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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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ACADEMIC LIBRARY USAGE AMONG STUDENTS IN SELECTED FACULTIES OF EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA

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Background: Academic libraries are the gateway for learning community, providing place for university students to advance their knowledge, and conduct their researches. The academic library offers vast information to the users and plays a vital role in their educational system, thus contribute to the students' development in their information literacy and support in the learning process and education. The effectiveness of the academic library as an instrument of education is determined by the success with which it is able to provide users with information which they seek.

Objectives: To assess the academic library usage among the students in selected four faculties of Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL)

Methods: This was a cross sectional descriptive study, conducted among second year students of Faculty of health-care sciences, Faculty of agriculture, Faculty of Arts and Culture and Faculty of Commerce and Management of EUSL. The study was based on questionnaire survey and the information collected from the library documents during October 2016 to February 2017.

Results: Out of the 230 respondents, 124 (53.9%) were female, 106(46.1%) were male. About 25.7% of the respondents visit the library every day, 50.4% once a week, 19.1% once a month, and 4.8% once in two months. Respondents frequently used books than other materials. Books were borrowed to prepare for exam and to read, (Mean values were 3.87, 3.76 and 3.51 respectively). Regarding the respondents 'satisfaction, respondents agree with, Photocopying facilities are adequate (mean value is 2.90). Most of the respondents are unsatisfied with 'Library staff keep informed about new services and collections' (mean value 2.03) and 'Library staff do not respond clearly and accurately to enquiries' (mean value 2.11).

Conclusion: Overall, students are satisfied with the library resources, reading materials, services and facilities with most of the respondents visiting the library once a week. Lack of guidance by library staff leaving users unsatisfied needs to be rectified.

Keywords: Frequency, purposes of the library usage, university library