3. Review of Literature:

Fulton, Kerins and Madden (2004) report the results of two empirical studies which explored the information seeking behavior of engineering and law students in Ireland. The findings reveal similar patterns in the information seeking behavior between students studying to become professionals and information seeking patterns of these groups.

Suriya, Sangeetha and Nambi (2004) carried out a research work on "Information seeking behavior of Faculty Members from Government Arts Colleges in Cuddalore District." The purpose of their study was to investigate how faculty members seek information from the library. It mentions that most of the respondents 61 (38.12 percent) visited the library several times a week to meet their information needs. Regarding the type of search made by the respondents the majority of the respondents 91 (56.87 percent) made their search by subject.

Shokeen and Kushik (2002) studied about information seeking behavior of social scientists working in the universities located in Haryana. They reported most of the social scientists visit the library daily. The first preferred method of searching the required information by the social scientists followed by searching through indexing and abstracting periodicals, and citations in articles respectively. The social scientists use current journals followed by books.

Challener (1999) investigated artists and art historians teaching in five liberal arts colleges and three universities. Results found that they need information for teaching. The participants almost all subscribe to art journals, and many read newspapers. They visit libraries frequently, usually more than one library, and unlike previous reports, the majority are willing to ask the librarian for help. A large percentage of both art historians and artists are using computers for teaching. All 27 participants use slides extensively in the classroom, supplemented in most cases by textbooks.

Marchionini (1995) explains information-seeking behavior and changing environment, including the ways that the electronic environment has influenced users. He highlights the human-computer interaction for information seeking.

Ellis and Haugan (1997) discuss the different models of information-seeking patterns. They explore the role of information and information-seeking. Authors identified eight major characteristics in the information-seeking patterns; surveying; chaining; monitoring; browsing; distinguishing; filtering; extracting and ending. They identify identical or very similar categories of information-seeking behavior to those of previous studies of academic researchers.
Wilson (1999) presents an outline of models of information seeking and other aspects of information behavior. He shows the relationship between communication and information behavior in general with information-seeking and information searching in information retrieval systems. Author also presents an alternative problem solving model for information searching and various levels of information behavior. Study of communication patterns and information-seeking behavior of users working in ICMR institutes is made by Basimalla (2000). Seeking Information from the Internet often starts from a search engine, using either its organized directory structure or its text query facility. Thelwall and et al. (2001) give new approach for specific information where a website that enables a user to search the individual websites. The Google, Altavista and Hotbot offer the facility to integrate additional information into a more advanced request.

Research in information-seeking behaviour, motivation, critical thinking, and learning theory was explored by Weiler (2005). Author compared in a search for possible motivating factors behind students' dependence on television and the internet for their information needs. The research indicates that only a very small percentage of the general population prefers to learn by reading. Stenmark and Jadaan (2006) have made a study of Intranet users' information seeking behavior using search log files. They collected and analyzed three different years like 2000, 2002 and 2004 to study the shifting trend of information seeking behavior in intranet search. Ellis, et al. (1993), attempted to propose and describe the characteristics a general model of information-seeking behaviors based on studies of the information-seeking patterns of social scientists, research physicists and chemists, engineers and research scientists in an industrial firm. Ellis's elaboration model describes the features of information-seeking activities as generic.

Information behavior is the totality of human behavior in relation to sources and channels of information, including both active and passive information seeking and information use Wilson (2000). The need for information is often understood as evolving from a vague awareness of something missing and as culminating in locating information that contributes to understanding and meaning (Kunthau, 1993). In the search for information, Marchionini (1989), notes, that the execution of an individual’s information-seeking system for a particular information problem is considered an Information-Seeking Strategy (ISS). A well designed strategy will examine the problem and work out the best source of information that will match the information need. Many researchers have shown interest in undergraduate students' information seeking behavior. Whitmire (2001) in such study found out that undergraduates use the library mostly as a place to study and make photocopies, but do not make great use of some of the available library services, such as interlibrary loan and the reference desk.
In another study, Ajiboye and Adeyinka (2007) examined the information seeking behavior of undergraduate students in the University of Botswana. The result of the study revealed that the internet is the most consulted source, followed by students’ class notes and handouts. This finding is further confirmed by Valentine (1993) who conducted a similar study and found out that undergraduates looked for the fastest way that would lead to satisfactory results when doing research by going for electronic information sources first. Chikonzo and Aina (2006) researched into the information needs and sources of information used by veterinary students at the University of Zimbabwe. Findings from the study revealed that writing assignments and studying for tests or examination were the primary tasks for which they required information and the major sources used to obtain information were books, videos, lecture notes, handouts, the internet, projects, CD-ROM database and journals. The students confirmed making little use of indexes, abstracts and dissertations.

Mann (1993) notes that most students use a subject-disciplinary method in seeking for information which leads them to specific lists of resources on particular subjects. The author points out that while this method allows students and researchers to find more specific sources, it limits their knowledge of the fact that work of interest to their subject appears within the literature of many other disciplines which impinges on how much they get out of the library system. Kerins, Madden and Fulton (2004), examined the information-seeking patterns of final year undergraduate engineering students split evenly between two engineering institutes in Irish universities. It was reported that engineering students seem to have a preference for channels that require the least effort, such as the Internet. They explained that the result was due to the fact that student engineers viewed the Internet as a speedy, current information source which fed initial information needs quickly. Ellis, Cox and Hall (1993), on the other hand, compared the information-seeking patterns of physical and social scientists and found out that there is no essential difference between the two disciplines. Covi (1999) analyzed information seeking behavior of academic researchers in the field of molecular biology, literacy theory, and computer science and their use of digital libraries. The result of the study indicated differences in the search strategies employed and the types of material selected among the researchers in the various academic disciplines. Researchers like (Bates, 1996; Broadus, 1987) also investigated the information-seeking behaviors of people in the humanities. They generally reported that humanities scholars did not use indexes and abstracts or consult librarians. Kamanda (1999) in a study at the East African School of Library and Information Science Library, Makerere University, Uganda observed that more than half of the students experience problems locating library information materials. He noted that
the majority of them either located materials through browsing the shelves or sought assistance from library staff, but they did not make full use of the card catalogue.

