et at (2019)	Library Philosophy And Practice (E-Journal)	Quantitative	Survey	N=207	Postgraduate students	Descriptive
2019	Amanullah et al, (2019a)	International Journal of Innovative Knowledge Concepts	Quantitative	Survey	N=160	Faculty members and research Scholars	Descriptive
2019	Lone et al. (2019)	International Journal of Information Studies & Libraries	Quantitative	Survey	N-800	College students	Descriptive
2019	Anaanulialiet al., (2019b)	Library Progress (International)	Quantitative	Survey	N=300	College Students	Descriptive
2018	Jabeen et al., (2018)	International Journal of Advance Research In Science And Engineering	Quantitative	Survey	N=40	Research scholars and postgraduate students	Descriptive
2018	Khazer & Ganaie (2018)	IEEE Xplore	Quantitative	Survey	N=300	Research Scholars	Descriptive
2018	Shah (2018)	Library Philosophy AndPractice (E-Journal)	Quantitative	Survey	N=141	Postgraduate students and research scholars	Descriptive
2017	Khager & Ginnie (2017)	Library Philosophy And Practice (E-Journal)	Quantitative	Survey	N=200	Research Scholars	Descriptive
2017	Rather et Gaisaie (2017)	Trends In Information Management	Quantitative	Survey	N=927	Research Scholars	Descriptive
2017	Lone et al (2017)	International Journal of Library And Information Studies	Quantitative	Survey	N=80	Research Scholars	Descriptive

2017	Mittal (2017)	Library Progress (International)	Quantitative	Survey	N—48	Library Staff	Descriptive
2016	Khazer et al., (2016)	Biblionsetrics Data And Impact Management Information Science	Quantitative	Survey	N=66	Research Scholars	Descriptive
2016	Mir (2016)	International Journal of Library & Information Science lilis)	Quantitative	Survey	N=700	College students	Descriptive
2016	Blaat et al. (2016)	International Journal of Applied Engineering And Technology	Quantitative	Survey	N-160	Research Scholars	Descriptive
2015	Nabi (2015)	International Journal of Knowledge Management And Practices	Quantitative	Survey	N-200	Post graduate students and Faculty	Descriptive
2015	Bhat et al. (2015)	Library Philosophy And Practice (E-Journal)	Quantitative	Survey	N=90	Research Scholars	Descriptive
2015	Wafave (2015)	International Journal of Knowledge Management and Practices	Quantitative	Survey	N=96	Faculty members	Descriptive
2014	Ganie & Khazer (2014)	Journal of Advancements In Library Sciences	Quantitative	Survey	N = 500	Post graduate students	Descriptive

2014	Mangi (2014)	Iosr. Journal of Agriculture And Veterinary Science (Iosr-Javs)	Quantitative	Survey	N = 150	Faculty mernbers/ scientist/ subjert matter specialists	Descriptive
2014	Ganaiea Khazer (2014)	Journal of Knowledge a Communication Managernent	Qualitative	Literature review	NA	NA	NA
2014	Gul et al (2014)	International Conference On The Convergence of Libraries,Museums (laws 2015)	Quantitative	Survey	N-52	Research Scholars	Correlation analysis
2013	Gul et al. (2013)	Bilgi Dun-yasi	Quantitative	Log Analysis	NA	NA	Descriptive
2012	Ashraf (2012)	International Journalof Digital Library Services	Quantitative	Survey	N=226	Physicians and surgeons	Descriptive
2012	Loan (2012)	International Journal of Digital Library Services	Quantitative	Survey	N=62	Research Scholars	Descriptive
2012	Qadri (2012)	International Journal of Digital Library Services	Quantitative	Survey	N=241	Postgraduate Students	Descriptive
2011	Shaft a Wani (2011)	Trends In Information Management	Quantitative	Survey	N=226	Physician and surgeons	Descriptive
2010	Qui & Shah (2010)	Third Inter national Conference On Digital Libraries 2010 shaping the Information Paradigm Volume.Vol. 1	Quantitative	Log analysis	NA	NA	Descriptive
2010	Gupta & Sharma (2010)	Trends In Information Management	Quantitative	Survey	N=145	Faculty members	Descriptive

Table 1. An overview of the reviewed articles

A holistic description of the articles reviewed, including their research design, sample size, and research methods, is given in Table 1. It can be discerned from the table that most of the studies are monolithic, i.e., they are quantitative, predominantly utilizing the survey method and focusing primarily on academicians (faculty, students, and research scholars). Most of these studies have been conducted by researchers at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir. Most of the studies have been published in non-Scopus-indexed journals. The table also shows annual studies on information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir are rising, but these numbers are still low.

4. Results

The perspectives from which researchers have studied the information-access behaviour of users are myriad. In Kashmir, research on information-access behaviour mainly originates from its manifestation in an academic context, briefly touching upon its exhibitions in work-related contexts. According to the systematic literature review, most studies on information-access behaviour in Kashmir have been conducted in the Library and Informa tion Science field. The foci of a majority of these studies pivot around the following parameters:

- Frequency of Usage
- Information Sources
- Information Search
- Information Needs
- Factors affecting information-access behaviour.

