



An Analysis Of The Information-Seeking Practices Of Law Students And Faculty In An Open Access Legal Database Environment (Hilsr) In New Delhi

Mahendra Kumar Rawat Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science, Mangalayatan University, Aligarh- rawat.lib.aptel@gmail.com

Dr Mohammad Yusuf Associate Professor and Ex-University Librarian (Maulana Azad Library AMU Aligarh) Department of Library & Information Science, Mangalayatan University, Aligarh- 202146 myusufalig@gmail.com

Abstract

The extensive study looks at the online information-seeking habits and legal database reading preferences of HILSR students. Both survey research methods and random sample strategies were applied in this study. 195 (81.25%) of the 240 HILSR students and teachers that participated in the study returned the questionnaires. The results of the survey show that almost all of the participants are aware of open-access materials. Research on case law typically makes use of these sources. Through an analysis of the many methods in which law students exchange information, this has aimed to provide an incredibly experiential understanding of the information-seeking behavior and habits of both instructors and students. This study examines how law students and faculty at Delhi's Hamdard Institute of Legal Studies and Research (HILSR) choose to read and how they go for information. Delhi within a legal database with unrestricted access. Data from both law students and HILSR faculty members were gathered for the study using a mixed-methods approach that includes questionnaires and interviews. And furthermore. The reading and information-seeking behavior of law students and instructors at the Hamdard Institute of Legal Studies and Research (HILSR), Delhi, in the setting of an open-access legal database environment. It will be ensured by the findings that HILSR, law students in Delhi, and instructors are adequately equipped to use open-access legal resources for research and academic purposes.

Keywords: Information-seeking Habits, open access Legal database, Law students, teachers, HILSR (Hamdard Institute of Legal Studies and Research) Jamia Hamdard new Delhi.

Introduction

Legal information is essential for both the advancement of a case and the prevention of needless litigation. With the correct knowledge, a customer may decide to engage in or forego a certain

activity. Information support is highly valued in all professions, and the legal profession is no exception. There is still the rule of law. To find pertinent rules that attorneys might not always be aware of, legal research procedures must be applied in some capacity. Furthermore, a legislative provision's interpretation may lead to the creation of one or more regulations, each with its own legal foundation. So, it is up to lawyers to find the relevant legal sources. The legal profession may profit substantially from the high-quality, open-access information system in this era of digitalization. The majority of legal information consists of reporting of court decisions and statutes. These legal works address both the "authority" and the "precedent" of the law. The legal community at large may need different kinds of information depending on the situation. These may include case law, statutory provisions, rules framed under any act, the intention and rationale behind any bill, an act amendment, notifications issued under any particular statute, Parliamentary debates during the enactment of any particular act, or scholarly articles on a particular subject.

Reading Habits and Information Seeking Behaviour Reading is an essential habit in the modern society. It fosters tolerance and creative thinking. Without research, man cannot enter the light. It's a daily process that may be completed with the primary objective being success. When reading, the reader and the text engage in a complex relationship that is influenced by the reader's background knowledge, experiences, and opinions. It demands constant improvement, exercise, creativity, and critical thought. Reading habits lead to an enhancement in one's ability to evaluate. The public has access to the ideas of intellectuals, the vocabulary expands, thinking skills improve, and the ability to retain mental clarity is developed.

Sangkaeo (1999) defined a reading habit as a practice that demonstrates a person's personal reading preferences and tastes. A person arranges their reading by adhering to a pattern. UNESCO claims that reading habits help people participate in democracies as educated citizens. Which is essential for full engagement in the current world"?

The process by which a user seeks information about his wants from various information sources is known as information-seeking behaviour; hence, the way in which users can satiate their information demands is known as information searching behaviour. Wilson first used the term "information-seeking behaviour" in his 1981 article because, unless it is included in the research design, a direct assessment of the information needs is not helpful.

Information seeking behaviour is a human activity that **Satija and Singh (2007)** discovered involves adaptive and reflective control over the efferent and afferent behaviours of the information seeker. In this procedure, information is sought by determining the information needs of the users, and the sought-after information is provided through conventional sources of information such as libraries, information centers, and associated individuals.

Information Seeking Behaviour: influence of law professional,

5871 | Mahendra Kumar Rawat An Analysis Of The Information-Seeking Practices Of Law Students And Faculty In An Open Access Legal Database Environment (Hilsr) In New Delhi

Digital Transformation: Digital transformation: To improve access to legal information, Indian courts are increasingly using online databases and digital platforms. This has an impact on how judges, scholars, and legal professionals seek information.

Search for Case Laws: Online legal databases are frequently used by researchers and practitioners of law to find pertinent case law. To identify pertinent rulings and cases, they can do searches using keywords, case numbers, or particular legal clauses.

Legislative Research: Legislative acts, modifications, rules, and regulations are accessible through online databases. These platforms are used by lawyers to investigate legislation and comprehend the laws that apply to their particular circumstances.

Citation Verification: To confirm the legitimacy and correctness of citations used in legal arguments or judgments, attorneys and judges might consult online legal databases.

