

Government information sources for economic development: A case study of Institute of Economic Growth Library, India

P K Jain, Ph.D

Librarian, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave, Delhi- 110007, India
E-mail address: pkjain1310@gmail.com

Parveen Babbar, Ph.D

Assistant Librarian, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi, India
E-mail address: parveenbabbar@ignou.ac.in

Geeta Paliwal

University College of Medical Sciences, Dilshad Garden, Delhi, India
E-mail address: geet.paliwal@gmail.com



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Abstract: Government information sources are disseminated through print statistical and electronic serials in India. During the last two decades demand for government information has been increasing rapidly with the use of government information becoming widespread in the social sciences, especially economic development and development planning. The federal government and its states have established a number of statistical agencies to meet the requirements for these sources. E-serials and online databases are also gaining prominence in conducting research. A number of governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), and the Central Statistical Organisation and Registrar General of India are involved in collection, processing and dissemination of data through government information sources. This paper presents a case study of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), an autonomous, multidisciplinary centre for advanced research and training in economics and related fields. The IEG library contains a specialized collection for the social sciences and government publications, with an emphasis on development and planning. This unique collection comprises a complete set of Census of India reports from 1872, and 3200 statistical serials, mostly annuals from the federal government and its states. It has a large collection of government publications, annual reports and research papers on the various aspects of Indian economic development, including e-resources such as the National Sample Survey Reports, e-publications of Census of India, the Reserve Bank of India etc. The author has examined the acquisition and use of collection at the IEG Library with special reference to government publications. The survey was made by the IEG Library to uncover the importance and use of government information sources. The paper has also taken on issues related to implementation of freedom of information, delays in the printing of government documents, ways to find electronic versions, and the use of subject specialists in making government publications and e-publications accessible.

Keywords: Government information sources, Statistical serials, e-serials, Government publications, India

Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)

The Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) was founded in 1958 by the eminent economist V.K.R.V. Rao. It is an autonomous, multidisciplinary Centre for advanced research and training. Known as a Centre of excellence, it is one of India's leading academic institutions in the fields of economic and social development. The institute caters to top economists, demographers and sociologists from around the country and has a large body of research staff focusing on emerging areas of economic and policy concerns.

The IEG is a research institution with nine broad themes relating to the economy of the country, including agriculture & rural development, environmental & resource economics; globalization & trade; industry, labour & welfare; macro-economic policy & modeling; population & development; health policy; and social change & social structure. In addition, the Institute organizes regular training programmes for trainees of the Indian Economic Service (IES), and occasional courses for officers of the Indian Statistical Service, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and university faculty. [1]

The Institute brings out a major journal entitled *Contributions to Indian Sociology* (CIS) and a periodical *Monthly Monitor*. CIS is a tri-annual journal, sponsored by IEG and published by SAGE publications. *Monthly Monitor* is a periodical published by the Development Planning Centre (DPC) of the IEG. It analyzes and comments on the trends and forecasts on major macroeconomic variables in India.

The IEG Library

The IEG library was established in 1958 to facilitate research and training. Books, documents and journals have been gathered through the Orientation Centre, the UNESCO Research Centre, and the Delhi School of Economics, as well as annual acquisitions and donations. Presently the library has about 140,000 print documents. [2] The IEG library has a vast clientele and its facilities are available to faculty members, Indian economic services probationers, officer trainees, audit and accounts staff, environmental economists, Ph.D. scholars and students at the Delhi School of Economics, the University of Delhi and other universities in India, research scholars, alumni, and others personnel categories.

The library has a specialized collection of social science materials with an emphasis on development and planning. Apart from routine trade publications, the library makes a special effort to acquire research publications, micro-documents, serials and official publications brought out by the central and the state governments, research organisations, universities, corporate bodies, and international organisations and their allied agencies. The IEG Library collection covers the fields of economics, economic development, energy, environment, finance, econometrics, mathematics, agriculture, forestry, industry, irrigation, sociology, social anthropology, gender, demography, health etc. The library receives 315 current journals and exchanges IEG research publications, including its journal, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, with 54 institutions. The library specializes in collecting statistical serials. There are around 3,200 serials titles, mostly annuals containing statistical information pertaining to India and other countries. An important holding is the census publications: the library has the full set of the entire Census of India from 1872 to present. In addition, the library has a collection of company annual reports and documents from other corporate bodies. The major collections of the IEG Library include:

- **Statistical Serials** - Since data publications are important for research, the library specialises in collecting statistical serials, mostly annuals. There are around 410 serial titles containing statistical information on India and its states and 200 serials from other countries.
- **Census Reports** -The IEG library has the complete set of census reports from 1872. It maintains the census data of India for the period 1872 to 1951 in microfiche and from 1951 to 1991 in hard copy. The 1991 Census is available on floppy disc and the 2001 Census on CD.
- **Reports** – The IEG Library has a rich collection of reports on several subjects of interest. The library receives annual reports regularly from about 2000 corporate bodies through its Micro-Document section. The complete and up-to-date files of Census Reports, Annual Surveys of Industry, National Sample Surveys, Farm Management Studies and Centre and State Budget papers and Parliamentary Reports are also available.
- **Depository Collection** -The library has depository status for receiving publications of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international organisations. It is on the free mailing list of over 500 research institutions, government departments and international organisations like the U.N., UNIDO, and the FAO.