4.1 Frequency of Information Access

The frequency of information seeking across different user groups varies. Gupta & Sharma [17] discovered that faculty members participate in information-seeking activities daily. Bhat et al. [18] (2015) found that 80.28% of faculty and research scholars utilize e-journals daily. The primary information resources examined for their frequency of use include libraries and the electronic resources they offer—the amount of time students spend searching for information varies significantly, with most dedicating 4-6 hours, as Ganaie & Khazer[19] noted. Khazer et al. [20] stated that most scholars seek information for up to 2 hours daily. Gul & Shah [21] observed that archives like JSTOR experienced heavy traffic during weekdays, particularly Thursdays. Early morning hours (8:30 am – 9:30 am) saw minimal traffic, which gradually increased throughout the day, peaking between 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm. Nabi [21] indicated that 18.03% of surgeons and physicians accessed online information sources daily, 22.9% monthly, and 44.26% weekly. According to Bhat et al. [23] most research scholars use the Internet daily for information-seeking purposes. The frequency of library visits for information gathering and the use of services that facilitate information seeking vary widely. Rather & Ganaie [23] found that most scholars visit libraries 2-3 times a week, dedicating up to 2 hours daily to search for information. Conversely, Amanullah et al. [25] reported that 40% of students visited libraries 2-3 times weekly, while 32% did so daily. Qadri [26] indicated a promising frequency of library visits for information-seeking, with 36.92% of postgraduates visiting frequently and 41.49% occasionally. Most students and scholars admitted

to accessing medical websites for health information occasionally, with only 6.52% using them daily. Recent studies, including those by Wani et al. [27] and Ali & Jan [28] suggest that most students infrequently visit the library, although the reasons behind this trend remain unexplored. Nasreen et al. [28] noted a similarity in the frequency of usage of electronic information sources across different genders.

The summary concludes that the user studies conducted at various institutions and places do not follow any specific pattern, but found divergent practices. The users' level and prior knowledge play a significant role in the practices. However, the primary deterministic character is their system and resources knowledge, including the understanding of the nature of the content and its characteristics.

4.2 Information Sources, Tools, and Devices

According to this review, the information sources, search tools employed to retrieve the desired information, and the devices used to seek information have received significant attention in studies on information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir. The Internet has become the most popular source of information for postgraduates, faculty, and research scholars to stay updated with current information, as discerned from findings of Rather & Ganaie and others [30], [31], [32], [33], [34). 88% of research scholars said it affects their information-seeking behaviour [35]. The Internet was also the preferred source for seeking health information for self-treatment [36]. 52% of college students use the Internet and Internet-based information sources such as SNS, blogs, search engines, virtual libraries, and subject gateways to satisfy their information needs [37].

Libraries are an essential information source. Given the condensation of studies on information-seeking behaviour in academic settings in Kashmir, libraries become a crucial information source for sustained information-seeking activities. Libraries are an essential information source for faculty members and research scholars who profusely visit and use them [38], [39], [30]. Some faculty members and students reported using a combination of the Internet and the library as information sources [40], [41]. Textbooks were the most preferred formal source of information [25], [28]. Other sources of information were subject experts [39] e-journals and e-books [22] newspapers, television, seminars, conferences [24] and social media [49].

The most preferred sources of information for surgeons and physicians were textbooks, reference books, journals, online databases, clinical guidelines, and pharmaceutical representatives [42]. Their preferences for information sources change at professional locations. Most (37%) consult their senior/ experienced colleagues, some (21%) use print sources, and 14% use a combination.

Personal communication was also one method of getting the required information [24], especially to stay abreast with the latest information [31]. Discussion with colleagues was the most preferred means of seeking information for college students [31]. Users frequently used platforms like the Q&A site Quora during the COVID-19 pandemic to get information/ answers to queries about their personal experiences during the pandemic [43].

Users mostly rely on search engines to find information. Search engines were the most preferred information retrieval tool for faculty members [16] professors [44] research scholars [23] and postgraduate students [24]. Google Chrome and Yahoo were the most popular search engines for males and females [29]. To seek information, users use mobile phones, laptops, desktops, or a combination of these [24]. Other devices were e-book readers and tablets [17].

These findings reveal that users call upon a diverse range of information sources to satisfy their information needs. While earlier studies disclose a preference for orthodox information sources, recent studies reveal users adopting a hybrid approach to finding information and sources.

4.3 Information Sources Search

The criteria variable for determining which information source and information will be chosen mainly revolves around the two formats in which information is ubiquitously available: Online and Offline information sources. This makes the format a prime criterion for the selection of information sources. The format of information sources, i.e., offline (print) or online (e-format), determines the choice of information sources. Earlier studies revealed an inclination among students towards print-based information sources, even when they had access to e-resources [15]. Lately, these preferences have changed. Research scholars and students prefer accessing information through electronic sources [24], [41], [20], [31]. Simultaneously, many prefer a combination of both formats [20], [28]. The primary reason for choosing and using electronic information sources was the ease of access [20], [24], [41]. Other significant criteria were timeliness [41] availability of information, quick searches, feeling updated, ability to use multiple search techniques, easy storage, and ease of extracting information [24]. Postgraduates use library services like OPAC because they save time and provide fast responses [26]. For surgeons and physicians, the criteria for information source selection were comprehensiveness, reliability, timeliness, and ease of searching [42]. Kethavath [45] found that farmers (rice growers) evaluated the information they acquired/ received based on their previous experience. The information plans when to sow the crops and when to treat them. However, technological, economic, and local feasibility information is evaluated.

