

**A STUDY ON LIBRARY UTILIZATION AND READING
PREFERENCES AMONG STUDENTS OF KONGUNADU ARTS AND
SCIENCE COLLEGE, COIMBATORE AFFILIATED TO
BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE**

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ABSTRACT

Libraries are essential to the academic and research needs of students, scholars, and faculty members. Studying library user behaviour helps identify users' information needs, resource preferences, library-visit patterns, and usage of study materials and periodicals. It also highlights their language preferences and expectations. The findings enable library professionals and educational authorities to enhance collections, strengthen resources, and improve library services. Thus, understanding user behaviour contributes to developing an effective, user-oriented, and academically supportive library environment.

KEYWORDS: Library usage, Information resources, Student and staff preferences, Reading habits, Academic libraries

INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries play a vital role in supporting the teaching, learning, and research activities of educational institutions. As modern knowledge centres, they provide access to a wide range of print and digital resources, including books, journals, e-books, e-journals, databases, newspapers, and other information sources. Understanding how users interact with these resources is essential for developing effective and user-oriented library services. Library users differ in their frequency of visits, resource preferences, language choices, and information needs. While some users regularly visit the library for academic study and research, others may depend more on electronic resources that can be accessed remotely. Language preference is also an important factor, particularly in multilingual academic settings, as users may seek information in English, regional languages, or other preferred languages. Newspapers remain valuable sources of current information on education, employment, politics, science, technology, sports, and social issues, making newspaper-reading habits an important aspect of user behaviour.

The present study examines users' library-visit frequency, preferences for print and digital resources, language choices, and newspaper-reading habits. The findings are expected to provide useful insights into the information needs and preferences of students and faculty members. Such insights can help library professionals improve collections, strengthen services, allocate resources effectively, and enhance user engagement.

Ultimately, understanding user behaviour can contribute to the development of more responsive and user-centred academic libraries that effectively support teaching, learning, and research.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The primary goals of this research are:

- To study the frequency of library visits.
- To identify preferred study materials.
- To analyze library resource preferences.
- To rank preferred types of books.
- To study language preferences for reading materials and newspapers.
- To analyze newspaper reading habits and preferred sections.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a **survey method**, with data collected through a **structured questionnaire** using simple random sampling among library users of Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore. The questionnaire covered library visits, resource usage, book preferences, language choices, and newspaper-reading habits.

The collected data were analyzed using **percentage and ranking methods** and presented through tables and charts for clear interpretation of the findings.

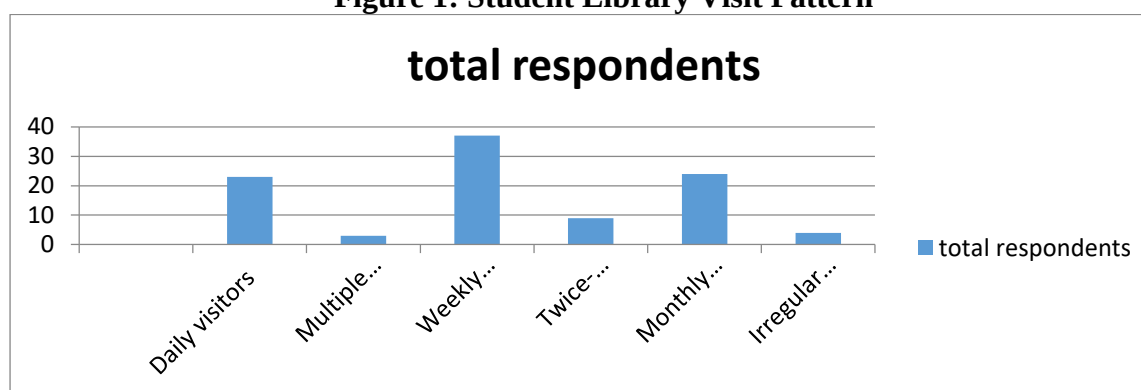
DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data from library users at Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, highlights library usage, study material preferences, and language choices. The study identifies key usage patterns to support better library resources, services, and future development.