The Role of Government Information Sources in Economic Development

Government information plays an important role in economic development and India has a long history of collecting and using statistics. Kautilya's Arthashastra, in one of the country's greatest national treatises on economics, indicated a system of census and data collection relating to agriculture, population and other economic activities, covering villages and towns. Evidence and application of statistical knowledge was prominent in Ain-i-Akbari by Abul Fazal during the Moghul period. Systems of legalized measurements and land classification and crop yields by season, can be seen through the documentary evidence. The system of land tenure and land revenue followed during the Moghul period had enough empirical basis to show that India had a strong information system at that time. During the British Period, statistical development was geared towards administration, tax collection, revenue, trade and commerce, and related areas. With a view to rationalize and establish a sound system of revenue collection, the East India Company in 1807 emphasized the need for a statistical survey for the country. A Department of Information and Statistics was founded at the India House in 1847, and in 1848 the first census relating to the area and revenue of each of North-West Provinces was released. The first series of statistical papers on India was released in 1853.

The *Statistical Account of Bengal* (presently in Bangladesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa) was published in 20 volume and presented details on topographical data, creeds, agriculture, commerce, district administration, and sanitation and public health for each district. The census of Calcutta was undertaken in 1822 and 1847, and a decennial census for the entire country started in 1881 and has continued ever since. A three volume report on the Census of British India taken in 1881 was also published. Similarly, a need for timely and accurate collection of agricultural data was felt by the Indian Famine Commission. Agricultural departments were organised in various provinces, resulting in the publication of *Agricultural*

Statistics of British India in 1886. A statistical bureau was formed at the Centre in 1895 to coordinate agricultural, foreign trade, prices, wages and industrial statistics. During 1905 a separate body, the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics was constituted to collect/publish commercial and trade statistics to help trade and business. The first price statistics based on a survey was released in 1910. The Economic Enquiry Committee, set up in 1925 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Visweswarayya, and the Bowley-Robertson Committee set up in 1934, were both responsible for an Inter-Departmental Committee with an economic advisor to the central Government. [3]

The Ministry of Finance was set up in 1945 for the collection, compilation, maintenance and presentation of data for banking statistics, the national economy, and finance. After Indian independence and its establishment as a modern democratic nation, government information became an important segment of the overall administration of India. These sources ensured the existence of a well-coordinated system of data collection, processing and dissemination, as well as a retrieval mechanism designed to meet policymaking, planning and other needs. Many government information sources originated after independence: in 1947 the Ministry of Agriculture was established for the collection, compilation and publication of data based on agriculture production. Similarly, to estimate India's national income, the National Income Committee was set up in 1949. India's prime nodal agency, the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) began in 1951 and was made responsible for the coordination and development of statistics in India. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) was set up in 1950 for major surveys, and there were a few other organisations like the Reserve Bank of India, the Labour Bureau, and the Ministry of Agriculture, which were involved in the gathering and dissemination of government information through statistical serials and publications. The data for this system was from government departments at the Centre and at the state and local levels.

The State Statistical Bureaus (SSB) or Directorates of Economics and Statistics looked after this activity. In 1954, the National Income Unit was transferred from the Ministry of Finance to the CSO and a new unit for Planning Statistics was set up. Industrial Statistics were transferred from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to the CSO in 1957. Along the same lines, in 1961 the Department of Statistics was set up in the Cabinet Secretariat and the CSO became a part of it. In 1973, the Department of Statistics became a part of the Ministry of Planning and in February 1999, the Department of Statistics was merged with Department of Programme Implementation. The new entity was named the Department of Statistics and Programme Implementation and placed under Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation. In October 1999, the Department of Statistics and Programme Implementation was changed again and declared to be the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). Government agencies currently cover a wide spectrum of subject areas and collect data on significantly more topics than they did a few decades ago. A large volume of data is now easily available in all fields like demography, industry, trade, agriculture, prices, and others. [4]

Major Government Agencies providing Information Sources

The following are the major Indian Government agencies which collect and disseminate Government information:

1. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)
2. Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)

3. National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)
4. Registrar General of India (RGI)
5. Reserve Bank of India
6. Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES)
7. Ministry of Commerce, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics
8. Planning Commission
9. Ministry of Labour and Employment
10. Labour Bureau
11. Ministry of Finance
12. Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has two wings: one for Statistics and the other for Programme Implementation. The Statistics wing is known as The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** and it consists of the **Central Statistical Office (CSO)**, the Computer Centre and the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**. The **Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)** in the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) is the nodal agency for planned development of the statistical system in the country and for coordination in statistical activities among statistical agencies in the Government of India and State Directorates of Economics and Statistics.[5]

