

Exploring Library Circulation Trends and User Preferences: An Insight from Gujarat Vidyapith Library

Dharmishtha Maheshbhai Dangar¹, Prof. Dr. Prayatkar Kanadiya²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science Gujarat Vidyapith

²HOD, Professor, Department of Library & Information Science – Gujarat Vidyapith

E-mail: dhamidangar85[at]gmail.com

Abstract: *This study explores user preferences and usage patterns at the Gujarat Vidyapith Library through a structured survey involving 1,031 participants. The research focuses on user interest in services such as resource home delivery, frequency of book borrowing, access to periodicals, and the use of digital resources. The findings highlight a noticeable shift in user expectations, with a growing demand for digital access and a preference for more flexible service models. The data provides valuable insight into current library usage trends, emphasizing the need to adapt library services to meet the changing academic and research needs of users.*

Keywords: Circulation trends, Digital Access, Gujarat Vidyapith Library, Library Usage, User Preferences

1. Introduction

A library is one of the heart of a university. It's a place where students, teachers, and researchers can find the authentic information they need to learn, explore new ideas, gain the power of knowledge and grow academically. More than just Cupboards full of books, a library offers a quiet space to think, study, grow and discover. In today's world, where technology is changing the entire world, it also changed the way we learn, libraries are also changing—offering both printed resources and digital resources to support each kind of learner.

For university students, the library is a valuable partner in their academic journey. Whether it's finding a textbook for class, doing research for a project, or reading for personal interest, the library provides resources in many ways. It also plays an important role in teaching how to find good authentic information, how to use it properly, and how to be a responsible learner.

Gujarat Vidyapith Library is having special role. It provides a unique collection of contemporary resources along with Indian tradition, social sciences and indigenous knowledge which is highly influenced by Gandhian ideology. It motivates its users to learn, introspect and grow.

Library's effective circulation system facilitates its user to access and utilize books in user centric manner. Additionally, it provides Digital resources, which provide flexibility in learning and accessibility. Gujarat Vidyapith Library provides traditional and contemporary resources for the educational and personal growth of its users.

Gujarat Vidyapith

Gujarat Vidyapith is located in the centre of Ahmedabad city. It is established in 1920 by the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhiji with the aim of national education free from colonial influences. It plays role in the values of Non-violence, self-dependence and development of Villages, It

provides indigenous knowledge systems and social education motivation. This university is established under the UGC Act 1956 section 3, deemed to be a university. Gujarat Vidyapith blends the latest educational system with traditional values. University provides wide range of united-character building and social services courses. It contributed to the freedom movement as well and post-independence also served as example as educational system¹.

1.1 An overview of Granthalay:

Gujarat Vidyapith Library, Which is also known as Granthalaya, is Gujarat Vidyapith, It serves as Ahmedabad's educational and intellectual hub. Mahatma Gandhi established this library in the year 1920 for inclusive education, self-dependence and indigenous education accessibility. It provides education, research and Gandhian ideological services to its services to students, teachers, researchers and the general public. It holds the collection of 5.9 lakh printed books, 651 Manuscripts, 24,191 bound volumes and a wide range of Gandhian literature. This library provides interdisciplinary resources to motivate Indian intellectuals. Audio Books, Kibo Reader, Book Share and Sugamya Pustakalaya this kind of platforms are available at Gujarat Vidyapith Library especially for Divyangjan. Reference service, Inter-Library Loan, Research Guidance and Resource sharing types services for the inclusivity of usage. Resources like Gate Plus, ISID, and South Asia Archive provide proper blend of Traditional and Contemporary Educational systems².

1.2 Circulation System of Gujarat Vidyapith Library

Gujarat Vidyapith Library provides a smooth and equitable circulation of resources and services to its users. The Library adopts a mixture of manual and partially automated circulation systems. The Circulation of resources is facilitated by the structured process of trained library staff. Borrowing privileges are extended based on the category of the user—students, faculty members, research scholars, or administrative staff—with specific borrowing limits and loan durations. The Koha Integrated Library Management

System (ILMS) has been implemented to automate essential circulation functions, such as cataloging, user registration, book issuance, and overdue tracking. The system ensures real-time status updates, helps prevent duplication of records, and maintains transparency in circulation activities. The circulation desk also supports reservation and recall services, enabling users to access high-demand titles efficiently. The Library's main aim is to balance technological integration for user experience and effective access to provide timely and effective resource sharing³.