Legal Analysis: A few online legal databases offer legal commentary, articles, and analysis on a range of legal subjects. Such data may be sought by researchers to better comprehend legal matters.

Reading Habits: influence of law professional, researchers

Case Law Study: To grasp the legal principles, precedents, and interpretations made by higher courts, legal professionals and researchers examine and analyse case laws that are available online in databases.

Statutory Interpretation: Users can obtain statutory provisions and legislative acts using online legal databases. Legal experts read these statutes to interpret the law and apply it to particular situations.

Research Papers and Journals: Legal periodicals, academic publications, and research papers are frequently found in online legal resources. These resources can be studied by researchers to stay current on judicial decisions, scholarly debates, and developing trends.

Legal News and Updates: In order to keep users up to date on recent legal events, such as new judgements, legislative changes, and significant court decisions, several online legal databases offer news sections or newsletters.

Open Access Law Databases in University Libraries:

Online law databases available at university libraries: the value of law databases Access to legal information like case law, statutes, regulations, legal commentary, and journals is primarily reliant on specialised law databases used by researchers and students of law. Legal information can be

easily accessed and is covered in-depth by online law databases, which offer a large variety of legal materials.

Databases of several kinds:

Libraries at universities frequently have subscriptions to a variety of online legal databases, including Westlaw, LexisNexis, Hein Online, JSTOR Law, Bloomberg Law, and others. These databases give users access to main legal sources, secondary legal sources, legal journals, court cases, legislative materials, and other legal resources that are pertinent to research and study.

Search capabilities: Law databases provide sophisticated search tools that let users look for certain court decisions, laws, rules, and legal analysis. These databases frequently include powerful search filters, citation search options, and the capacity to simultaneously search across a number of legal sources, improving the effectiveness and accuracy of legal research.

Access and Restrictions:

Access and Restrictions: Only authorised members of the university community, such as students, faculty, and staff, are normally allowed access to online law databases. Users may need to use specific library workstations, VPN connections, or their university login credentials to access these databases.

Online Legal Database sources and services

Online resources and services for legal databases McDonald, A. L., Thompson, and Ziebarth (1987) state that the development of legal databases on the Internet has prompted us to analyse whether it is preferable to use online databases over print sources and which gives more efficient research outcomes.

Legal Pundit: This legal database was developed by Legal Pundit International Service Pvt. Ltd. with the intention of providing individuals and businesses with a variety of legal information services. With both a general search and a case law search function, it gives users authority. The database includes cases from the Supreme Court, numerous High Courts, the Company Law Board, APTEL, AAR, CERC, IPAB, ITAT, CDRC, Privy Council, SCDRC, SEBI (SAT), STT, TDSAT, and Trademark, and it may be searched by a variety of subject areas⁹. The general search option, on the other hand, enables the search to be widened to include commentaries and analyses, notifications, forms and processes, circulars, rules, guidelines, plans, draughts, bare acts, trade notices, press notes, regulations, policies, and so on.

Chawla Law Finder: Designed and created by Chawla Publication Pvt. Ltd., Chawla Law Finder is a quick, cost-effective, and effective case search engine. The case finder has five databases: Recent Criminal Reports, Recent Civil Reports, Service Cases Today, Recent Control Reporter, and Dishonour of Cheques Total Cases. Judgments can be looked for using the court name, judge name, decision date, petitioner, respondents, advocate name, head-note, case reference order, and result. Advanced search options including fuzzy words, concept searching, and feedback searching are

available to the user of this case finder.

LII of India: The Legal Information Institute of India (LII of India) is a non-profit organisation that provides free access to a comprehensive online database of Indian legal information that is of an international level. On November 25, 2010, the prototype will be available for public use. In February or March 2011, it will be formally introduced in India. Partners: Four prestigious Indian law schools are the project's initial partners in India: Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law at Indian Institute of Technology-Khargpur, along with three National Law Schools (NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad; National Law School of India University, Bangalore; and National Law University, Delhi). At NALSAR, the project's technical centre will be located.

Manupatra is a pioneer in online legal research in India and a top supplier of databases on law, taxation, corporations, and business policies. The company has produced the biggest and most complete single online resource with original materials and exclusive analytical content that includes comments, treatises, digests, and editorial modifications. All areas of legal publishing, including print, CD ROM, and online publishing, are covered by the Manupatra Information Solutions Pvt. Ltd. organization, which has its headquarters in NOIDA (a New Delhi suburb). The variety of information products offered by the company includes both conventional and new media types (<http://manupatra.com/iba/>, 2016).

Westlaw India: The Westlaw database, an online legal resource, offers the complete text of case laws, laws, and legal articles from numerous nations, including the US, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, and Singapore. The database is one of the biggest. The Indian legal literature is also covered by the recently published Westlaw India version of the database. The Westlaw India Database utilises two distinct search interfaces: the Main Menu for searching Indian, U.K., and EU materials, and "Link International Materials" for exploring foreign legal literature outside of the U.K. and EU.