The Registrar General of India (RGI) is primarily responsible for conducting population census and registration of birth and deaths in India. Its data in various forms relating to person by age and sex, marital status, rural/urban, education, economic activities, etc. is provided by RGI. [6]

The Planning Commission has responsibility for assessing national resources, augmenting deficient resources, formulating plans for the effective and balanced utilisation of resources and determining priorities. The Planning Commission provides advice and guidance to the subject divisions for the formulation of Five Year Plans, Annual Plans, State Plans, Monitoring Plan Programmes, Projects and Schemes. [7]

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provides data and information on banking and finance, and is responsible for generating and compiling a large volume of data on various aspects of the economy.

The Labour Bureau provides statistical serials on labour and employment and is responsible for the collation, collection and publication of statistics and related information. It covers information on wages, earnings, productivity, absenteeism, labour turnover, industrial relations, working and living conditions, and evaluation of the effectiveness of various labour enactments.[8]

The Ministry of Finance. The major activities of Ministry of Finance are collection, compilation and maintenance of data linked with banking statistics, the national economy, finance of the cooperate sector, and presentation of statistical data related to central excise, banking, the national economy, finance of the corporate sector and analysis of financial data. [9]

The Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES). The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was set up in 1947. The Directorate of Economics and

Statistics (DES) of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is responsible for the collection, dissemination and publication of statistics on diverse facets of agriculture and related sectors. The main activities of this ministry are to collect, compile, maintain and publish agro-economic data. [10]

The Ministry of Commerce, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, is under the Ministry of Commerce. It is the official organisation for the collection, compilation and dissemination of India's trade statistics and commercial information. During the last 140 years, the Directorate has been serving the nation as the principle authority on trade-related information. The quality of information in terms of both authenticity and timeliness has made this organisation a veritable trade intelligence warehouse across the globe. [11]

Development of Government Information Sources in India

The development of government information sources in India can be seen as an upward graph in the number of publications and serials. The development of government information sources before independence is available via the Census of India which was first conducted in 1872. *The Indian Statistical Abstract* was first published in 1921, the *Report of Currency and Finance* was published in 1935 by the Reserve Bank of India, and the *Combined Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Union and States* has been published since 1937. *Farm Harvest Prices of the Principal Crops in India*, *Budget Paper India*, and the *Statistical Yearbook* were first published in 1941 and have continued since 1947. After independence, the number of statistical serials doubled until the end of the 1980's. The *Annual Report, Reserve Bank of India* started in 1948; *Agriculture Prices in India* and *Agricultural Wages in India* in 1950; *Five Year Plans* in 1951, and *Fertilizer Statistics* in 1956. The *Economic Survey, India* started in 1957; the *Index Number of Wholesale Prices in India* in 1953; *India Labor Statistics* in 1959; *Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade* in 1957; *National Accounts Statistics* in 1955; the *Railway Yearbook* in 1956; the *Trade Yearbook* in 1958, and the *Public Enterprises Survey* and *Indian Mineral Yearbook* in 1959. In the 1960s, serials like the *Statistical Handbook* started in 1964; the *Hindu Survey of Indian Industry* in 1961; *Indian Public Finance Statistics* and the *Statistical Outline of India* in 1961; *Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics* in 1969; the *Press in India* in 1967, and the *Sample Registration System* in 1968. From the 1970s to the 1980s serial publication like the *Annual Report on the Registration of Births and Deaths* began in 1970; the *Family Welfare Programme in India Yearbook* and the *Indian Livestock Census* in 1972; *Selected Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India* in 1975; *Season and Crop Report, TN* in 1976; the *Statistical Outline of Gujarat* in 1976; *Mass Media in India* in 1978; the *Trade and Development Report* in 1981; *Compendium of Training Programmes* in 1983; the *Customs Tariff Working Schedule* in 1984; *Energy Statistics* in 1988; the *Hindu Survey of Indian Agriculture* in 1988; *Rural Development Statistics* in 1984; *Socio- Economic Indicators, Karnataka* in 1989, and the *State of the World* in 1984.

The development of government information sources has been increasing at an exponential rate since 1990. This rate of increase in serial publications has been supported by the electronic publication of serials in the form of CDs, DVDs, websites and online databases. Some important serials which began in 1990's include: *Agriculture Statistics at a Glance*; *State Finances and SRS Based Abridged Life Tables* in 1990; *Compendium of Environment Statistics* in 1997; *Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers* in 1995; *Cost of*

Cultivation of Principal Crops in India in 1991; the *Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy* in 1999; the *Handbook of Fisheries Statistics* in 1993; the *Hindu Survey of Environment, India Air Transport Statistics* and the *India Development Report* in 1997; *Indian Agricultural Statistics* in 1996; the *Madhya Pradesh Development Report*, the *Manpower Profile India Yearbook*, *Statistics of Mines in India*, and *Selected Socio-economic Statistics of India* in 1995; *SIA Statistics* in 1999, and the *Statistical Pocket Book of India* in 1998.

