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Statement of Topic: A Study on the behaviors in information seeking by KAERI
Researchers

Significance and Relevance of the Topic:

This study focuses on nuclear scientists at Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), a national lab established in 1959 for various nuclear R&D. This study examines the behaviors of KAERI researchers in information access and acquisition as well as information sources at each stage of their research projects. This study also aims to determine the satisfaction level of information services provided in KAERI. Compared to the previous studies on researchers' information needs and usage behaviors, this study introduces a new approach by addressing not only the information access and acquisition but also the information sources as well. This study gives a focus on the specific research process rather than general information-use behaviors, with a view to provide insight on the use of information services by KAERI researchers. A research on the information use for each research process was conducted based on interview with the researchers/scientists in KAERI and literature review conducted previously. In order to elaborate the research process model, we developed a basic model for optimal information services which are dependent on the stages of research project implementation.

Content

Background of the Study

How can librarians assist researchers proactively and responsibly in providing information as needed for their projects? To address this question, it is necessary to examine the timing and types of information needed by the researchers. It should be taken into account that the level of information and demands by researchers will vary in accordance with the stages of project implementation.

Research Method.

This study examines nuclear scientists' information-use behaviors. we reviewed all relevant literature dealing with information-use behaviors during research process of unclear related work. A research process model was designed based on interviews with the researchers in KAERI and literature review conducted in the earlier step. In order to increase the validity of this model, we created a draft for a basic research process model using

research project execution stages.

The questions for the whole survey were based on existing literature on information-use behaviors. The construction of the detailed survey required group samples and drew out a basic research process model consisting of research project execution stages based on the interviews with the researchers.

In-depth study was conducted on a limited number of researchers in science and technology and research process model used only pure research projects.

Result of Analysis

This is to investigate output formats that researchers produce as a result of their research. Output formats are article publication 41%, article presentation 26%, reports 21%, patents 8%, and other 4%. Most frequently used information are major internet tools and main database.

It is necessary to investigate what information is used during research among expert information and previous knowledge that nuclear researchers had acquired. A research process model is shown the use of information sources by nuclear scientists.

Information needs at the research project execution stage are research theme selection, research idea organization and design, research background and current technology development status, literature review/examination of preceding studies and research execution original research.

Conclusion

The differences in information use behaviors and inherent information needs at each stage were examined

Abstract

The goals of the study can be found in analysis of information use behaviors of researchers in the science and technology domain during their research process (Chun et al., 2015). Toward this end, a survey and interviews were conducted targeting nuclear scientists at the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute. Study results indicate that the nuclear scientists mainly use the institute library/information center and internet portal/search engines during information acquisition. Easy access to information, accuracy, currency and cost are most critical in selecting and obtaining information. The results of the study indicate that monographs, reports and journal articles are the most frequently used information sources regardless of the different stages of the research process. Contrary to our expectations, the usage of monographs and reports is at the same level as that of journal and proceedings articles. This indicates that it is necessary to provide monographs and reports to researchers through online information sources in addition to journal and conference proceeding articles. Provision of the up-to-date lists of new monograph publications and reports would also be useful for the researchers to scan the information relevant to their research in an effective and timely.

We propose the subsequent study look at the factors that would give impacts on information behavior by correlation technique. Such study would also need to be extended to non-nuclear

sectors and beyond the national boundary to foreign countries through international cooperation.

Keywords: information behaviors, nuclear scientists, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, usage of monographs and reports, accessibility, information accuracy

Reference

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