Resources for free legal information in India

The development of court websites and portals leads to the establishment of vendor-neutral citation formats, which are used as an alternative to the conventional citation of printed material. Open access legal information systems allow us to access the contents through the internet. The legal community in India can use non-profit judicial research tools to find the necessary information online. In India, a number of government agencies have begun to disseminate information online. The following are a few useful and well-liked open-access legal knowledge sources for solicitors

- **System for Judgement Information (JUDIS)**

It is a case law database created by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). All of the Supreme Court of India's reportable and non-reportable judgments from 1950 to the present are fully available in

5874 | Mahendra Kumar Rawat An Analysis Of The Information-Seeking Practices Of Law Students And Faculty In An Open Access Legal Database Environment (Hilsr) In New Delhi

JUDIS. Judgments can be found by searching for the petitioner or respondent, the judge, the case number, the text or phrase, the act or hold, the date of the judgment the constitution bench, etc. JUDIS has the ability to conduct internal searches to produce more accurate results. The case list of the Supreme Court of India, 15 High Courts, and the District Courts of Allahabad, Chandigarh, and Delhi are also accessible to users through JUDIS. The JUDIS provides access to the daily proceedings of these courts. JUDIS offers the ability to print, copy, and store judgments.

- **Judges' Library of the Supreme Court (SUPLIS)**

This database, which has 42,000 Supreme Court decisions since 1950, is one of a kind. You can search judgments by subject, party, etc. It offers access to rulings by well-known case names. In the event that one law report is unavailable, SUPLIS offers equal citations of case laws so that case law can be accessed from other law reports. You can search judgments using the party name, judge name, etc.

- **The National Portal of India** offers access to a number of state government acts and laws. This website serves as a single point of access to the government's regulations, actions, notifications published in the Gazette, and policies. In addition, it offers links to a variety of helpful websites. The inhabitants of India can benefit greatly from the news updates on this page.

- **Kanoon, Indian**

Laws are frequently ambiguous, so it's important to check how the courts have construed them. Frequently, only a few laws are applicable, and it can be difficult to locate the appropriate legal documents. The Indian Kanoon was established in order to make legal knowledge accessible to the general public. It gathers the content from various websites and has created a single window interface for searching the content.

- **Website of the Delhi High Court**

It offers the public the ability to learn about a case's status. With the name of the petitioner or respondent and the year, the status is known. To access the results, the user must know the case type, case number, and year. In addition, the database results can be retrieved by the advocate's name. The year and diary number are the additional access points. The judges' roster is available on the website. Websites for the High Courts are particularly well-liked by solicitors. To print out the daily cause list, attorneys use websites. The name of the advocate, along with the court number and date, can be used to filter the cause lists that are published on websites.

Review of literature

The behaviour of readers and information seekers have been extensively studied in the field of library and information science. Numerous studies have attempted to comprehend the reading preferences and information-seeking behaviors of law students in various settings.

Roberto Martinez Mateo (2021) In an increasingly globalized world, it is critical to support instructional strategies that facilitate meaningful information acquisition, with a focus on English language learning as the primary objective of educators. Reading is a fundamental component of language development and serves as a cultural paradigm in schooling.

Ismail Olatunji Adeyemi Pinheiro LP,(2020) The recent pandemic disease, COVID-19, brought about a measure that involves every individual staying at home in Nigeria. This had various effects on the different activities and habits of an average Nigerian. This study examined the influence of COVID-19 lockdown on the reading habit of Nigerians using Lagos State inhabitants as a case study.

A descriptive survey design was adopted and a simple random sampling technique was used.

Chembe, Kaluba, and Felesia Mulauzi (2019) Building efficient information systems and services to meet users' information needs requires an understanding of users' information requests and search behavior. Judges and attorneys rely heavily on relevant and reliable evidence in the administration of justice. To examine the information needs and seeking behaviors of judges and attorneys in the four superior courts in Lusaka, Zambia, as little is known about the information needs and behaviors of Layers and judges in Africa, especially Zambia.

Toker, A. (2019). Analysed the major factors that hinder regular or systematic reading habits among university students. To determine reading habits, the study examined the concept of reading, its types, reading culture, the importance of reading, and many others through the literature review. Using a carefully-designed questionnaire and non-participatory observations as its research instruments, data was obtained from sixty randomly selected students of the Department of Economics who constituted the population of the study. From the analysis of the data using the quantitative paradigm as the theoretical framework, the findings indicated that there were some linguistic factors responsible for the decline in reading habits among the students included in our target group. The adverse impact of the Internet, the lack of interest, television addiction, and the lack of books made reading difficult.

Soubhagya S. Arali (2018) it examined to know and understand a wide range of concepts concerning the phenomenon of interest. The present study aims to conduct a review of the literature to investigate reading habits and the use of public library resources by urban women. The study makes to ascertain the reading interest of women, the influence of information communication technology on their reading habits, and the role of public libraries in the promotion of women's reading habits in India as well worldwide. Reading leads to understanding the literature and helps to excel one's experience with the world.