The present decade witnessed a rapid development in statistical serials in India including growth in state statistical serials. Important new serials which started in or after 2000 include *Monetary and Financial Statistics*; *Karnataka at a Glance* and *Karnataka Economy in Brief* in 2000; *Comptroller and Auditor General of India Activity Report*, *Rural Poverty Report*, *Road Accidents in Delhi*, and the *India Infrastructure Report* in 2001; *Karnataka Statistics* in 2003; the *Human Development Report, Gujarat*, and the *SRS Baseline Survey* in 2004; *All India Electricity Statistics*, the *India Rural Development Report*, the *Human Development Report, Chattisgarh, Kerala* and the *Himachal Pradesh Development Report* in 2005; *Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India* and the *India Education Report* in 2002; *Branch Banking Statistics and Handbook of Import Statistics* in 2001; the *Economic Survey of Goa*, the *Goa Human Development Report*, and *Delhi and India Social Development Report* in 2006; and finally the *Compendium of Indian Urban Poverty Statistics, Facts, Figures and Responses to HIV/AIDS*, the *Lakshwadeep Development Report*, and the *Karnataka Development Report* in 2007. Various statistical abstracts and many other statistical serial publications from the states also originated during this period.

Acquisition of Government Sources at Institute of Economic Growth Library

The library has a specialized collection of social science materials with an emphasis on development and planning. Apart from routine and trade publications, the library makes an effort to procure research publications, micro-documents, serials and official publications, published by the central and state governments, research organisations, universities, corporate bodies, as well as international organisations and their allied agencies. It also has micro-documents, serials and official publications published by research organisations, corporate bodies, international organisations and their allied agencies, universities, central and state governments, departments, and their research and evaluation cells.

The unique feature about the institute library collection is it specializes in collecting statistical serials, mostly annuals. Around 3200 serial titles containing statistical information on India, its states, and other countries are acquired. The library has a huge collection of government publications, annual reports and research papers on the various aspects of Indian economic development. The library also has e-resources of Indian Government publications like the National Sample Survey Reports, e-publications of the Census of India, and the Reserve Bank of India. The Library is also a repository for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and has access to a large number of online resources like Science Direct, JSTOR, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Taylor and Francis, Emerald, EBSCO, Econlit, and other online content. In addition, the IEG library has digitized all its IEG Working Papers and Discussion Papers which it has made available through its digital repository.

User Survey for Usefulness of Government Information Sources at the IEG Library

To find the usefulness of government information sources at the IEG Library, a user survey was done. 150 questionnaires were distributed to faculty members, researchers, consultants, students and others (visitors, IES probationers etc.) of IEG. 93 questionnaires were returned and personal interviews were also conducted with most of the users.

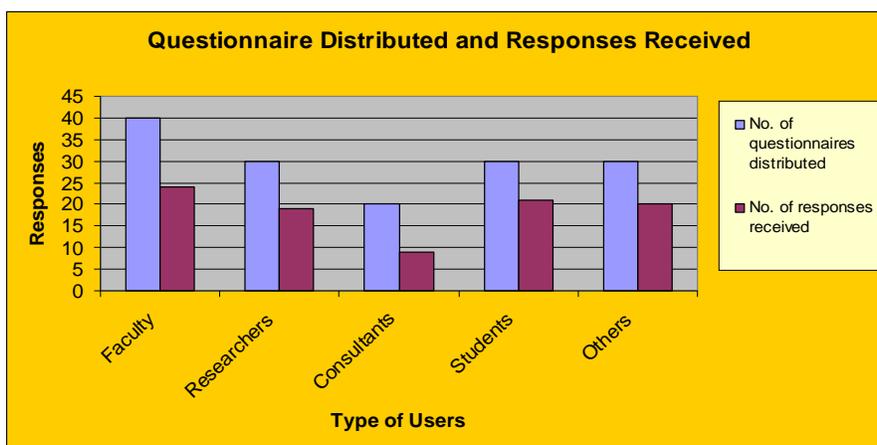
I. Response Rate of Users

Response Rate of Users

	No. of questionnaires distributed	No. of responses received	Response rate (%)
Faculty	40	24	60.00%
Researchers	30	19	63.33%
Consultants	20	9	45.00%
Students	30	21	70.00%
Others (Visitors, IES Probationers etc)	30	20	66.67%
Total	150	93	62.00%