Table 1: Student Library Visit Pattern

S.No.	Particulars	Total Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Daily visitors	23	23%
2	Multiple daily visits	3	3%
3	Weekly visitors	37	37%
4	Twice-weekly visitors	9	9%
5	Monthly visitors	24	24%
6	Irregular visits	4	4%
	Total	100	100%

Figure 1: Student Library Visit Pattern



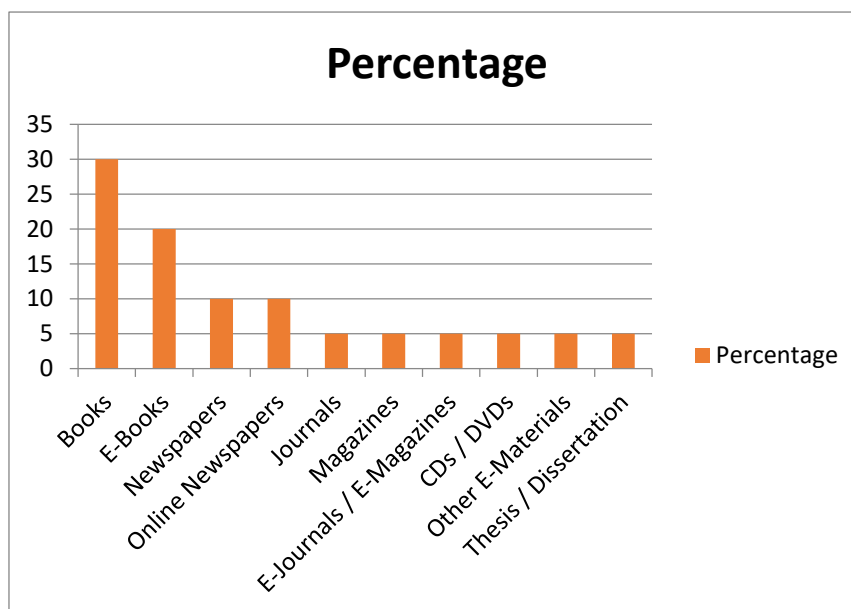
The above table shows the students visit in library, 37% of the respondents visiting weekly, indicating regular library use. 23% of the respondents are visiting daily, it showing strong academic engagement. 24% of the respondents are visiting monthly, suggesting less frequent use. 9% of the respondents are visiting twice a week, showing moderate involvement. 3% of the respondents are multiple daily visitors, using the library frequently. 4% of the respondents have irregular visits, indicating occasional use. In conclusion, 60% of

students visit the library regularly, while the 4% with irregular visits could benefit from increased library engagement efforts.

Table 2: The Overall Priority of Study Materials

S.No.	Study Material	Rank (Preference)	Percentage
1	Books	1	30
2	E-Books	2	20
3	Newspapers	3	10
4	Online Newspapers	4	10
5	Journals	5	5
6	Magazines	6	5
7	E-Journals / E-Magazines	7	5
8	CDs / DVDs	8	5
9	Other E-Materials	9	5
10	Thesis / Dissertation	10	5
	Total	100	100%