Oriogu, C.D. and Odiaka, N.O. (2018) Reading is essential in the life of students, which helps to develop their thinking capacity and techniques in producing new information. Therefore, imbibing

5876 | **Mahendra Kumar Rawat** An Analysis Of The Information-Seeking Practices Of Law Students And Faculty In An Open Access Legal Database Environment (Hilsr) In New Delhi

reading habit is a necessity to the academic pursuit of students in higher institutions. This study investigated the reading habit of law students in Afe Babalola University. The study shows the importance of reading, the role of scholars in promoting reading habit, the role of university libraries in meeting the information needs of users. The study finally makes some recommendations in combating the challenges affecting law students' reading habit in the university libraries

Kadli and Hanchinal (2015) examining the information-seeking behavior of law students in two Mumbai law colleges discovered the students' strong reliance on books as well as other online and offline legal databases. It also revealed that e-mail is the most commonly used Internet application among students, and they are always aware of free online databases through friends, teachers, library personnel, library websites, library blogs, brochures, and so on.

On-wudinjo, Ogbonna, and Nwadiogwa (2015) The utilization of law library collections by undergraduate students at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka was researched, and it was discovered that the majority (75.8%) of the students are satisfied with their law library resources.

Abbas, MacFarlane, and Göker (2014) The impact of smartphones on the information-seeking behavior of law students across the UK Higher Education Institute (HEI) in regard to information delivery services employing mobile technology was explored. They also recommended that library and information professionals be more proactive in providing information services to students via smartphones as a means of delivering information products.

Anyago (2014) summarizes the findings of a study that investigated the information need and seeking behavior of post-graduate law students at the NIALS library in Nigeria, and discovered that law textbooks were the most commonly used source for information-seeking by students.

In this regard, **Onwudinjo, Nwosu, and Ugwu (2014)** it describes to put focus on periodic examination of collections of law libraries by regulatory bodies for the adjustment of collections that could best match with the curriculum. As a workable solution

Klinefelter & Sampson (2014) it's indicated the Law libraries or legal information centres can be found in both private and public settings, such as law firms and enterprises, as well as governmental entities. Governmental law libraries include the Library of Congress as well as law libraries at state, court, and national institutions. The types of public services available differ based on the type of law library. Levels of service vary among libraries in order to fulfil the needs of the parent institution. All law libraries have policies, written or unwritten, governing the degrees of service provided to various library customers or categories of users. Academic and court libraries are likely to have the most stratified user communities. Court libraries may focus on providing information to judges. Law firm librarians are forging new paths in information management.

Ogba's study (2013) also indicated that law students use textbooks as a print information source while reference books, newspapers, periodicals, and so on are used as sources. **Rai's (2013)** study towards the use of electronic legal resources examined the information-seeking behaviour of legal researchers of academic law libraries in Delhi. The study shows that most legal researchers (almost 97%) preferred legal databases and computer-aided legal research to fulfill their

information needs. The major problems identified in this study that dissatisfy the researcher are: restricted access, slow connection, searches and login problems, lack of library support services, and so on. The study also buttresses the need for library orientation and online information search skill programs as practical solutions for the aforesaid problems. **Ogba (2013)** also buttressed the need to equip law lectures with information skills and digitized means of imparting knowledge to students a web based learning which accepts print and digital resources simultaneously. **Yemisi and Mostert (2013)** undertook a study on information seeking behavior and ICT utilization skills of undergraduate law students in Adekunle Ajasin University. The study found that most students preferred both print and electronic sources. They also noted that the Internet is the only used tool, moreover, 'when it is necessary' and the Internet was mainly used through mobile phones. As **Aforo and Lamprey (2012)** state that the library is the first gateway of call for every academic, law students have to depend heavily on library and information centres for fulfilling their information needs. (2011) defined a law library as an assemblage of legal information in an organized manner for use of those either seeking to qualify or who have qualified as lawyers, along with those performing or administering law. **Yemisi and Mostert (2012)** observed that law students do not fully utilize ICT resources when seeking information in the library, and they also do not seem to have been exposed to the core information retrieval tools required for the law profession and are not skilled enough to use gadgets such as computers, the Internet, and information databases available in the law library.

Mafix Digital (2010) it examined that the law library is a gateway to online collections of electronic legal materials which include LexisNexis, Westlaw, Hein Online, Justus and so on. These databases are online legal research services that contain case law, state and federal statutes, law journals, treatise, legal forms, administrative codes, and other information resources on law. However the use of these resources is likely to be influenced by availability of the resources. This implies that electronic resources must be made available in several brands to the users in their institutions. Their contents must also be publicized by the library in order to prompt their use. Some constraints may also affect the use of electronic resources. **Brynko (2011)** stated Westlaw Next users can also share folders across firms to work with various counsels while collaborating on a case. Incorporating the technology has made the system more accessible, more granular, and much easier to navigate which helps to get an accurate answer quickly and efficiently. **Bhardwaj (2012)** in his study revealed that to foster the process of research, the legal fraternity demand efficient online legal information systems, and training is an important aspect to enhance the use of legal information system and LIS professional can play a major role. **Oyesiku (2005)** pointed out that the information needs of law lecturers cut across educational, psychological and social needs like every other profession. While this might be the case, however the information needs of law lecturers specifically deal with: research and teaching in matters of law and legal practices; information on new laws and recent enactments, research findings arising from conferences, seminars, workshops and academic journals. Also, information that has to do with current affairs, public administration, governance and general knowledge constitute information needs of