The survey results show that 93 users (i.e. 62.00 %) responded out of a population of 150. From the 40 questionnaires distributed to the faculty, 24 (i.e. 60.0%) responded; for researchers 19 questionnaires were received out of 30 (i.e. 63.33%). For consultants 9 out of 20 responded for a 45% response rate. Out of 30 students 21 responded (i.e. 70.0%) and from others, including visitors, probationers, etc. 20 responded out of 30 (i.e. 66.67%). The results are shown in the Figure 1 below:

Figure 1

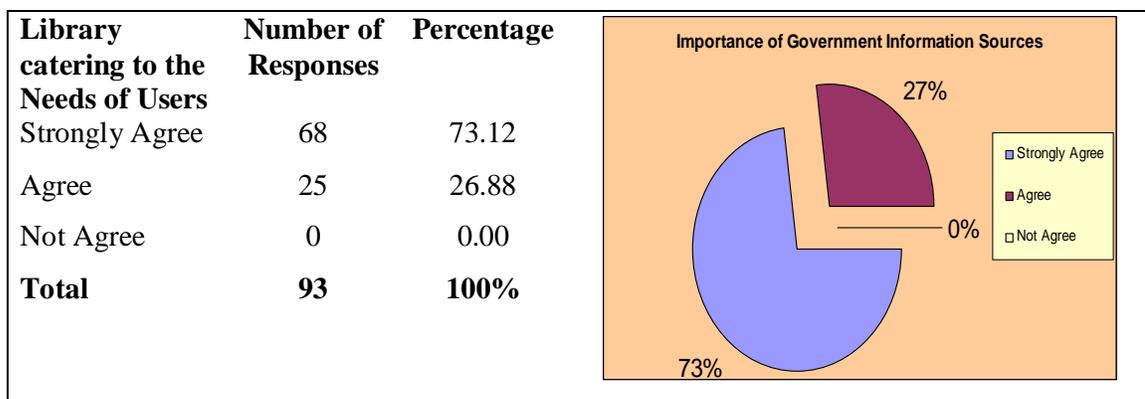


II. Indian Government Information Sources

A. Importance of Government Information Sources for IEG Users

The respondents were also asked whether the IEG Library was catering to the needs of the socio-economic research institution/planning/policy making body by providing Indian government information sources produced by official agencies. Further, it was asked if these information sources were an important part of research. The results are shown in Figure 2. In response to the importance of government information sources and the success of the IEG Library catering to the needs of users, 68 (73.12%) respondents strongly agreed.

Figure 2



B. In response to the government information sources published by different Indian Agencies, researchers were asked to rank the importance of the following:

- i. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOPSI)
- ii. Government Information Sources
- iii. Yearbooks
- iv. Handbooks
- v. Statistical Reports

The responses received are discussed below under the headings given above.

i. Use of Government Information Sources published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

Sr. No.	MOSPI Publications	Consulted	Most Useful	Useful	Not Useful
1	Central Statistical Organisation (CSO Publications)	74 (79.57%)	39 (52.70%)	35 (47.30%)	0 (0.00%)
2	India Statistics	69 (74.19%)	28 (40.58%)	41 (59.42%)	0 (0.00%)
3	MOSPI in-house Publications	56 (60.22%)	23 (41.07%)	33 (58.93%)	0 (0.00%)
4	National Accounts Statistics	67 (72.04%)	37 (55.22%)	30 (44.78%)	0 (0.00%)
5	National Accounts Statistics-Sources and Methods	59 (63.44%)	47 (79.66%)	12 (20.34%)	0 (0.00%)
6	National Sample Survey Report (NSSO Publications)	78 (83.87%)	54 (69.23%)	24 (30.77%)	0 (0.00%)

The results show that MOSPI publications are widely consulted, ranging from 83.7% to 59%. Some of these sources are consistently ranked in the “most useful” category, like *National Accounts Statistics-Sources and Method* and the *National Sample Survey Report*, which are consulted by 79.66% and 83.87% of users, respectively.

ii. Important Government Information Sources in the IEG Library (N=93)

Sr. No.	Important Statistical Serials	Consulted	Most Useful	Useful	Not Useful
1	Agricultural Wages in India	56 (60.22%)	39 (69.64%)	17 (30.36%)	0 (0.00%)
2	Agriculture Prices in India	67 (72.04%)	45 (67.16%)	22 (32.84)	0 (0.00%)
3	Agriculture Statistics at a Glance	65 (69.89%)	34 (52.31%)	31 (47.69%)	0 (0.00%)
4	Annual Survey of Industries	78 (83.87%)	57 (73.08%)	21 (26.92%)	0 (0.00%)
5	Budget Papers	67 (72.04%)	39 (58.21%)	28 (41.79%)	0 (0.00%)
6	Census of India	89 (95.70%)	60 (67.42%)	29 (32.58%)	0 (0.00%)
7	Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)	79 (84.95%)	39 (49.37%)	40 (50.63%)	0 (0.00%)
8	Compendium of Environment Statistics	56 (60.22%)	26 (46.43%)	28 (50.00%)	2 (3.57%)
9	Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India	45 (48.39%)	20 (44.44%)	25 (55.56%)	0 (0.00%)
10	Customs Tariff	55 (59.14%)	34 (61.82%)	20 (36.36%)	1 (1.82%)
11	Economic Survey	67 (72.04%)	30 (44.78%)	36 (53.73%)	1 (1.49%)