2. Literature Review

Muthuraja, Halyal, and Surendra (2024) conducted detailed research on the library's resources, services and facilities with user satisfaction. Its finding suggests a major role of relevance in resources, trends and accessibility to enhance user experiences. When the library provides latest and special subject resources, a comfortable atmosphere and supportive staff users feel high satisfaction. It also finds that a regular feedback mechanism helps streamline usage needs and expectations⁴.

Kim (2017) in his study found out that user expectations and educational library utilization, user satisfaction and resource utilization showed a positive relation. Research Libraries should understand the focus of users that on which they emphasize most like accessibility of information, digital resources availability and user-friendly systems. He also draws attention to the usability and quality of services can directly lead to motivate users to utilize library services. Circulation System, which manages to issue-return of books, tracking, and factor affecting and user satisfaction⁵.

Suleiman, Vashistha, Jimoh, have studied on effects of Nigerian educational library automation and they found that library management software integrated the distribution of services. Automation not only minimized delays and manual errors but also enhanced the user experience by streamlining the circulation process. The study advocates for continuous investment in technology to ensure effective and responsive library services⁶.

These studies underscore the importance of user-centric approaches in academic libraries. Whether it is through updating collections, upgrading facilities, or automating services, understanding user behavior and preferences remains central to improving library performance. As higher education landscapes continue to change, academic libraries must evolve by embracing feedback, data-driven improvements, and technological advancements to remain relevant and impactful.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The study adopts quantitative research to evaluate the utilization behavior of library users at Gujarat Vidyapith Library. The primary objective of the study is to understand user engagement, preferences, and expectations from library services of Gujarat Vidyapith Library.

3.2 Research Objective:

- ✓ To explore utilization of Gujarat Vidyapith Library by different Users.
- ✓ To study about frequency of books and periodical circulation.
- ✓ To get knowledge about preferences over digital resources.
- ✓ To get knowledge about users own personal libraries and willing to share.
- ✓ To get knowledge about preference of the user about library material's home delivery service.

3.3 Population and Sample

The population of the study is registered Gujarat Vidyapith Library users. A sample of 1,031 respondents has given data using random sampling techniques.

3.4 Data Collection Tool

A structured questionnaire was designed and administered to collect primary data.

3.5 Data Collection Procedure

The questionnaire was sent to user via online modes over a particular period.

3.6 Data Analysis

The collected responses were compiled and analyzed using statistical methods.

3.7 Limitations

The study relies on self-reported data, which may include biases or inaccuracies.

4. Data Analysis and Findings

The analysis of response data collected from Gujarat Vidyapith Library's 1,031 respondents at focusing on engagement with library, circulation of book and periodical, user preferences for digital resources, personal library ownership and home delivery.

4.1 Overall Library Engagement and Usage of Other Libraries:

Table 1: General Library Usage and Engagement with Any Library Service

Usage Category	Frequency	Percentage
Currently Using Gujarat Vidyapith Library	576	55.9
Not Currently Using Gujarat Vidyapith Library	455	44.1
Using Gujarat Vidyapith or Other Libraries	652	64.8
Not Using Any Library Services	354	35.2