lawyers. **Komlodi and Soergel (2002)** also focused on information use and re-use, specifically on legal information seekers and the use of their memory and externally recorded search histories to inform their later searches. **Aldaihani (2003)** also put emphasis on teaching and training students on legal informatics and legal databases. **Marshall, et al. (2001)** found that many of the users' information-seeking strategies followed links rather than conducting explicit searches, and highlighted the use of electronic resources for case evaluation. It was observed that students began their moot court research by identifying case law, and described this as a 'launching pad' or 'looking for a thread to pull. **Leenes (1997)** in his study found that legal knowledge-based systems have long been surrounded by much optimism, but despite the efforts over the last 20 years, the number of practical applications actually in use is still less.

Objectives of the study

- To determine the frequency and purpose of use by the respondents;
- To ascertain the search techniques being applied in the retrieval of materials from open-access legal information resources;
- to rate the quality of open-access legal information resources,
- To investigate the awareness of open access legal information resources among law students;
- To evaluate the usefulness of free legal information sources ;

Methodology

A survey approach was used for this study, which includes dichotomous, multiple-choice, rating, and opinion items carefully developed in order to fulfill its stated objectives. To gather more in-depth qualitative information on the topic, open-ended questions were still added to the survey. It is Structured questionnaires have been used as a data collection tool to collect essential information from the study population. Also, a suitable sampling technique was used for taking samples from students and teachers. A total of 10 questions were conducted at the HILSR (Hamdard Institute of Legal Studies), Delhi, with **240** LLB and LL.M students. In the following sections, we examine and explain the responses provided by the respondents to the **195 (81.25%)** completed questionnaires. 45 are not interested and do not fully pay attention they just ignorance due to a lack of understanding.

Analysis

Information about the reading habits and information-seeking behaviors of professors and students at HILSR (Hamdard Institute of Legal Studies and Research) in New Delhi, as well as open-access legal database sources, were collected. The collected data on August 2021 to October 2021 is analysed and presented in the following table.

Table 1: Gender-wise Distribution of the Study Population.

Sl. No.	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
---------	--------	-----------	------------

		N-195	
1	Male	130	66.30
2	Female	65	33.15

Table 1 reveals the gender-wise distribution of students and teachers. Among the 195 respondents under study, 66.30% (n = 130) belong to the male category, and the remaining 33.15% (n = 65) are female. The gender-wise description of the study population also shows that males over females dominate the law students and teachers

Table 2: Age-wise Distribution of the Respondents.

Sl. No.	Age group	Frequency n-195	Percentage
1	20-30 years	135	69.2%
2	31-40 years	45	23.07%
3	41 years and above	15	07.69%

Table 2 shows the different age groups of students and teachers. Of the 195 respondents under the study, 69.2% (n = 135) are in the 20–30 age group, 23.07% (n = 45) are in the 31–40 age group And in the age group of 41 years and above, 07.69% (n = 15) are students and teachers. The study data show that the youth group predominates in the law field.

Table 3: Number of hours spent for reading each time.

Sl. No.	Hours spent for reading	Frequency n-195	Percentage
1	Less than 1 hour	116	59.48
2	1-3 hours	50	25.64
3	3-6 hours	29	14.87
4	6 hr and above	0	0

Table 3 shows the number of hours the students spent reading each time. It is clear from the above table that the highest number of respondents, 59.48 % (n=116), spent less than an hour reading. Similarly, another 25.64% (n=50) respondents spent 1-3 hours reading time, and 14.87% (n=29) respondents spent 3-6 hours reading. While the number of students who spend more than 6 and 6 hours reading is zero. As a result of these figures, it can be inferred that students and teachers pay less than an hour of reading.

Table 4. Frequency of Use of Open Access Legal Resources

Sl. No.	FREQUENCY	LLB	LLM	P.HD	TEACHERS
1	Twice a week	31(15.89%)	35(17.94)	15(7.69)	26(13.33)

2	Trice a month	18(9.23)	25(12.82)	50(25.64)	0
3	As and when	40(20.51)	40(20.51)	115(58.97)	149(76.40)
4	Daily	106(54.35)	95(48.71)	15(7.69)	20(10.25)
	(N=195)				

Table 4. Reveals that Frequency of use of open access legal resources. Out of 240 respondents, 195 (81.25%) were using open access resources as and when required, 35 (15.89 %) were using Twice a week, 50 (25.64 %) Trice a month, 106 (54.35%) daily, while as and when required 149 (76.40%). It means most of users using open access resources by as and when required.