12	Energy Statistics	56 (60.22%)	35 (62.50%)	21 (37.50)	0 (0.00%)
13	Farm Harvest Prices of the Principal Crops in India	43 (46.24%)	19 (44.19%)	22 (51.16%)	2 (4.65%)
14	Fertiliser Statistics	45 (48.39%)	20 (44.44%)	25 (55.56%)	0 (0.00%)
15	Five Year Plans	88 (94.62%)	64 (72.73%)	24 (27.27%)	0 (0.00%)
16	Health Information in India	55 (59.14%)	23 (41.82%)	32 (58.18%)	0 (0.00%)
17	India Who's Who	57 (61.29%)	27 (47.37%)	30 (52.63%)	0 (0.00%)
18	India: A Reference Annual	56 (60.22%)	38 (67.86%)	18 (32.14%)	0 (0.00%)
19	Indian Agricultural Statistics	55 (59.14%)	23 (41.82%)	32 (58.18%)	0 (0.00%)
20	Indian Labour Statistics	45 (48.39%)	19 (42.22%)	22 (48.89%)	4 (8.89%)
21	Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics	44 (47.31%)	22 (50.00%)	18 (40.91%)	4 (9.09%)
22	Indian Public Finance Statistics	43 (46.24%)	12 (27.91%)	30 (69.77%)	1 (2.33%)
23	Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade	56 (60.22%)	32 (57.14%)	24 (42.86%)	0 (0.00%)
24	Public Enterprises Survey	54 (58.06%)	31 (57.41%)	23 (42.59%)	0 (0.00%)
25	Road Accidents in Delhi	42 (45.16%)	22 (52.38%)	20 (47.62%)	0 (0.00%)
26	Rural Development Statistics	44 (47.31%)	17 (38.64%)	24 (54.55%)	3 (6.82%)
27	Sample Registration System	77 (82.80%)	46 (59.74%)	31 (40.26%)	0 (0.00%)
28	Selected Socio Economic Statistics of India	58 (62.37%)	29 (50.00%)	29 (50.00%)	0 (0.00%)
29	Selected Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India	70 (75.27%)	39 (55.71%)	31 (44.29%)	0 (0.00%)
30	SRS Based Abridged Tables	62 (66.67%)	32 (51.61%)	30 (48.39%)	0 (0.00%)
31	State Finances	61 (65.59%)	37 (60.66%)	24 (39.34%)	0 (0.00%)
32	Statistical Abstract	67 (72.04%)	39 (58.21%)	28 (41.79%)	0 (0.00%)
33	Statistical Tables Relating to Banks in India	44 (47.31%)	14 (31.82%)	29 (65.91%)	1 (2.27%)
34	Statistics at a Glance	79 (84.95%)	29 (36.71%)	50 (63.29%)	0 (0.00%)
35	Statistics of Mines	57 (61.29%)	26 (45.61%)	31 (54.39%)	0 (0.00%)

The survey shows the top consulted government information sources in the IEG library are the Census of India volumes, with 89 out of 93 respondents so indicating (95.70%); followed by the *Five Year Plans*, with 88 respondents saying they consult it regularly for (94.62%). CMIE and *Statistics at a Glance* were consulted by 79 respondents for a score of 84.95%. Similarly, the most useful sources are the *Five Year Plans* with 64 responses out of 93 (72.73%) so indicating, and the Census of India, according to 60 responses (67.42%).

iii. Use of Yearbooks in the IEG Library

	Consulted	Most Useful	Useful	Not Useful
Family Welfare Programme in India Yearbook	67 (72.04%)	38 (56.72%)	29 (43.28%)	0 (0.00%)
Manorama Yearbook	69 (74.19%)	49 (71.01%)	20 (28.99%)	0 (0.00%)
Manpower Profile India Yearbook	76 (81.72%)	51 (67.11%)	25 (32.89%)	0 (0.00%)
Statistical Yearbooks	89 (95.70%)	49 (55.06%)	40 (44.94%)	0 (0.00%)
Tata Energy Data Directory and Yearbook	57 (61.29%)	23 (40.35%)	33 (57.89%)	1 (1.75%)

The users were also asked about the use of yearbooks in IEG Library. The *Statistical Yearbook* is most consulted yearbook with a 95.70% response. The *Manpower Profile India Yearbook* is the most useful yearbook with a 51% response rate.