4.4 Search Strategies

For users, navigating the information labyrinth to reach the desired information is quintessential to satisfying their information needs. The skill set required to navigate the vast amounts of information available on the Internet has become inherent to digital literacy. A vital component of this skill set is the various search techniques/ strategies users can use to facilitate online information-seeking. Users in Kashmir use an array of search strategies to search for information. The most popular search strategies were keyword searching [22], [20] and phrase searching [46], [23]. Other frequently used search strategies were Boolean operators and field searching. Users also reported using the title of the articles/ chapters/ book/ journal, author name, and language to search for their desired information [18]. Postgraduates reported manually searching library shelves to find the required information or information sources [26].

4.5 Information Needs

Information need is what prompts a user to seek information. The primary information needs of students are to fulfil their academic objectives, such as completion of the degree, staying updated, career development, preparing projects and assignments, general awareness, and problem-solving [39]. Ganaie and Khazer [19] and Khazer, M. & Ganaie, [41] reported similar findings. Postgraduate students use the Internet primarily to stay updated with the latest information in their field of study [24]. For students, library visits were prompted by borrowing books, reading newspapers, magazines, reference material, and using the internet facilities at the library [28]. College students' reasons for seeking information were communication and discussion, preparing for an examination, collecting subject information, updating general knowledge, and career development [49]. The main reasons for seeking information for faculty members were to pursue research goals, stay updated [17], fulfil teaching objectives [38] and find relevant information [25].

Research scholars' reasons for using the Internet to seek information were staying updated, accessing email, finding research material, general awareness, and social networking [23]. The primary information needs that prompted library visits among research scholars were research, followed by general awareness, staying updated, preparing assignments, entertainment, personal interest reading, and discussion [24].

The information needs of surgeons primarily originate from their work. They seek information about patient data, update their medical knowledge, and acquire information about drugs/ medical products and equipment, research, and logistics [47]. The main reason for seeking information among surgeons and physicians was to gain information about the diagnosis and treatment, prepare for meetings, debates, conferences, and seminars, administrative issues or protocols, get published, and research [42]. They used e-journals for research, staying updated, preparing for workshops, conferences, teaching, and getting published [22].

Farmers seek information relevant to various aspects of the crops they are cultivating. Yousufet al. [48] found that information needs expressed by the farmers (apple growers) were related to the management of their crops. Their primary information need was seeking information about how to manage diseases in apple crops, followed by information about training in agricultural practices like pruning, government schemes and subsidies, high-density plantation, and pest management. They found a negative and significant relationship between characteristics like education, farming experience, training received, and information needs. More expertise and training translate to a minimal need for seeking information. They also found a positive and significant relationship between land holding, source of information, scientific orientation, and information needs. More land means more information is required to manage it.

4.6 Factors Affecting Information-Seeking Behaviour

According to the review, investigating the factors that affect users' information-seeking behaviourhas been a significant component of the studies. The review revealed various factors that hinder information-seeking practices, as illustrated in Figure 4.

One of the significant barriers that users faced while seeking information was slow internet speed. This factor was observed in 11 studies whose subjects were students [19], faculty [18], and research scholars [41]. Since the Internet is the most preferred source of information [49], hindered access adversely affects online information-seeking behaviour.

Kashmir is a developing region. Its academic institutions are also in the developing stages. Another significant barrier to information-seeking practices is a lack of or inadequate infrastructure. This entails pressing issues like lack of consistent electricity supply [19], [32], [28], lack of power backup [38], inadequate e-resources [49], obsolete information [50], [25) lack of assistance or guidance [32], [49] lack of experts [23] and lack of reprographics services (32). It also encapsulates issues like limited internet access time [38], [24], limited subscription [28], limited time to access resources [42], and limited computers [24], [41].

Awareness is a significant factor affecting the information-seeking behaviour of users across professions, disciplines, and genders. This critical variable is increasingly relevant to information-seeking behaviour studies in two ways. First, researchers have tried to measure users' awareness levels about various information sources and services, especially in the context of libraries. Second, researchers have explored how users reach these levels of awareness, i.e., the sources of awareness.