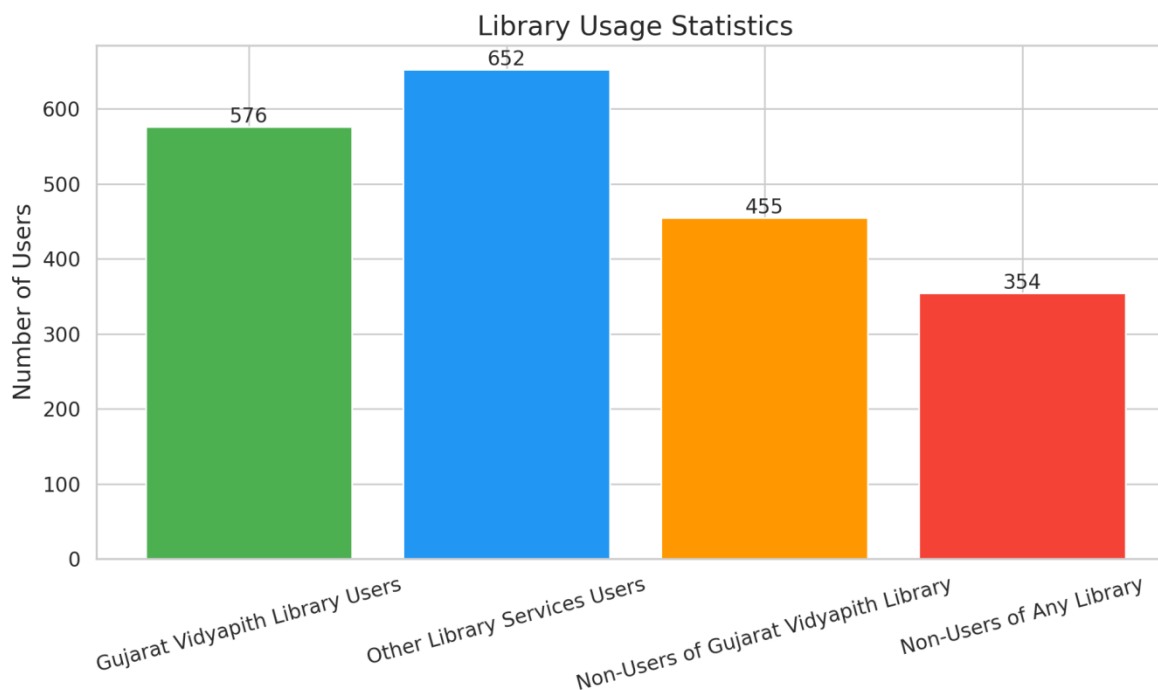


Table 1 combines findings on overall library usage and engagement with any library service. While 576 users (55.9%) use Gujarat Vidyapith Library, a larger proportion 652 Users (64.8%) used library services in Gujarat Vidyapith or Other Libraries. While 455 users (44.1%) do not currently use Gujarat Vidyapith Library. A total 354 User (35.2%) do not use any library Services

4.2 Book Circulation Patterns and Frequency of Issuance:

Table 2: Book Borrowing from Gujarat Vidyapith Library and Frequency of Issuance (n=877)

Borrowing Behavior	Frequency (Total Respondents)	Percentage (Total Respondents)	Frequency (Among Borrowers, n=466)	Percentage (Among Borrowers)
Actively Issuing Books	309	35.2	-	-
Not Engaging in Book Borrowing	568	64.8	-	-
<i>Frequency Among Borrowers:</i>				
1 to 5 books	-	-	223	47.9
6 to 10 books	-	-	54	11.6
11 to 15 books	-	-	37	7.9
More than 15 books	-	-	152	32.6

Table 2 presents data on book-borrowing habits and the frequency of issuance among 877 respondents at Gujarat Vidyapith Library. Out of the total sample, only 309 respondents (35.2%) actively borrowed books, while a significant majority—568 respondents (64.8%) reported not engaging in book borrowing activities.

Among the 466 respondents identified as borrowers, the frequency of book issuance shows a diverse pattern. Nearly half of them 229 users (47.9%) issued between 1 to 5 books, reflecting occasional or selective borrowing behavior. A smaller proportion of 54 users issued 6 to 10 books (11.6%) and 37 users used 11 to 15 books (7.9%), while a substantial group of 152 users (32.6%) borrowed more than 15 books, indicating consistent usage of library resources.