Table 5 Use of Open Access Resources by Students/teachers

Sl. No.	Name of resources (n=195)	LLB	LLM	Ph.D.	Teachers
1	National Digital Library	9 (4.61%)	10 (5.12%)	24(11.79%)	25(12.82%)
2	Delhi High Court	30(15.38%)	12(5.64%)	23(12.30%)	11(5.64%)
3	Supreme Court Judges	14(7.17%)	13(6.66%)	35(17.94%)	13(6.66%)
4	Judgement Information	16(8.20%)	16(8.20%)	13(6.66%)	12(6.15%)
6	National Portal of India,	17(8.71%)	18(9.23%)	11(5.64%)	17(8.71%)
7	e-PG Pathshala,	9(4.61%)	11(5.64%)	0	8(4.10%)
8	India Code Information	2(1.02%)	7(3.58%)	20(10.25%)	5(2.56%)
9	Legal Information	10(5.12%)	11(5.64%)	9(4.61%)	20(10.25%)
10	Indian Kanoon	13(6.66%)	9 (4.61%)	15(7.68%)	21(10.76%)
11	Digital Repository of	20(10.25%)	14(7.17%)	0	11(5.64%)
12	SCC ONLINE, manupatra,	25(12.82%)	15(7.68%)	8(4.10%)	17(8.71%)
13	LexisNexis	10(5.12%)	11(5.64%)	5(2.56%)	25(12.82%)
14	N-list	0	10 (5.12%)	12(6.15%)	0
15	Wikipedia, legal notes	0	8(4.10%)	0	0
16	Advocate khoj, law	5(2.56%)	6(3.07%)	0	0
17	AIR offline	9 (4.61%)	9 (4.61%)	0	0
18	Shodganga ,	9 (4.61%)	9 (4.61%)	20(10.25%)	10 (5.12%)
19	Law Putra	0	6(3.07%)	0	0

Through this survey, the law students attempted to identify the most familiar/used open-access resources. According to table 5, 35 (17.94%) respondents use the Supreme Court Judges Library, 30 (15.38%) respondents use the Delhi High Court Judgments, 25(12.82%) respondents use SCC ONLINE, manupatra, Westland, and the national digital library portal, 21(10.76%) respondents use Indian Kanoon, 20(10.25%) respondents use the Legal Information Institute of India (LII) and Shodganga, Shodhgangotri, 18(9.23%) respondents use

Rating quality of open-access legal information resources

5881 | Mahendra Kumar Rawat An Analysis Of The Information-Seeking Practices Of Law Students And Faculty In An Open Access Legal Database Environment (Hilsr) In New Delhi

In the process of searching of open-access legal information resources, the students can only judge the usefulness and satisfaction of the open-access legal information resources offered to them from the rate at which they succeed in retrieving the information. Four preferences were given to rate the quality of these resources such as excellent, very good, good, and poor (Table 8).

Table 6—Quality of open access legal information resources

Legal Information Resources (N=195)	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average
JUDIS	0 (0)	0 (0)	98 (50.25%)	97 (49.74%)
SUPLIS	0 (0)	28 (14.35 %)	57(29.22%)	110 (56.40%)
OPEN JUDIS	0 (0)	00 (0)	95 (48.71%)	100 (51.28%)
INDIA Gov. portal	0 (0)	65 (33.33%)	65 (33.33%)	65 (33.33%)
High Court websites	0 (0)	35 (17.94%)	60(30.76%)	100 (51.28%)
Indian Kanoon	0 (0)	98 (50.25%)	75(38.46%)	22 (11.28%)
LII of India	0 (0)	115 (58.97%)	48(24.61%)	32 (16.40%)

Table 6 summarizes that the majority of respondents i.e., 98(50.25%) rated Indian Kanoon as a very good source of legal information, followed by LII of India 115(58.97 %), India Gov. Portal 65 (33.33 %). JUDIS was rated good by 98 (50.25%) of the respondents, followed by OPEN JUDIS 100 (51.28%) and SUPLIS 110 (56.40%). followed by JUDIS, SUPLIS & India Gov. portal websites with 65 (33.33%) each. Interestingly, none of the open access legal information resources was rated excellent.

Table .7

s.no.	Purpose for information seeking	N	%
1	Preparation for assignment	88	45.12%
2	Preparation for examination	62	31.79%
3	Keeping up-to-date	26	13.33%
4	Conducting legal research	10	5.12%
5	Attending workshop or seminar	9	4.61%

Table 7. Purpose for Seeking Information (N=195)

Table 7. The key reason for seeking information is to learn how to maximize the worth of preparation. 195 (81.25%) of the 240 responders. 88 (45.12%) were assignment preparation, 62 (31.79%) examination preparation, and 26 (13.33%) other. Keeping current information to seek, while as and when needed 10 people (5.12%) are doing legal research. 9 people (4.61%) are attending a workshop or seminar. It means that the majority of users prepare for assignments on an as-needed basis.

Table 8 Source of Information used by Students, teachers (N=195)

s.no.	Information source	N	%
1	Textbooks	85	43.58%
2	Encyclopedia	21	10.76%
3	Law reports	16	8.204%
4	Law journals	12	6.15%
5	Legal digest	8	4.10%
6	Case report	13	6.66%
7	Thesis	40	20.51%
	Total	195	

Table 8. highlights respondents' views on the information sources utilized by students and instructors. 85 (43.58%) of respondents utilized textbook sources, 40 (20.51%) used thesis sources, and the remainder 21 (10.76%) used encyclopaedias sources. According to the data presented below, the majority of textbooks and theses are used by law students to supply various forms of knowledge, and they are only used when necessary.