Figure 2: The Overall Priority of Study Materials

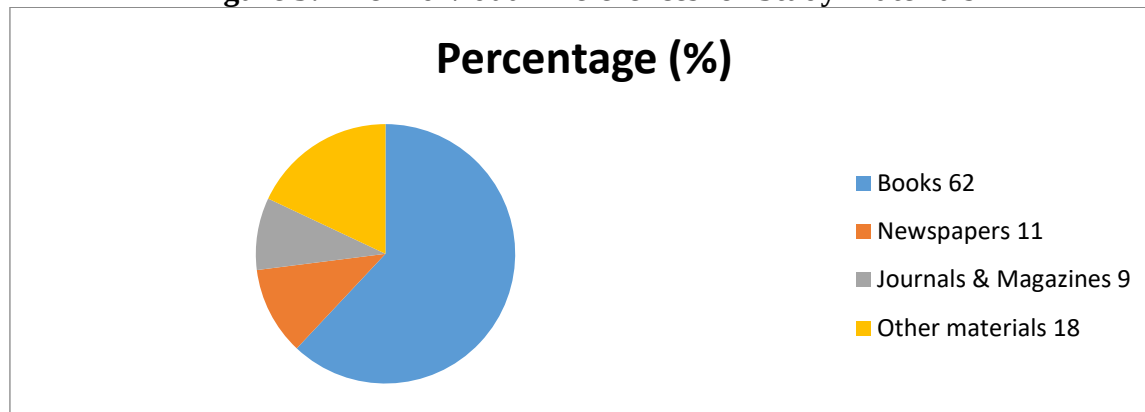


The above table and figures shows the The Overall Priority of Study Materials, Books (30%) are the most preferred resource, underscoring their importance for academic study and learning. E-books (20%) come in second, reflecting the growing reliance on digital resources. Newspapers (10%) and Online Newspapers (10%) show moderate interest, indicating a balance between print and digital news sources. Journals, magazines, e-journals/e-magazines, CDs/DVDs, other electronic materials, and theses or dissertations each account for 5% of usage, indicating that although these resources are accessible, they are used less often than books and e-books. The students primarily prefer books and e-books, with secondary interest in news and academic articles, while digital media and specialized resources are of lower priority.

Table 3: The Individual Preferences for Study Materials

S.No.	Particulars	Total Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Books	62	62%
2	Newspapers	11	11%

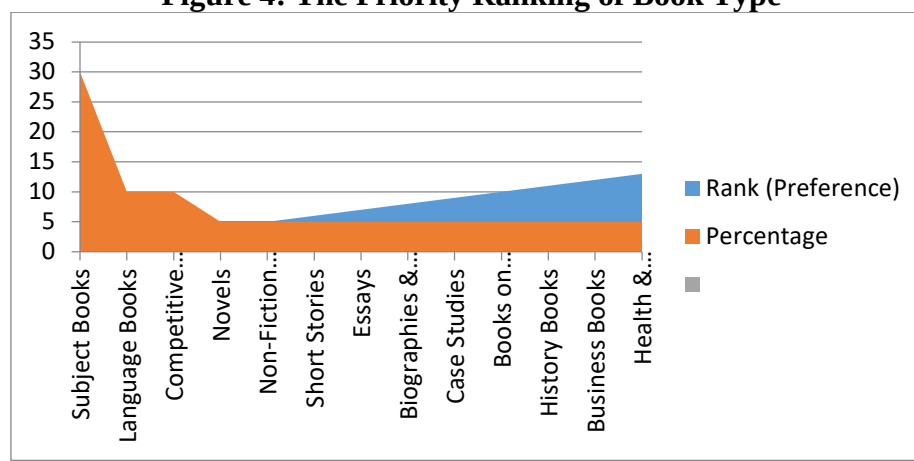
3	Journals & Magazines	9	9%
4	Other materials	18	18%
	Total	100	100%

Figure 3: The Individual Preferences for Study Materials

The above table and figures shows the Individual Preferences for Study Materials, Books (62%) are the most widely used resource, highlighting their essential role in students' academic activities and study habits. Newspapers (11%) come next, showing that students place a moderate emphasis on staying informed with current events and local news. Journals & Magazines (9%) follow, suggesting a smaller but relevant interest in scholarly articles and periodical publications. Other materials (18%) make up a significant portion, likely representing digital resources, multimedia, or specialized materials, indicating a broader spectrum of library usage. In conclusion, books are the primary resource, with newspapers and journals also being valuable, and other materials serving as a supplementary resource for students.