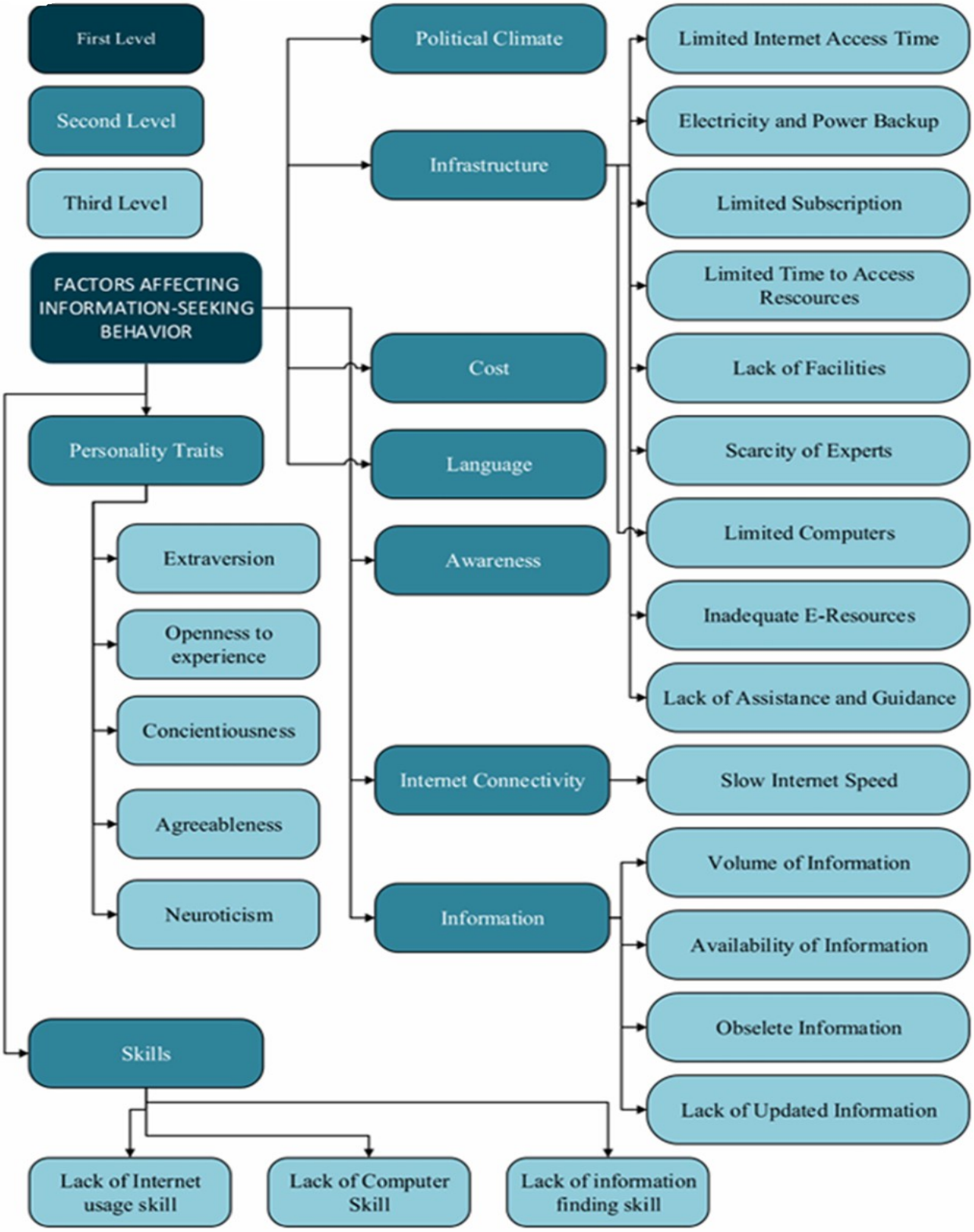

Figure 4. Factors affecting the information-seeking behaviour

The majority of users (faculty, research scholars, surgeons, physicians, and students) revealed high levels of awareness about various information resources [50], [49], [27] and search tools and techniques [46]. Nasree net al. [29] also found low levels of awareness among postgraduate students about specific e-resources across genders. Shah (2018) found that 44.92% of doctoral students and research scholars knew about health websites, but only 20.28% used them.

Most students and research scholars reported independently becoming aware of library sources and e-resources [27], [24]. Teachers, library staff, and library websites were other sources of awareness. Surgeons and doctors became aware of electronic information resources through friends/ colleagues, search engines, teachers/ guides, and library staff [22].

The satisfaction users report upon interaction and usage is an archetypal metric for evaluating the efficiency and efficacy of information, information sources, and information services. The review revealed high levels of satisfaction among users. Studies [38], [22], [39], [50], [28] reported high satisfaction levels with e-resources, library services, and library collection among faculty, surgeons, physicians, and students. The satisfaction level of most research scholars with the information retrieved from the Internet ranged from average to very high [23]. Some studies [37] reported low satisfaction levels among faculty, research scholars, and college students with library facilities and web-based information sources.

Location, time, patient type, and workload affect surgeons' and physicians' information needs [47]. Location may also affect the preference for information sources [42].

Gender is an important variable considered in recent studies on information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir. Bhatet al. [18] and Nasreen et al. [29] found non-significant differences in information-seeking activities between research scholars and postgraduate students of different genders. Babaet al. [31] found identical responses to preferences of the format in which information is desired across genders, with both genders preferring online information sources. Some studies [37] have missed exploring gender as a variable. The population in their study was composed of 800 students from eight colleges in Kashmir. Three of the eight were women's colleges (specifically dedicated to female students), making it an ideal background to discern the differences in information-seeking behaviour across genders.

Geography or location as a demographic variable has also been touched upon. According to Amanullah et al. [50] (2019), most faculty and research scholars prefer to access e-resources in the departments because they find the setting comfortable. 63.67% of postgraduate students said they prefer accessing information at the central library, followed by the hostel, internet cafes, and respective departments [28]. Similarly, Ashraf [42] found that location affects the preferences of sources among doctors. From these findings, we can infer that users prefer specific locations for seeking information. The underlying reasons for these can be the availability of information, the environment facilitating information seeking, or personal preferences. However, these reasons have not been investigated.

Discipline and information-seeking behaviour have a strong correlation. Gul & Shah[21] found that students from biological sciences accessed journals most, followed by ecology and evolutionary biology, botany and plant sciences, political sciences, and business studies. This indicates that users from specific disciplines incline towards particular information sources. Also, differences in frequency of usage exist among students from different disciplines.