Table 9. Online Legal Database Used by Law Students and teachers (N=195)

s.no.	Database	N=195	%
1	Chancery Law Chronicles	71	36.40%
2	Bdlex	47	24.10%
3	Natlex	25	12.82%
4	WashLawweb	16	8.20%
5	UNODC	12	6.15%
6	Common LII	10	5.12%
7	Yale Law School Library	8	4.10%
8	Waterlex	6	3.07%
	Total		

Table 9. it summarizes respondents' views on their legal database's online data base, which is accessed by students and teachers. The Chancery Law Chronicles are owned by 71(36.40%) of respondents, the Bdlex database is owned by 47(24.10%) of respondents, and Natlex is maintained by 25(12.82%) of respondents. remaining the following facts show that the study legal database is less common among law students who supply various sorts of information.

Table 10—Problems faced in using open-access legal resources

s.no	Problems	No. of responses	Percentage
1	Lack of arrangement of legal information	55	28.20%
2	Poor description on legal information sources	46	23.58%
3	Lack of online help	25	12.82%
4	Poor website design	21	10.76%
5	Too many login required	17	8.71%
6	Access instructions are not clear	10	5.12%
7	Lack of expertise in using the database	9	4.61%
8	Lack of print provision	7	3.58%
9	Search screen too confusing	5	2.56%

There are a number of problems faced by the respondents while accessing the open-access legal information resources for their academic/research work. The respondents were requested to list the problems faced while accessing the open legal information resources.

Table 10 reveals that the most common problem encountered was related to the arrangement of legal information 55 (28.20 %), followed by a description in legal information sources 46 (23.58 %); lack of online help 25 (12.82 %), and so on.

16. Findings

The Major Findings of the Study from the Analysis of the Data are given below: -

1. Among the 195 participants in the research, over 66.67% (n = 130) are male, while the remaining 33.33% (n = 65) are female.
2. A good number of respondents 116(59.48%) spent less than 1 hour reading and the other 25.64% (n = 50) spent 1–3 hours and 14.87% (n = 29) spent 3–6 hours.
3. More than 7.69% of respondents have a reading habit, 50.76% have a low interest in reading, and the remaining 15.89% have no interest in reading.
4. 115(58.97%) is very good quality open access resources like LII, 98 (50.15%) used JUDIS Resources Is Good Quality View, and 110(56.40%), Users Are Average Satisfied to Used Legal Resources.

5. 55 (28.20%) responses mentioned as Lack of Arrangement of Legal Information, 46(23.58%) To Another Facing Problem Is Description in legal information sources,25(12.82%) lack of online help and so on
6. The primary goal of information searching is to prepare for assignments on an as-needed basis, and users spend the majority of their time working on assignment task preparation for case projects.
7. 85(43.58%) of the majority of textbook and thesis are used only various form of knowledge and they are only when needed time to time.
8. The following statistic regarding displaying the research legal database in various types of information 71(36.40%) Students and lecturers can use the Chancery Law Chronicles database in an international database to use many aspects.
9. Students confront a variety of challenges when it comes to gaining access to open access legal information resources for academic and professional purposes. It demonstrates that the most frequent difficulty encountered / attention was connected to the organization of legal information (55(28.58%) and 46(23.58%) inadequate description of legal information, and 25(12.82%) lack of online.

Suggestion and recommendation

The purpose of the study was to look at the reading habits and information-seeking behavior of legal students and professors at HILSR in Delhi, India. The researchers used questionnaires and interviews to collect information about their reading habits, information sources, and tactics for obtaining open access legal materials. The findings demonstrated that both students and professors primarily depended on internet resources for their research requirements, such as databases, e-journals, and legal websites. While students appreciated easy access to simple material, teachers stressed the necessity of in-depth learning.

Further research Suggestions

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are made to better the law students, legal profession, law colleges, and law libraries.

- ❖ Because the validity and credibility of Governmental online legal materials is critical, the Ministry of Law and Justice, the National Informatics Centre, and the Supreme Court of India should work together to verify their legitimacy and dependability.
- ❖ The Bar Council of India should modify its criteria for law school libraries and guarantee that such standards are effectively implemented by the country's law schools.
- ❖ The law schools, universities, and high court libraries and information centres should improve their ICT infrastructure. All law libraries must be outfitted with modern computers, servers, and peripherals. Budgetary provisions should be established for the proper maintenance and upgrading of cutting-edge IT infrastructure facilities.

Conclusion

Additionally, the legal community demands an integrated legal information system with federated search capabilities and open-access legal information resources. Both the legal community and the profession might benefit from the creation of an open-access legal information system in India. The creation of databases enabling public access to legal information systems in India might have positive effects on the legal community as well as the broader public. Since reading makes people more educated, which raises a country's human capital; it is also crucial for law students' and educators' knowledge growth. It is imperative that we devise innovative methods to enhance the habits and information-seeking behaviors of law students. Database uses are highly advantageous for federated search approaches. To encourage effective and efficient use, this cannot be finished in a single day. A conducive reading environment needs to be established at home, at work, and at libraries in order to pique readers' interests and improve their information literacy.

