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## Information needs of coaches and athletes at national sport training center in Ho Chi Minh City

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### Abstract

Coaches have to possess lots of important skills to complete their responsibilities and goals already set in training process in order to make appropriate adjustment for the plans and research programs following their own requirements, for the quality and effectiveness in getting access to professional information. By conducting a survey on 270 coaches and athletes who work at National Sport Training Center in Hoachiminh City, the research has come up with 4 different categories of their information demand during training process. The data analysis was conducted with SPSS version 22 using descriptive statistical analysis. Frequencies and percentages were reported for all categories. Among these, “Demand regarding various kinds of information that is frequently searched/used” is the highest; the next one is “Demand regarding various contents of information that is frequently searched/used”; “Demand regarding forms of serving information that is frequently searched/used” stands in the third position; and “Demand for frequently- searched/used information access” is the lowest.

**Keywords:** Needs, information, athletes, coaches, national sport training center

### Introduction

With current challenges in sport training, demand for information access is becoming more and more important for coaches as well as athletes of all kinds of sports, especially elite and professional sports. In order to survive, develop, manage and obtain job control in training and job promotion in today’s dynamic and competitive environment, it is necessary to have a number of qualities, one of which is the indispensable skills of information gathering and synthesizing. For the abovementioned things, sport coaches have to possess lots of important skills to complete their responsibilities and goals already set in training process in order to make appropriate adjustment for the plans and research programs following their own requirements, for the quality and effectiveness in getting access to professional information. Gathering and processing information are considered the most significant aspects of coaches’ work. Primary information playing a basic role in decision-making on the importance of training process management is all information about factors that bring not only positive results but also success. The training process’s final outcome depends on information quality, the quality of information gathering system, and also later decisions. Therefore, the importance and big role of information is undeniable in sport training nowadays. However, it is true to say that up to now, information provision and support for coaches and athletes has not yet been paid much attention on a regular basis. Moreover, there have not been so many comprehensive scientific studies aiming to find an effective way of information searching and analysis, the analysis of the demands and desires of coaches and athletes for information about training process, competition, and decision-making for the enhancement of training and competition performances.

**Research methods:** Literature review, Social Research Methods and Statistics.

**Materials:** The scale used for all measurement of information demand of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center has 27 factors deriving from different sources like: open questions, literature basis from previous studies, etc. There are 4 main groups: “Demand regarding various kinds of information that is frequently searched/used”, “Demand regarding various contents of information that is frequently searched/used”, “Demand regarding forms of

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servicing information that is frequently searched/used” and “Demand for frequently- searched/used information access”. Having done Cronbach’s Alpha and EFA analysis, we come up with the scale of information demand of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center Ho Chi Minh City, as follows:

Category 1: Books, Newspapers, Magazines (Demand 1), Visual and auditory materials (DVD, CD ROM) (Demand 2), Scientific papers (General and specialized) (Demand 3), online data base (General and specialized) (Demand 4), Images, Music, Documentary films, etc. (General and specialized) (Demand 5), Scientific researches (General and specialized) (Demand 6), Statistical and reported data of domestic and foreign institutions (General and specialized) (Demand 7), Documents for scientific conferences (General and specialized) ( Demand 8), Documents about training schemes, programs and training plans, etc. (Demand 9), Lists of training and competition addresses, schedules and opponents’ information (Demand 10), Reports on sport tournaments (Demand 11). These belong to “Demand regarding various kinds of information that is frequently searched/used”

Category 2: Ordinary knowledge (Demand 13), Politics and Society (Demand 14), Culture – Art (Demand 15), Sport (Demand 16), Information technology (Demand 17). These are in “Demand regarding various contents of information that is frequently searched/used”

Category 3: “Expectation for frequently- searched/used information access” (Demand 19), which belongs to “Demand for frequently- searched/used information access”

Category 4: Reference documents lending and borrowing (Demand 20), Information provision for each team, coach and athlete (Demand 21), Sending information portfolios to teams, coaches and athletes (Demand 22), Frequently introducing information portfolios related to training/competition for coaches, athletes, (Demand 23), Printing and photocopying (Demand 24), Information services in topics (Demand 25), Information exhibition (Demand 26). All of these belong to “Demand regarding forms of servicing information that is frequently searched/used”.

**Research Results**

**The current situation of information usage of coaches, athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City**

**Demographic features of coaches and athletes participating in the survey of information needs at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City**

The research has conducted a survey on coaches, athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City. The total number of initial distributed questionnaires is 300, the number of collected ones is 270 (accounting for 90%). General demographic information of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City consists of factors like: Occupation: among 270 survey participants, 73% are athletes, and the remaining 27% are coaches. Sports: among 17 sports that have coaches and athletes training at National Sport Training Center Ho Chi Minh City, “Taekwondo” is the one that has the largest number of coaches and athletes participating in the survey with 28 people (accounting for 10.4%); and “Badminton” has the smallest participants with only 2 people (taking up only 0.7%). As for teams, there are 244 people involved in national teams (occupying 90.4%), and the remaining 26 participants belong to youth teams (9.6%). In terms of education, those who have “High school” education account for the largest part with 131 participants (48.5%), the

smallest constitution belongs to “Postgraduate” education group with only 3 people (1.1%). Regarding gender, there are in total 207 participants that are male (76.7%), and 63 female participants (23.3%). As for ages, the largest constitution is “18-25 years old” group with 142 people (52.6%), and the smallest one is “36-45 years old” group with only 17 people (6.3%). With respect to marital status, the majority of participants are “Single” with 201 people (74.4%); there are 58 “Married” ones (21.5%) and 11 people belonging to “Other” group (4.1%). In terms of monthly income, “5 to 10 million VND” group takes up the largest percentage with 229 people (84.8%), the lowest percentage rate is of “Lower than 5 million VND” group (3.0%)