The role of a demographic variable requires a nuanced exploration. It requires examination of an individual or a group across the various roles they assume. An information science researcher endeavours to discern the changes in information-seeking behaviour as users shift between roles. According to the review, only one study has managed to do this in Kashmir. According to Shafi & Wani [47], surgeons and physicians teach, practice medicine, and assume administrative roles. This shift in roles influences their information needs. Each role entails a specific set of information needs. Other demographic variables such as income, age, employment status, literacy, level of education, and ethnicity have not been explored.

Skills are also an essential factor affecting information-seeking behaviour. Having the required skills to navigate your way to information facilitates the information-seeking process. The absence of the necessary skill set acts as a significant barrier. Faculty members reported not knowing how to use the Internet to access the required information [17]. Similarly, Mangi [38] reported a lack of skill sets among faculty members in accessing and using e-databases. While using library resources, students also reported a lack of knowledge about e-database usage and the skills required to find relevant information [39]. Research scholars also noted that lacking information-searching skills affects their information-seeking behaviour [20]. Levels of computer literacy were also reported as an influencing factor [22].

The political climate has a strong correlation with information-seeking behaviour. According to Gulet al. [51], political climate, i.e., peace or conflict, strongly correlates with information-seeking behaviour. Most users use the Internet for information-seeking practices. Conflict or political instability entails hindered access to the Internet, hampering information-seeking behaviour. Periods of peace/ normalcy provide a conducive environment for users to engage in information-seeking practices. The results of the log analysis employed by Gulet al. [21] reveal the following numbers for article views for the corresponding years: 305 (2008), 548 (2009), 15 (2010), 1293 (2011), and 542 (2012). Kashmir witnessed political instability between 2008 and 2010 and experienced peace from 2011 to 2012. It is understandable from these statistics that peace facilitates information-seeking while instability hinders it. Bhat et al. also reported that the political climate affects information-seeking behaviour [18].

Personality traits also influence information-seeking behaviour. Gulet al. [52] found a positive correlation between personality traits like extraversion, openness to experience, conscientiousness, and information-seeking behaviour. Similarly, higher agreeableness makes users more critical of the information they seek and use. Personality traits like neuroticism, which entail angst, depression, and anxiety, negatively affect information-seeking behaviour. A user's emotional stability affects their information-seeking behaviour.

Other factors found were a lack of library culture [52], cost [37], too much information [17], language [37], lack of awareness [20], and information scattered across many sources [37].

5. Discussion of the Findings and Future Research Directions

Information-seeking behaviour (ISB) studies in Kashmir predominantly sprout from Library and Information Science. These studies chiefly focus on how users exhibit information-seeking behaviour in academic contexts, briefly touching upon how it manifests in work-related settings. The population/ subjects of these studies are academicians (faculty, research scholars, postgraduate students, college students, and library professionals), doctors (surgeons & physicians), and farmers (apple growers and rice growers). This highlights the monolithic and conventional nature of the research approach adopted by the researchers. This traditional approach is reflected

in the foci, scope, population, and methodologies of the studies. While contemporary research looks at ISB from the prism of factors such as information access, digital divide, changing social roles, etc., studies in Kashmir have yet to incorporate such factors.

The information-seeking behaviour of present-day users may vary immensely from that of a decade ago. By incorporating studies conducted on ISB since 2010, this review ensured that the findings are contextual, i.e., they enable discerning changes in information-seeking behaviour, and they are up-to-date.

Libraries in Kashmir are adopting ICTs to facilitate users' information-seeking activities. The users access library resources both physically and through remote login. The frequency and duration of their visits to the libraries vary a lot. The purpose behind visiting libraries is to access the resources and services offered, with browsing and borrowing books being the primary reasons for these visits. Library users have a positive attitude towards libraries and believe they benefit from them. They also believe that libraries provide useful sources to their users. Very few users visit libraries regularly. The studies have not ascertained the reason for this limited foot fall.

Chronological analysis of reviewed studies revealed that previously, users preferred printed sources over electronic sources despite having access to them. However, recent studies show a higher inclination towards web and e-resources. The Internet is the most popular information source for students, research scholars, and Faculty, especially for staying updated. The ubiquity of the Internet and the ease of access are the reasons for this trend. The presence of information blockades can also be a determining factor in the preference for the information format. Information blockades entail internet shutdowns, which prevent users from accessing internet services for information-seeking. In such scenarios, users might turn to print sources. However, this inference needs to be explored. Some recent studies also found users utilizing a combination of both formats. They also use personal communication and discussion to seek information. Studies need to look at information-seeking behaviour from a communication studies point of view. People are information sources, especially when they have expertise and experience. How users seek information from other users must be a future research area for information science researchers.

Methodologically, all studies in this review adopted a quantitative research design, with the survey being the predominant research method. While quantitative methods have their strength, future researchers should also focus on adopting qualitative research designs. A mixed-method approach or triangulation may also produce robust datasets rich in detail.

The review reveals various factors that act as barriers to users seeking information. Exploring factors that affect ISB is vital as it helps identify the problems in the information supply chain. Researchers identify these problems and suggest possible solutions that are helpful to governments, institutions, and other information providers. However, these studies mainly focus on exploring factors that hinder access to information in academic settings, specifically academic information sources.