iv. Use of Handbooks in the IEG Library

	Consulted	Most Useful	Useful	Not Useful
Handbook of Import Statistics	54 (58.06%)	29 (53.70%)	25 (46.30%)	0 (0.00%)
Handbook of Procedures	43 (46.24%)	29 (67.44%)	14 (32.56%)	0 (0.00%)
Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy	67 (72.04%)	43 (64.18%)	24 (35.82%)	0 (0.00%)
Statistical Handbook	83 (89.25%)	49 (59.04%)	34 (40.96%)	0 (0.00%)
Universities Handbook	45 (48.39%)	19 (42.22%)	21 (46.67%)	5 (11.11%)

Handbooks in the IEG Library are also popular with users. The *Statistical Handbook* is the highest consulted, with 83 (89.25%) and 49 users considering it to be the most useful handbook, with a 59.04% response rate.

v. Use of Statistical Reports in the IEG Library

vi.

	Consulted	Most Useful	Useful	Not Useful
Human Development Reports	76 (81.72%)	45 (59.21%)	31 (40.79%)	0 (0.00%)
India Development Report	65 (69.89%)	35 (53.85%)	30 (46.15%)	0 (0.00%)
India Education Report	55 (59.14%)	25 (45.45%)	30 (54.55%)	0 (0.00%)
India Finance Commission Report	70 (75.27%)	45 (64.29%)	24 (34.29%)	1 (1.43%)
India Infrastructure Report	67 (72.04%)	43 (64.18%)	23 (34.33%)	1 (1.49%)
India Rural Dev. Report	54 (58.06%)	23 (42.59%)	31 (57.41%)	0 (0.00%)
Ministries Annual Reports	66 (70.97%)	21 (31.82%)	43 (65.15%)	2 (3.03%)
Report on Trend and Progress of Housing in India	65 (69.89%)	36 (55.38%)	29 (44.62%)	0 (0.00%)
Reports of the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices	45 (48.39%)	12 (26.67%)	33 (73.33%)	0 (0.00%)
Reports on Currency and Finance	51 (54.84%)	15 (29.41%)	36 (70.59%)	0 (0.00%)
Reports on Trend and Progress of Banking in India	53 (56.99%)	18 (33.96%)	34 (64.15%)	1 (1.89%)
Season and Crop Reports	43 (46.24%)	21 (48.84%)	22 (51.16%)	0 (0.00%)
Trade and Development Report	47 (50.54%)	14 (29.79%)	31 (65.96%)	2 (4.26%)

In the statistical reports category, the survey showed that the *Human Development Reports* are the most consulted, according to 76 users out of 93 users (81.72%), while the *Season and Crop Reports* are the least used and mainly consulted by Agricultural Economists. Similarly, the *Human Development Reports* and *India Finance Commission Report* are the most useful reports, with a 45 users so indicating (64.29%).

C. Online Government Information Sources in the IEG Library

	Consulted	Most Useful	Useful	Not Useful
Environmental Information Centre Online Data	38 (40.86%)	17 (44.74%)	21 (55.26%)	0 (0.00%)
Reserve Bank of India	65 (69.89%)	32 (49.23%)	33 (50.77%)	0 (0.00%)
Public Enterprises Survey	43 (46.24%)	13 (30.23%)	28 (65.12%)	2 (4.65%)
National Accounts Statistics, CSO	76 (81.72%)	41 (53.95%)	33 (43.42%)	2 (2.63%)
National Sample Survey	79 (84.95%)	40 (50.63%)	39 (49.37%)	0 (0.00%)
Economic Survey	69 (74.19%)	21 (30.43%)	48 (69.57%)	0 (0.00%)
Budget papers	54 (58.06%)	21 (38.89%)	31 (57.41%)	2 (3.70%)
Government of India, Ministry of Statistics & Online Reports	77 (82.80%)	34 (44.16%)	43 (55.84%)	0 (0.00%)
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) Databases	66 (70.97%)	19 (28.79%)	46 (69.70%)	1 (1.52%)

The use of online government information in the IEG Library is highest for *National Sample Surveys* and the Ministry of Statistics online reports, with 79 (84.95%) and 77 (82.80%) responses, respectively. Users consider the *National Accounts Statistics, CSO*, as the most useful online resource in the IEG Library, according to 41 users out of 76 (53.95%).

D. Use of Electronic and CD/DVD Government Information in the IEG Library

	Consulted	Most Useful	Useful	Not Useful
Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)	79 (84.95%)	32 (40.51%)	57 (72.15%)	0 (0.00%)
National Sample Survey Data (NSSO)	69 (74.19%)	29 (42.03%)	38 (55.07%)	2 (2.90%)
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	41 (44.09%)	18 (43.90%)	19 (46.34%)	4 (9.76%)
Census of India	59 (63.44%)	20 (33.90%)	36 (61.02%)	3 (5.08%)
National Accounts Statistics	56 (60.22%)	22 (39.29%)	34 (60.71%)	0 (0.00%)

For electronic and CD/DVD government information in the IEG Library, the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) sources are the most consulted, according to 79 out of 93 users (84.95%). This was followed by the National Sample Survey Data (NSSO) according to 69

(74.19%) users. Finally, 32 users indicated that the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) is the most useful source in the IEG Library out of 57 respondents (72.15%).