Table 4 showing the Priority Ranking of Book Type

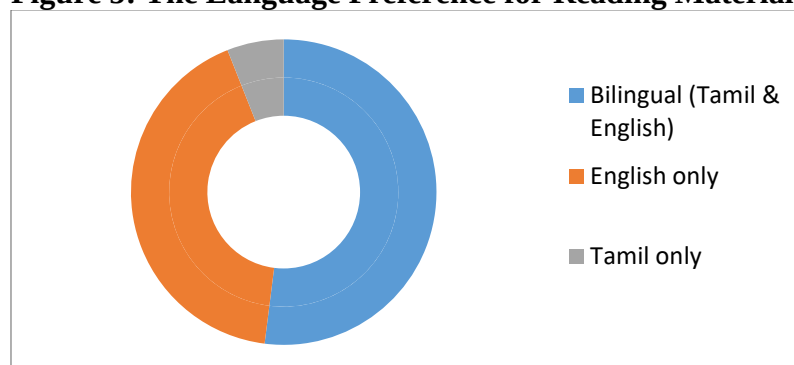
S.No.	Book Type	Rank (Preference)	Percentage
1	Subject Books	1	30
2	Language Books	2	10
3	Competitive Exam Books	3	10
4	Novels	4	5
5	Non-Fiction Books	5	5
6	Short Stories	6	5
7	Essays	7	5
8	Biographies & Autobiographies	8	5
9	Case Studies	9	5
10	Books on Famous Personalities	10	5
11	History Books	11	5
12	Business Books	12	5
13	Health & Wellness Books	13	5
	Total		100%

Figure 4: The Priority Ranking of Book Type

The above table shows the Individual Preferences for Study Materials, Subject-related books rank highest at 30%, highlighting their key role in supporting academic learning. Language books (10%) and competitive exam books (10%) follow closely, reflecting a strong focus on language skills and exam preparation. Novels, non-fiction works, and short stories each account for 5%, indicating a relatively lower level of interest in leisure reading among students. Biographies, case studies, books on famous personalities, history books, business books, and health & wellness books all receive 5%, indicating limited but consistent interest in these specialized topics. In conclusion, students prioritize academic and exam-related books, while showing secondary interest in recreational and specialized reading materials.

Table 5: The Language Preference for Reading Materials

S.No.	Language Preference	Total Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Bilingual (Tamil & English)	52	52%
2	English only	42	42%
3	Tamil only	6	6%
	Total	100	100%

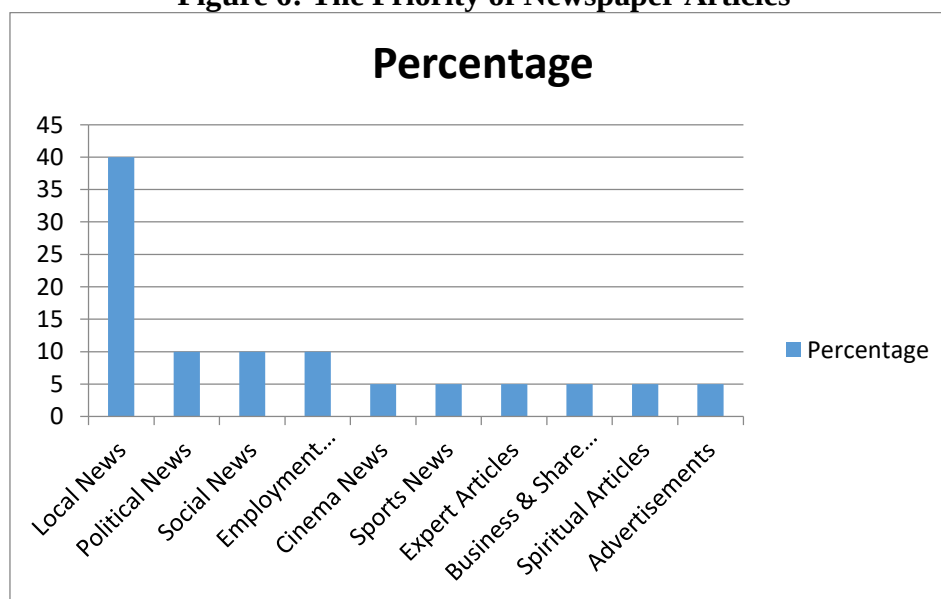
Figure 5: The Language Preference for Reading Materials

The above table shows the Language Preference for Reading Materials, Among the respondents, 52% prefer reading materials in both Tamil and English. About 42% mainly choose English-language materials, while only 6% rely exclusively on Tamil reading resources.

