

The role of Ayurveda institutional libraries with regard to the fulfillment of discipline related information needs of Ayurveda medical undergraduates in Sri Lanka

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Modern man's needs are complex and immense in number. To satisfy these needs satisfactorily, information is absolutely necessary. This necessity has made the "Information need" to emerge as the 5th human need today. By nature needs keep multiplying incessantly, and therefore taking cognizance of these needs, organizing them and delivering them to information seekers in the desired manner, is the function of the Libraries.

When a person reaches a certain level of perception in relation to finding a solution to a problem, that part of the knowledge between this acquired perception level and the ideal level of perception is his or her information need. In general it is the scholars, including the researches that need information most.

This research was undertaken to examine the role played by the Ayurveda Institutional Libraries in fulfilling information needs of the Ayurveda undergraduates. Libraries chosen for this survey were indigenous Institute of Medicine at Rajagiriya, affiliated to University of Colombo and the Ayurveda Institute at Yakkala attached to University of Kelaniya. Qualitative and quantitative survey was done with the help of Ayurveda medical undergraduates and librarians of these institutions. In this survey the primary data was collected using questionnaires and personal interviews. The non-probability convenient sampling method was used to collect data. Sample size consisted of 50 undergraduates attached to the Ayurveda institutes at Rajagiriya and Yakkala.

According to the survey these libraries have not been able to supply the subject related information and the sources of information to the satisfaction of the undergraduates. Therefore supply of more resources materials and the improvement of infrastructure facilities are recommended as remedial measures to overcome the existing problems.

Key words: Information, Information needs, Ayurveda institutes, Undergraduates, Libraries

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