Sendikadiwa (1996) made similar observations at Makerere University library. The author noted that although the catalogue was the most essential library tool in accessing library collections, it was the most avoided and least consulted by undergraduates. Taylor (1991), on the other hand, identified problems associated with availability and access to resources. According to the author, what a user actually needs may not tally with what is practically available, due to constraints either within the stock or due to the user's own inability.

Hartmann (2001) in his study concluded that undergraduate students experienced difficulty in locating items from the library collection and did not understand the processes for retrieving journal articles.

Fatima and Ahmad (2008) investigated the information seeking behavior of college students to find out the awareness and usage of library resources. The findings of the survey indicated the need to increase the usage of library resources and services. Majid and Tan (2002) investigated the information needs and information seeking behavior of computer engineering undergraduate students at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. The purpose was to identify the types of information sources used by the students, their preferred information formats and the use of various electronic information sources. It was found that the use of databases and electronic journals was quite low. Sam (1996) conducted a study to know the satisfaction of information needs of the agricultural policy makers and managers in Ghana, and the adequacy of library collection available to them. He evaluated the results of the study in relation to characteristics of the respondents. It was revealed from the study that in terms of the quality, quantity, and availability of the lending, periodicals and reference collections of the respondents were fairly adequate. Fidzani (1998) indicated that guidance in the use of library resources and services are necessary to help students face their information requirements. The study found that journals, library books and textbooks are the most popular sources of information for course work and research, and students are in need to be taught how to use library resources and services. Fidzani pointed out that many graduate students lack basic skills in using the library and its resources effectively.

Information seeking is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived need Wright and Guy, (1997). This activity may be actively or passively done when taking steps to satisfy a felt need Ikoja–Odongo, (2002). On the other hand,
Andersen (2000) noted that research on information seeking has looked at how individuals go about finding the materials that they need in order to satisfy information needs. It was therefore noted on this basis that a number of models had been developed in this respect like Ellis's 1993 model, Eisenberg and Berkowitz's 1992 model, and Kuhlthau's 1992 model. These models have been applied in a number of instances to follow up the patterns used in seeking information or to explain how information could be sought systematically.

Information seeking behavior refers to the way people search for and utilize information Fairer–Wessels, (1990:361). Most times students information seeking behavior involves active or purposeful information seeking as a result of the need to complete course assignments, prepare for class discussions, seminars, workshops, conferences, or write final year research papers. Fister (1992:168) noted that undergraduate students are smart people, but find the university library to be a threatening place and find the process of research intimidating. Unfortunately they do not learn the basic information skills. They end up using trial and error methods of research that limits their capabilities to satisfy their needs. Wilson's 1996 model notes that in the process of seeking information, problems are encountered. Taylor (1990) noted that after interacting with the information sources (like in a library), what a user actually needs may not tally with what is practically available, due to constraints either within the stock or due to the users own inability. Mellon (1986) noted that undergraduates encounter barriers like library anxiety. User's perceptions of the library and its programs also act as an intervening variable to information utilisation in the library.

Gaur and Sharma (2000) have found an interesting and important outcome that the library information system designers never consider the views of the users while developing or evaluating the services which are the base for the effective information seeking process. This study was conducted among the users of seven university libraries. Information Seeking Behavior of Students of Engineering Colleges in and Around Coimbatore: A Study 266The factor of gender influences the information seeking behavior. A study focusing in this direction was conducted by Adomi, E E, and Ogbomo, M O (2003), at Delta State University Library in Abraka, Nigeria, concentrated on library use, most sought after and relevance of resource and fact or inhibiting effective use of the library from gender point of view. A similar study, conducted by Santhosi Halder, Anjali Ray and Chakravarty (2010) on the usage of library revealed that female scored high in all domains on information search as compared to male. The findings of this study have implications not only in psychology but also in the subfields of education, library science, cognitive development and training and performance appraisal.
Citing personality as influencing factor of information seeking behavior, a study conducted by Stora Siv (2003), at Abo Academy University, divides personality of information seekers into three categories namely fast surfers, broad scanners and deep divers. A unique study conducted by Dr. Josiah. O. Ajiboye, and Adeyinka, Tella (2007) investigating the implication for quality in higher education in Africa through information seeking behavior of university undergraduate students in the University of Botswana, revealed that the students gave primary importance for academic information. This revelation was supported by the study of Nishat Fatima and Naved Ahmad (2008) and Pushpalatha and Mallaiah (2009) on the students of Ajmal Khan Tibiya College, Aligarh muslim university studying Unani medicine and on the users at Mangalore University in the Chemistry Department respectively, which found that primary importance was given to books and periodicals. Providing information literacy program has effective influence on the information seeking behavior. In this direction studies of Nicola Harrison (2009), Mahajan Preethi (2009) and Gautham Biswas and Aparna Pandey (2009) have found that the students need guidance and training for effective use of library resources. Recently the study of Ansari and Devandra Kumar (2010) analysed the information needs of engineering and technology faculty members of selected institutions in Uttar Pradesh.