

A survey on acquiring information from periodicals by health information users in Health Science Libraries in Sri Lanka.

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Major portion of the financial allocation of health science libraries goes on subscription of periodicals, as they are the backbone of these libraries. The paper examines the mode of access to periodicals, purpose of reading periodicals, the duration spend on periodical reading and the problems of acquiring information from periodicals by health information users in health science libraries in Sri Lanka. Questionnaire was the major research instrument employed in the study. Health Literature Library and Information Services (HELLIS) network member libraries were considered for the selection of users in the survey.

The study reveals that libraries are the main places to provide periodical literature access to the health information users in Sri Lanka. Medical practitioners read periodicals mainly for examination purpose whereas academic staff and the research officers read mainly for research purpose. As an average, majority of health professionals spends 5-10 hours per month to read periodicals. Undergraduate medical students heavily use the library but they rarely use periodicals. Usage of periodicals is mainly affected by lack of time availability rather than other listed factors in the questionnaire whereas language problem is the least factor affecting the usage of periodicals. Efficient library services should be provided to the users for the maximum use of available periodicals.