Lack of awareness about the sources and services offered by the library goes hand-in-hand with a lack of initiatives by library professionals. Users of multiple studies reported this factor affecting their ISB, so launching awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars to raise awareness about information sources and services available at the libraries was one of the most voiced suggestions in studies. Some studies have opined on the establishment of a non-credit Library and Information Science course. The researchers suggest establishing LIS departments in

universities and colleges across Kashmir. This will enable institutions to raise awareness about various information sources they offer their users, acquainting them with information sources, services, and search strategies.

Although the number of studies on information-seeking behaviour originating from Kashmir is increasing, they are still limited. It is also challenging to locate such studies. The studies reviewed here rarely refer to information-seeking behaviour studies conducted in Kashmir. The reasons for this can be manifold. It can be because the foci of the studies are so varied that there is no overlap. Further, there may not be a reasonable amount of literature available or known from the region to be referred to.

Another important finding of this review is the dearth of studies on ISB from Kashmir in journals indexed in reputed databases like Scopus or Web of Science (WOS). This raises concerns about the quality of work produced in the region. Simultaneously, it throttles the discourse about this geopolitically important region, isolating the body of work and hindering its enrichment through critique and feedback.

In Kashmir, research on information-seeking behaviour needs to move beyond libraries. Studies must identify and focus on understanding information-seeking behaviour via different sources and the media used to access these sources. Information-seeking doesn't only take place in academic contexts, and academic information is not the only information sought. The information-seeking behaviour of users outside the educational context needs to be explored. Similarly, when moving beyond the academic setting, variables such as profession, economy, literacy, social roles, and demography become vital and must be kept in view. Simultaneously, the researchers need to study the information-seeking behaviour of other populations. The reviewed studies have neglected to comprehensively study vital variables, such as gender, age, profession, financial status, and internet shutdowns. Therefore, definite conclusions cannot be drawn about users' information-seeking behaviour. The complexities of this ubiquitous behaviour need to be explored in Kashmir. It is ominously short-sighted to operate under this premise. Instead, an interdisciplinary approach is required. Information-seeking behaviouris relevant to other fields, such as media studies, communication studies, psychology, sociology, advertising, and marketing.

In regions that have experienced political instability, the political climate becomes a crucial factor that brings along its own variables. Variables such as internet shutdowns cut across all phases of information-seeking behaviour. While some studies focus on ICTs and the Internet and how they have impacted libraries and their usage, the same studies have missed out on including internet shutdowns, particularly, and information blockades, in general, as intervening variables. They were carried out in the same year when these variables were in effect. Therefore, we need to usher in comprehensive research endeavours to understand the dynamics of information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir.

6. Limitations of the Study

This systematic review has certain limitations. The search query formulated using keywords to identify the relevant literature in this study may unintentionally include a particular set of research studies while excluding relevant studies. The systematic review is based only on research studies available on Google Scholar. Other databases might have research studies on information-seeking behaviour in Kashmir. These omissions potentially limit the scope of this review. Concurrently, this study's inclusion and exclusion criteria might

vary from those established in other studies. This might result in a variance in the findings present in this study and those of different studies. Though this review offers unique insights in to the information-seeking behaviour of users in Kashmir, it is pertinent to keep these limitations in view while evaluating these findings.

Declaration

The authors confirm the non-use of any AI tools to write this paper.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the paper has no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgement

No Funding Agency is directly or indirectly involved in the research work.

References

[1] Dentzel, Z. (2013). How the internet has changed everyday life. *OpenMind*. Retrieved August 14, 2024, from https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/articles/internet-changed-everyday-life/

[2] Lazaroiu, G. (2009). The future of journalism. *Geopolitics, History, and International Relations*, *1* (2) 154–158.

[3] Jia, R. M., Du, J. T., Zhao, Y. C. (2022). Characteristics of the health information seeking behavior of LGBTQ+ individuals: A systematic review on information types, information sources and influencing factors. *Journal of Documentation*, *78*(2), 361–388. https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-03-2021-0069

[4] Wilson, T. D. (1999). Models in information behaviour research. *Journal of Documentation*, 55 (3) 249–270.

[5] Kuhlthau, C. C. (1993). A principle of uncertainty for information seeking. *Journal of Documentation*, *49* (4) 339–355. https://doi.org/10.1108/eb026918

[6] Case, Donald. O., Given, L. M. (2016). *Looking for information: A research survey on information seeking, needs, and behavior* (4th ed.). Emerald, Bingley, UK.

[7] Savolainen, R. (2015). Cognitive barriers to information seeking: A conceptual analysis. *Journal of Information Science*, *41* (5) 613–623. https://doi.org/10.1177/0165551515587850

[8] Szymkowiak, Andrzej., Melovic, Boban., Dabiæ, Marina., Jeganathan, Marina., Kund, Gagandeep Singh. (2021). Information technology and Gen Z: The role of teachers, the internet, and technology in the education of young people. *Technology in Society*, *65*, 101565.

[9] Chen, Y., Lu, Y. (2020). Factors influencing farmers' information needs and access channels: An empirical study in Guangdong, China. *Journal of Information Science*, 46 (1) 3–22. https://doi.org/10.1177/0165551518823170

[10] Zhang, Y. (2014). Beyond quality and accessibility: Source selection in consumer health information searching. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 65 (5) 911–927.

