

Iranian Engineers' Information Needs and Seeking Habits: an agro-industry company experience

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This research is of a descriptive type and the method used is survey. To collect the data, a questionnaire with 28 items was distributed. Of the 250 questionnaires distributed, 158 (63.2%) were completed and returned.

The results showed that the engineers in different work areas were significantly different in terms of information-seeking behavior and in using various information sources.

The results also revealed that the most important motivations for seeking information were respectively as follows:

- To promoting their knowledge and expertise.
- To be able to use new job-related technologies.
- To be up-to-date in their specialty.

It was found that materials on agriculture, accounting, civil engineering, and electrical engineering were used more than others. The “amount” of the study among the respondents was “moderate”, and the information sources used were respectively: Persian books and periodicals, English books, technical reports and plans, English journals, and theses.

Among the formal channels, personal library, and the Information Center were preferred, followed by the informal channels such as consultation with friends and colleagues, and participation in seminars and conferences.

The length of daily working hours, the distance between the work areas and the location of the “Information Center”, and lack of time were the most important barriers.