4.3 Periodical Circulation and Alternate Access:

Table 3: Periodical Engagement (n=812 for Circulation, n=673 for Alternate Access)

Periodical Behavior	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Not Borrowing Periodicals	695	85.6
Borrowing Periodicals	117	14.4
Purchasing Periodicals (n=673)	310	46.1
Accessing from Other Libraries (n=673)	169	25.1
Do Not Read Periodicals (n=673)	194	28.8

Table 3 provides insight into the circulation and access patterns related to periodicals among respondents at Gujarat Vidyapith Library. Of the 812 respondents surveyed specifically on periodical borrowing, only 117 (14.4%)

reported borrowing periodicals, while a substantial 695 (85.6%) indicated they do not borrow them.

Further analysis of alternate access (based on 673 respondents) reveals that a significant number of users—310 individuals (46.1%)—choose to purchase periodicals independently, while 169 respondents (25.1%) access them from other libraries. Additionally, 194 users (28.8%) reported that they do not read periodicals at all.

4.4 Preferences for Home Delivery and Willingness to Pay: Table 4: Home Delivery Service Preferences (n=969) and Willingness to Pay (n=956)

Home Delivery Preference / Willingness	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Preference for Home Delivery (Yes)	586	60.5
Preference for Home Delivery (No)	383	39.5
Willing to Pay for Home Delivery (Yes)	459	48.0
Willing to Pay for Home Delivery (No)	497	52.0

Table 4 shows a clear demand for home delivery services, aligning with the trend of seeking convenience. However, the slight majority unwilling to pay underscores the importance of considering cost-effective implementation strategies for such a service.

4.5 Personal Library Ownership and Sharing Preferences:

Table 5: Personal Library Ownership (n=1017) and Sharing Willingness (Among Owners, n=65)

Personal Library Aspect	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal Library Ownership (Yes)	65	6.4
Personal Library Ownership (No)	952	93.6
Willing to Share (Yes)	15	23.8
Willing to Share (No)	49	76.2

Table 5 presents data on personal library ownership and the willingness to share personal collections among users. Out of 1,017 respondents, only 65 individuals (6.4%) reported owning a personal library, while an overwhelming majority—952 respondents (93.6%)—did not. This indicates that personal ownership of academic or reading material is relatively rare among the surveyed group.

Among the 65 personal library owners, only 15 respondents (23.8%) expressed a willingness to share their resources, while 49 respondents (76.2%) were not open to sharing.

5. Findings

The survey conducted among respondents at Gujarat Vidyapith Library reveals several key insights into library usage patterns and user behavior:

- ✓ A majority of respondents (55.9%) use the library, yet a significant portion (44.1%) do not, indicating a need for improved accessibility and awareness.
- ✓ Among 1,006 respondents, 64.8% reported using Gujarat Vidyapith or other libraries, suggesting a generally positive engagement rate, though 35.2% still remain unengaged.
- ✓ Of the 877 individuals surveyed, only 35.2% issued books, while 64.8% did not, pointing to a growing preference for digital resources.
- ✓ Among those who issued books, 47.9% were occasional users (1–5 books annually), and only 32.6% were highly engaged (more than 15 books), showing a skew toward infrequent borrowing.
- ✓ In terms of periodical circulation, 85.6% of 812 respondents did not borrow periodicals.
- ✓ When asked about periodical access, 46.1% of 673 respondents preferred purchasing periodicals, 25.1% accessed them from other libraries, and 28.8% did not read them at all.
- ✓ A strong 60.5% of 969 respondents favored home delivery of library materials, underlining the growing demand for convenient access options.
- ✓ However, 52% of 956 respondents were unwilling to pay for such services, highlighting the need for affordable or subsidized delivery models.
- ✓ Among 1,017 respondents, only 6.4% owned personal libraries, and of 837 who responded about sharing, 76.2% were unwilling to share books.

6. Conclusion

This study offers valuable findings into the current patterns of library utilization at Gujarat Vidyapith and highlights areas for strategic attention. The data points to both opportunities and challenges while many users are engaged in library services; a noticeable portion remains underserved. Addressing these gaps through innovative services, improved accessibility, and community participation can significantly enhance the role of libraries in academic and personal development. Further research should explore the qualitative aspects of user behavior, including motivations, preferences, and barriers, to design even more targeted and user-centric library services of Gujarat Vidyapith Library.

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