[11] Von Rueden, L., et al. (2023). Informed machine learning – A taxonomy and survey of integrating prior knowledge into learning systems. *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering*, 35 (1) 614–633.

[12] Fayyad, U., Piatetsky-Shapiro, G., Smyth, P. (1996). From data mining to knowledge discovery in databases. *AI Magazine*, 17 (3) 37–54.

[13] Kahneman, D. (2011). *Thinking, fast and slow*. New York, NY, USA: Macmillan.

[14] Lake, B. M., Ullman, T. D., Tenenbaum, J. B., Gershman, S. J. (2017). Building machines that learn and think like people. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *40*.

[15] Machamer, P., Silberstein, M. (2002). *The Blackwell guide to the philosophy of science*. Blackwell Publishing.

[16] Gauch, H. G. (2003). *Scientific method in practice*. Cambridge University Press.

[17] Gupta, S., Sharma, B. (2010). Use of the internet for information seeking by the faculty members of the University of Kashmir: A survey. *Trends in Information Management*, 6 (1) 51–61. 668114d8-b5ae-4d5a-b329-dde5991ce522.pdf

[18] Bhat, N. A., Ganaie, S. A., Rather, M. K. (2015). Information behavior of scholarly community with e-resources: A case study of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1235/

[19] Ganaie, S. A., Khazer, M. (2014). Information-seeking behavior among PG students of University of Kashmir: An analytical study. *Journal of Advancements in Library Sciences*, 1 (1) 64–72.https://sciencejournals.stmjournals.in/index.php/JoALS/article/view/2574/1827

[20] Khazer, M., Jan, S., Ganaie, S. A. (2015). Impact of ICT on information learning/seeking behavior of researchers: A case study of science scholars in University of Kashmir. *In:* The 11th International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics (WIS) & 16th COLLNET Meeting, November 26–28, New Delhi, India.

[21] Gul, S., Shah, T. A. (2010). Log analysis of web resources: A case study of state universities of Jammu & Kashmir. *In:* International Conference on Digital Libraries 2010 (ICDL 2010): Shaping the Information Paradigm, February 23–26, New Delhi. https://doi.org/10.13140/2.1.2598.4964

[22] Nabi, S. (2015). E-journal culture among medical fraternity of Kashmir. *International Journal of Knowledge Management and Practices*, *3* (2) 40–46. http://www.publishingindia.com/ijkmp/57/e-journal-culture-among-medical-fraternity-of-kashmir/426/3031/

[23] Bhat, B. A., Rahi, S., Nusrat, Yaqoob, M., Ahmad, I., Shafiq, S. (2016). Behaviour of scholars towards use of internet in Kashmir valley. *International Journal of Applied Engineering and Technology*, 6 (2) 50–56.

[24] Rather, M. K., Ganaie, S. A. (2017). Modeling information seeking behavior of scholarly community. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1501/

[25] Amanullah, A., Seethai, R. M., Majeed, S. B. (2019). Information seeking behavior of undergraduate college students of tribal district Kargil: A study. *Library Progress (International)*, 39 (1) 154–162. https://doi.org/10.5958/2320-317X.2019.00016.3

[26] Qadri, U. (2012). OPAC as document retrieval tool: A case study of the University of Kashmir. *International Journal of Digital Library Services*, *2*(2), 8–18. http://www.ijodls.in/uploads/3/6/0/3/3603729/uzma_qadri_8-18.pdf

[27] Wani, J. A., Shiekh, H. A., Jan, S. (2019). The resources of Allama Iqbal Library: An evaluative study. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2733/?utm_source=digitalcommons.unl.edu%2Flibphilprac%2F2733&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages

[28] Ali, A., Jan, S. (2020). Information seeking behaviour in digital environment: A study of postgraduate students at University of Kashmir. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4537/?utm_source=digitalcommons.unl.edu%2Flibphilprac%2F4537&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages

[29] Nasreen, N., Bashir, B., Yaseen, U. (2019). Use of web resources by the postgraduate students across genders. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2745/

[30] Rather, M., Ganaie, S. A. (2017). How postgraduate students use and access electronic resources in the universities of Jammu and Kashmir. *Trends in Information Management (TRIM)*, *11* (1) 56–67. https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/162548447.pdf

[31] Baba, S., Jeelani, S. G. M., Ganaie, S. A. (2022). Priorities of college students for academic library information sources in the digital era. *International Journal of Knowledge Management and Practices*, 10 (2) 1–12.

[32] Mittal, A. (2017). Utilization of electronic resources by the library users of agricultural university of Kashmir. *Library Progress (International)*, 37 (2) 262. https://doi.org/10.5958/2320-317x.2017.00026.5

[33] Jabeen, S. J., Ganie, S. A. (2019). Information seeking behavior of faculty members and students in colleges of Kashmir region: Ellis model approach. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. mation seeking Behavior of Faculty Members and Students in Colleges of Kashmir Region: Ellis Model Approach

[34] Jabeen, S., Ali, A., Ganaie, S. A. (2018). Information-seeking behavior in Generation Y: A comparative analysis of scholars and students in University of Kashmir. *International Journal of Advance Research in Science and Engineering*, *7* (4) 2407–2415. 1524986538_JK1391ijarse.pdf

[35] Lone, S. A., Mir, A. H., Ganie, S. A. (2017). Information seeking behavior of research scholars of Faculty of Social Science, University of Kashmir: A study. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 7 (1) 62–77.