References

1. Alpaslan Toker & Saidou Aminou (2019) A Study on Reading Habits of the University Students in Nigeria: A Case of Selected Students of Economics Department at Nile University of Nigeria, The European Educational Researcher, p 210-223.
2. Ismail Olatunji Adeyemi (2021) Influence of Covid-19 Lockdown on Reading Habit of Nigerians: A Case Study of Lagos State Inhabitants, Reading & Writing Quarterly, 37:2, 157-168,
3. Oriogu, C.D. and Odiaka, N.O. (2018). Assessment of reading habit among law students in Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. NIALS Journal of Librarianship and Information Technology, vol.(1) (1),62-78
4. Roberto Martinez Mateo (2021) . Using Technologies to Foster the Reading Habit in L2 (English) human language, rights, and security. Vol. (1) (1) ,72-97 .
5. Toker, A. (2019). A Study on Reading Habits of the University Students in Nigeria: A Case of Selected Students of Economics Department at Nile University of Nigeria. The European Educational Researcher, 2(3), 209-221.
6. Naveed, M. A., & Ameen, K. (2015). Reading Habits and Behavior of Information Professionals the reading habit. Paris: UNESCO. in the Digital Era. Pakistan Library & Information Science Journal, 46(3), 66-78.
7. Shrivastava, S. (2018). Information Seeking Behavior and Reading habits of special library users in Bhopal city, 5(3), 326-330. Retrieved from
8. Singh, K. P., & Satija, M. P. (2007). Information seeking behaviour of agricultural scientists with particular reference to their information seeking strategies. Annals of Library and Information Studies, 54(4), 213-220.
9. Leenes R and Svensson J, (1997)Supporting the legal practitioner: LKBS or web, Information& Communications Technology Law, 6 (3) ,217-8.
10. Komlodi A and Soergel D. (2002) Attorneys Interacting with Legal Information Systems: Tools. The 65th Annual Meeting of American Society for Information Science and Technology, USA, 5886 | **Mahendra Kumar Rawat An Analysis Of The Information-Seeking Practices Of Law Students And Faculty In An Open Access Legal Database Environment (Hilsr) In New Delhi**

152-63.

11. Marshall C P, Golovchinsky, M.G, and Schilit, B. (2001) Designing E-Books for Legal Research.1st ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries. Virginia, Virginia, Roanoke, p.41-48

12. Brynko B, (2011) Westlaw next: keeping pace with legal pros, Information Today, 28 (6) ,35-40.

13. Bhardwaj R K (2012) Online legal information systems in India: a case study from the faculty of Law, University of Delhi,Legal Information Management, 12(2),137-150.

14. Thanuskodi S (2012) E-Resources and their usage patterns among the lawyers of the Supreme Court of India: A Case Study,SRELS Journal of Information Management, 49 (1) ,87-97.

15. Klinefelter, A. & Sampson, S. (2014). Public Services. In Balleste, R., Luna-Lamas, S., and Smith-Butler, L. (Eds.), Law Librarianship in the Twenty-First Century (2nded.) (pp. 71-87), Lanham: Scarecrow.

16. Akhihero, P. A. (2009). Legal Research in a Digital Age. Law Week of the Benin Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association. Benin City: Bishop Kelly Pastoral Centre.

17. Akpoghome, U. T. & Idiegbeyan-Ose, J. O. (2011). The role of digital library in law research. International Journal of Information Science, 2(6), 108-113.

18. Ali, H., Owoeye, J. E., & Anasi, S. N. I. (2010). Resource sharing among law libraries: an imperative for legal research and the administration of justice in Nigeria. . Library Philosophy and Practice. Retrieved March 25, 2013,from <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/ali-owoeye-anasi.htm>

19. Asein, J. O. (2005). Introduction to Nigerian Legal System (2nd Ed.). Lagos, Nigeria: Ababa Press Ltd.

20. Dada, T. O. (2011). Law Libraianship and Legal Research in the Digital age. Lagos: Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

21. Olorunfemi, D.Y. & Mostert, B.J. (2012). Information seeking behaviour of law students in a developing country: A literature review. XX SCECSAL: Information for Sustainable Development in a Digital Environment (pp. 440-446). Nairobi: The Law Publisher.

22. The Law Library of Congress. (2014). Guide to Secondary Legal Resources. <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/secondary-rsrcs.php>

23. Windsor, E. & Friedmann, R. (2010). Law libraries transformed. Law and Technology Resources for Legal Professionals. <http://www.llrx.com/features/lawlibrariestransformed.htm>

24. Mafix Digital (2010). Online Legal products Advertorial. Nigerian Law Times.

25. JUDIS, Available at: <http://judis.nic.in/>

26. SUPNET, Available at: <http://supnet.nic.in/suplis/main.html>

27. India Code, Available at: <http://indiacode.nic.in/>

28. India Portal, Available at: <http://www.india.gov.in/>

29. Indian Kanoon, Available at: <http://www.indiankanoon.org/>

30. High Court of Delhi, Available at: <http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/>

31. Legal Information Institute of India (LIIOFINDIA), Available at: <http://www.liiofindia.org>