E. Government Information and Evaluation Parameters in the IEG Library

	Yes	No	No Response
Government Information Sources are not published on time	62 (66.67%)	28 (30.11%)	3 (3.23%)
Government Information Sources in areas of Demography, Industry and National Accounts have expanded considerably after independence	53 (56.99%)	33 (35.48%)	7 (7.53%)
Statistical agencies in India disseminate data to social scientists mostly through Government Information Sources as ad-hoc publications	58 (62.37%)	29 (31.18%)	6 (6.45%)
Government Information Sources are not up to date	76 (81.72%)	13 (13.98%)	4 (4.30%)
Extensive use of Indian Government Information Sources and databases	72 (77.42%)	16 (17.20%)	5 (5.38%)
Unpublished Indian Government Information Sources and restricted data	56 (60.22%)	34 (36.56%)	3 (3.23%)
Bound Government Information Sources are used more than e-resources	46 (49.46%)	45 (48.39%)	2 (2.15%)
Need for Indian Government Information Sources in IEG using developments in information technology	69 (74.19%)	21 (22.58%)	3 (3.23%)
Possibility of consortium based Government Information Sources subscription in IEG	47 (50.54%)	44 (47.31%)	2 (2.15%)
Preference of Indian Government Information Sources in comparison to Foreign Statistical Serials	56 (60.22%)	36 (38.71)	1 1.08

In response to the evaluation parameters of government information sources, users were asked several other questions. Government Information Sources are not published on time according to 62 out of 93 (66.77%) users. 53 (56.99%) said that government information sources in the areas of demography, industry and national accounts had expanded considerably after independence. 58 users said statistical agencies in India disseminate data to the social scientists mostly through government information sources as “ad-hoc publications”. 81.72% agreed that government information sources are not up to date. It was also seen that 72 out of 93 respondents use Indian government information and databases extensively. Similarly, 56 users said there were unpublished Indian government information sources, and that the data available was restricted. Nearly 49.46% responded that bound volumes of government information sources were used more than e-resources. 69 users (74.19%) indicated there was more need for access to Indian government information using recent developments in information technology. 47 users said that there was a possibility for consortial government information source subscriptions in IEG. Last but not the least, 56

(60.22%) users gave preference to Indian government information sources compared to foreign statistical serials.

F. Usage of Government Information Sources and E-Serials

	Yes	No	No Response
Download the data regularly from e-databases of Government Information Sources	61 (65.59%)	27 (29.03%)	5 (5.38%)
Citation of reference regularly from Government Information Sources and e-resources	54 (58.06%)	33 (35.48%)	6 (6.45%)
Issue the Government Information Sources and CD/DVDs from the library or on inter library loan	51 (54.84%)	34 (36.56%)	8 (8.60%)
Satisfied with Government Information Sources and e-resources available in the IEG library	69 (74.19%)	20 (21.51%)	4 (4.30%)

In response to e-usage and e-serials 61 out of 93 users (65.59%) said they download data regularly from government information databases. Similarly, 54 users said they cite reference regularly from government information sources and e-resources. 51 users (54.84%) are issued government information sources and CD/DVDs from the IEG library or on inter library loan.

It was welcome news to see that 69 users out of 93 (74.19%) were fully satisfied with the government information sources and e-resources available in the IEG library.

Conclusion

Government information sources and related publications are essential sources of information for economic development. There are numerous government information sources published in India, and many are official publications from central government departments and the states. For example, CSO, NSSO, RGI and other official agencies in the Government of India regularly publish survey results, statistical returns and administrative records in various serials. These agencies disseminate statistical data in print as well as electronic form. Although government agency websites are attracting researchers and social scientists to unit level data in electronic form, much more needs to be done to disseminate official statistical data to further its use. The IEG library subscribes and provides access to almost all government information sources from the major statistical agencies like MOSPI, RGI, DGCIS and DES. According to our users there is a strong need to bring out guidebooks like the statistical compilations at regular intervals to familiarize data users with current resources and make them aware about current developments relating to statistical quality. Developing a network system through inter-library collaboration is viewed as the need of the hour. Not only is such a system essential for dissemination of official government information, it is also a pre-requisite for providing comprehensive access to government information resources. There is much room for improving the quality, objectivity, utility and value of government information sources. For this, there is a need to involve publishers, authors, peer reviewers, and other stakeholders more intimately. The relevance, timeliness, scope, coverage, and

presentation of government data and information are the criteria that typically need to be more seriously monitored in the rapidly evolving realm of government information.

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