[36] Shah, U. U. (2018). Web 2.0 & public health. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*.

[37] Lone, J. A., Ahmad, S., Dar, B. A. (2019). Internet search tools and their use by undergraduate students: A survey of District Baramulla and Kupwara - J&K. *International Journal of Information Studies & Libraries*, *4* (1) 36–43.

[38] Mangi, L. D. (2014). Utilization of databases in state agricultural universities of Jammu and Kashmir (India). *IOSR Journal of Agriculture and Veterinary Science (IOSR-JAVS)*, 7 (4) 1–8. doi: 10.9790/2380-07430108

[39] Mir, F. M. (2017). Information seeking behavior and library use pattern of students at Govt Degree College Baramulla: A survey. *International Journal of Library & Information Science*, 5 (3) 109–118.

[40] Jabeen, S., Jeelani, S. G. M., Ganaie, S. A. (2020). Relational analysis of information seeking behavior among students and faculty members in selective departments at University of Kashmir. *Journal of Knowledge & Communication Management*, *10* (2) 99–109. https://doi.org/10.5958/2277-7946.2020.00009.1

[41] Khazer, M., Ganaie, S. A. (2018). Impact of technology on information seeking behavior: A case with postgraduate students of select universities in Jammu and Kashmir. IEEE Xplore,. https://doi.org/10.1109/ettlis.2018.8485272

[42] Ashraf, M. Information Seeking Behaviour Of The Physicians And Surgeons In Jammu & Kashmir: An Exploratory Study. *International Journal of Digital Library Services*, 2012, 2 (2) 19-34.

[43] Ayoub, A., Wani, Z. A. Answering the Queries on Covid-19 Pandemic: Profiling the Contribution of Social Q&A Site Quora. In *Knowledge Management in Higher Education Institutions*, Volume 2, Manipal University Jaipur, India, 2021.

[44] Wafaye, A. H. (2015). Impact of Technology on Information Seeking Behaviour of Digital Immigrants: A Comparative Study of Senior Academicians in J&K. *International Journal of Knowledge Management and Practices*, 3(2), 1-7.

[45] Kethavath, N., Dar, M.A.; Meenia, P. Information Procession Behaviour of Rice Growers Under Seed Village Programme in District Baramulla (J&K). *Journal of Community Mobilization and Sustainable Development*, 2023, 18(1), 231–234.

[46] Loan, F. A. Online Information Literacy Of The Social Science Research Scholars. *International Journal of Digital Library Services*, 2012, 2(2), 1-7. http://www.ijodls.in/uploads/3/6/0/3/3603729/full_paper_vol-2_issue-21_.pdf

[47] Shafi, S.M., Wani, M.A. Information Needs of Physicians and Surgeons of Jammu & Kashmir. *Trends in Information Management*, 2012, 7(1), 56-69.c16fdbce-e0d5-441c-8dc5-2b1685a785e3.pdf

[48] Yousuf, D., Ali, L., Dar, M.A., Bhat, S., Wani, K. R., Wani, F. J., Wani, T. T. (2023). Assessment of Information Needs of Apple Growers in District Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), India. *Journal of Experimental Agriculture International*, 2023, 45 (9) 182–187. doi: 10.9734/jeai/2023/v45i92190.

[49] Jabeen, S., Ganaie, S. A. A Comparative Study on the Use of Information Sources among Undergraduates in Academic Institutions. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/3910/

[50] Amanullah, A., Banoo, M., Khiste, G. (2019). Use of e-resources by faculty and research scholars of Kashmir University, J&K. *International Journal of Innovative Knowledge Concepts*, 7 (4).

[51] Gul, S., Nabi, S., Mushtaq, S., Shah, T. A., Ahmad, S. (2013). Political unrest and educational electronic resource usage in a conflict zone, Kashmir (Indian administered Kashmir): Log analysis as politico analytical tool. *Bilgi Dünyasý*, 14 (2) 388–399.

[52] Gul, S., Mahajan, I., Shah, T. A., Nisa, N. T. (2015). Influence of personality traits on information seeking behaviour: A case study of research scholars in the field of botany. *In*: International Conference on the Convergence of Libraries, Archives and Museums (ICLAM 2015) Vol. 4, p. 354–361. 1. https://doi.org/10.13140/2.1.4196.2564

Contributors

Salik Parveaz is a Senior Research Fellow (SRF) at the Department of Convergent Journalism, School of Media Studies (Central University of Kashmir), where he is pursuing his Ph.D. His doctoral thesis explores the dynamics between information-seeking behaviour and information blockades. His research interests include information-seeking behaviour, technology and journalistic practice, gender studies, and conflict studies.

Asif Khan is a Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Convergent Journalism, School of Media Studies (Central University of Kashmir). He teaches Media Convergence, Media and Communication, and Journalism Studies. He has more than 16 years of teaching experience. He received the Fulbright-Nehru Master's Fellowship (2010-2011). He has been a Trainer for Panos South Asia for media professionals and students in Urban & New Media studies. He was awarded a Ph.D. for his research on 'Convergence in Journalism.' He has also conducted a case study on the life and works of Marshall Herbert McLuhan for his Master's degree and was awarded an M.Phil. in 2010 for his research on 'Media coverage of strategic Indo-US relations.