

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**INFORMATION SEEKING
BEHAVIOUR OF HISTORIANS IN
MALAYSIA**

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ABSTRACT

This study is conducted to examine the behavioural pattern of historians in information-seeking and investigate the effect of the theory of change management on information seeking behaviour among Malaysian historians. There have been few studies on the pattern of information seeking behaviour among historians as the academician conduct their historical research. Thus, this study aims to understand a general pattern of information-seeking behaviour of historians in the Malaysian environment in terms of the activities of the process, the strategies they used, and the barriers they encountered when looking for information sources. The study was conducted in two phases by adopting a single case study with an embedded design. The first phase involved an exploratory study in acquiring a general overview from the population sample, consisting of Malaysian lecturers who taught the history subject at the Malaysian public universities and Malaysian General Studies from the Institute of Teachers Education Malaysia. In total, there were 155 respondents involved in this phase. The findings provide a general understanding of the respondents' demographic background and information-seeking behaviour patterns. The findings highlighted that the advent of digitization had increased the ease of historical research. However, historians still prefer printed sources over digital format. In the second phase, a qualitative semi-structured interview was conducted to clarify research topics on the effect of the individual changes approaches in terms of behavioural, cognitive, psychodynamic and humanistic psychology on historians' information seeking. The criteria outlined in the selection were expertise in history, years of experience conducting historical research, and experience producing historical writings. Five subjects were selected to confirm the information seeking behaviour among Malaysian historians and the proposed framework of information seeking behaviour for Malaysian historians. The conclusions drawn from the study would propose a model that could be used as the basis for building a framework that describes the behaviour of information seeking of historians providing information needs for information professionals. Future studies would be interesting if the findings would contribute significantly to understanding the theoretical, practical aspects and information needs of Malaysian academician information seeking behaviour that may relate to archival context and other various fields.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 General Overview	1
1.2 Background of Study	1
1.3 The Roles of Archives and Libraries	4
1.3.1 National Archives of the United Kingdom and British Library (11 to 31 May 2014)	8
1.3.2 The Library and Archives of East Java in Surabaya and the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI) in Jakarta (15 to 29 November 2015)	8
1.3.3 The Directorate of State Archives Government of West Bengal, Kolkata, India (28 November to 12 December 2015)	9
1.3.4 National Archives of India (ANI), New Delhi (April to 7 May 2014 and 18 September to 11 December 2016)	10
1.3.5 Seventh International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (I-CHORA 7) at Amsterdam, Netherlands	10
1.4 The Transformation of Historical Methods in Malaysia	11
1.5 Problem Statement	18
1.6 Purpose of the Study	21
1.7 Research Aims	21

1.8	Research Objectives	22
1.9	Research Questions	22
1.10	Scope of Study	22
1.11	Significance of Study	23
1.12	Operational Definitions	24
	1.12.1 Historical Facts	24
	1.12.2 Historian	24
	1.12.3 Information Seeking Behaviour	25
	1.12.4 Information Sources	26
	1.12.5 Behavioural Approach	27
	1.12.6 Cognitive Approach	27
	1.12.7 Psychodynamic Approach	28
	1.12.8 Humanistic Psychology Approach	28
1.13	Structure of Thesis	29
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW		30
2.1	Introduction	30
2.2	Historian's Historical Method	31
2.3	Information Behaviour	36
2.4	Information Seeking Behaviour	39
2.5	Information Seeking Behaviour Model of Social Science Groups	46
	2.5.1 Uva's (1977) Model	46
	2.5.2 Ellis's (1998) Model	47
	2.5.3 Meho and Tibbo's (2003) Model	50
	2.5.4 Bronstein's (2007) Model	52
	2.5.5 Wilson's (1996) Model	56
	2.5.6 Foster's (2005) Model	58
	2.5.7 Rhee's (2012) Model	60
2.6	Theory of Individual Change	67
	2.6.1 Behavioural Approach	68
	2.6.2 Cognitive Approach	70
	2.6.3 Psychodynamic Approach	72
	2.6.4 Humanistic Psychology Approach	74
2.7	Proposed Theoretical Framework	76