Table 6: The Priority of Newspaper Articles

S.No.	Newspaper Section	Rank (Importance)	Percentage
1	Local News	I	40
2	Political News	II	10

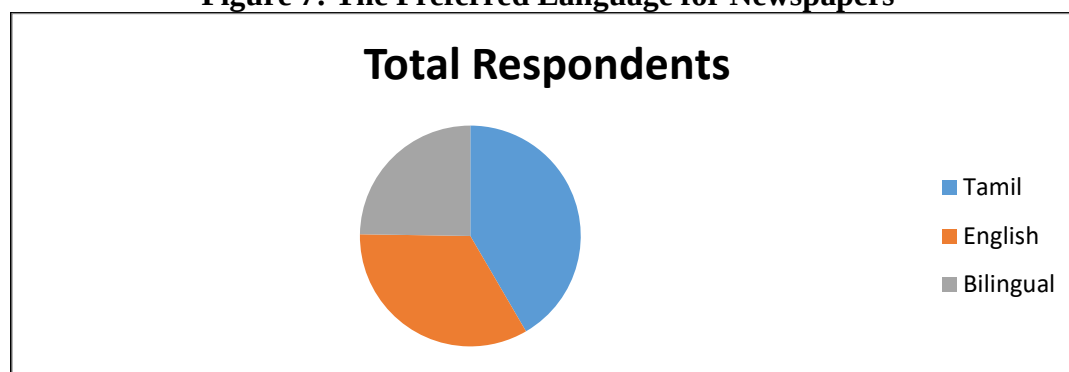
3	Social News	III	10
4	Employment Opportunities	IV	10
5	Cinema News	V	5
6	Sports News	VI	5
7	Expert Articles	VII	5
8	Business & Share Market News	VIII	5
9	Spiritual Articles	IX	5
10	Advertisements	X	5
			100%

Figure 6: The Priority of Newspaper Articles

The above table shows the Priority of Newspaper Articles, News related to the local area ranks highest at 40%, showing that students are particularly interested in regional and community affairs. Employment opportunities (10%) are second, highlighting the career-driven concerns of students. Political news (10%) and social news (10%) follow, showing interest in broader societal issues. Cinema news, sports news, and expert articles each get 5%, indicating secondary interest. Business & share market news, spiritual articles, and advertisements also rank lowest at 5%, suggesting minimal importance to students. In summary, students prioritize practical, community-focused, and career-related news while placing less value on entertainment or niche topics.

Table 7: The Preferred Language for Newspapers

S.No.	Newspaper Language	Total Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Tamil	42	42%
2	English	34	34%
3	Bilingual	24	24%
	Total	100	100%

Figure 7: The Preferred Language for Newspapers

The above table shows the Preferred Language for Newspapers, The findings show that 42% of students prefer Tamil newspapers, while 34% prefer English. About 25% choose bilingual newspapers in Tamil and English. This highlights the need for a diverse and balanced newspaper collection to meet students' varied language preferences.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals key patterns in students' library use and resource preferences. About 60% visit the library regularly, highlighting its academic importance. Books (30%) and e-books (20%) are the most preferred resources, while other materials receive less attention. Students mainly prefer subject books (30%) and competitive exam materials (10%), reflecting academic and career needs. Tamil-English bilingual resources (52%) are most preferred, followed by English-only materials (42%). For newspapers, local news (40%) and employment news (10%) are most preferred. Overall, the findings support the need for balanced print, digital, and multilingual library resources.

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