**The current situation of information usage of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City**

The survey results of information usage of coaches, athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City include several contents, as follows:

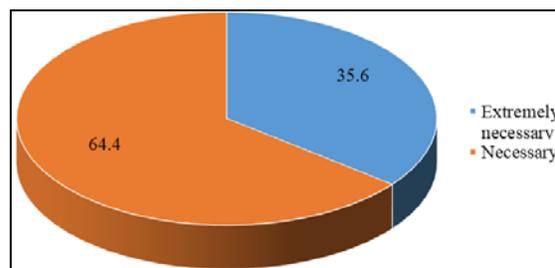
The current situation of information usage of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City Through studying “Are coaches and athletes using information?” it has been indicated that all of coaches, athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City have used information in their training process. (100%)

**Table 1:** Statistic data of the current situation of information usage of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	270	100
No	0	0

The role of information for coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City

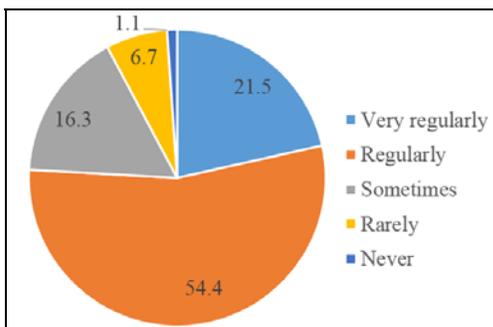
Based on Figure 1, it can be seen that most of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City highly appreciate the necessity of information. Among them, there are 174 participants claiming that information plays an essential role (64.4%), 96 participants claim that information is extremely necessary.



**Fig 1:** The role of information for coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center Ho Chi Minh City

The level of frequency in searching/using information of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City

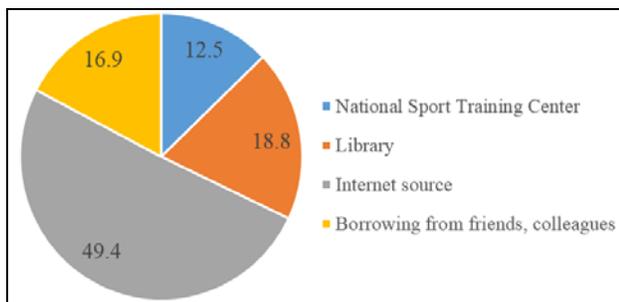
From what is shown in Figure 2, the majority of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City have “Regularly” level in searching/using information with 147 participants (54.4%), the next one is “Very regularly” group with 58 participants (21.5%) and “Sometimes” group with 44 participants (16.3%). “Rarely” and “never” account for the smallest part.



**Fig 2:** The level of frequency in searching/using information of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City

**Resources to search for information**

Making a survey on locations to search for information, “Internet source” constitutes the highest number of participants with 245 people (49.4%). The next positions belong to “Library” with 93 participants (18.8%), and “Borrowing from friends, colleagues” with 84 participants (16.9%). There are 62 people that usually search for information at “National Sport Training Center” (12.5%), and 12 people that search information at “Conferences, forums, advisory programs, etc. (2.4%). The statistics results are shown below.



**Fig 3:** Resources to search for information

The purpose of searching for information of coaches, athletes at National Sport Training Center

Based on detailed statistics from table 2, the main purpose of searching for information of coaches and athletes is “Serving for professional purpose” with 200 participants (31.9%). The

next ones are “Learning and researching to widen knowledge” with 175 participants (27.9%), and “Updating news” with 162 participants (25.2%). The one that has the lowest percentage rate is “Serving for entertainment purpose” with only 90 participants (14.4%). None of the coaches chooses “Other”.

**Table 2:** The purpose of searching for information of coaches, athletes at National Sport Training Center

S. No	Purposes of searching for information	Total (N = 270)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Serving for professional purpose	200	31.9
2	Learning and researching to widen knowledge	175	27.9
3	Updating news	162	25.8
4	Serving for entertainment purpose	90	14.4

**Tools for information search**

Among 270 coaches, athletes participating in the survey, there are up to 264 people using “Mobile phones, computers (laptops, PCs, tablets, etc.)” to search for information (31.5%). There are only 49 participants searching information by “Participating in conferences, forums, advisory programs (5.9%). Details are shown in Table 3

**Table 3:** Tools for information search

No.	Tools for information search	Total (N = 270)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Mobile phones, computers (laptops, PCs, tablets, etc.)	264	31.5
2	Exchange of information with friends, colleagues, scholars, ...	225	26.9
3	Books, magazines	210	25.1
4	Media	89	10.6
5	Participating in conferences, forums, advisory programs	49	5.9

**Languages used in searching for information**

According to Table 4, there are 4 kinds of languages used by coaches and athletes to search for information. Among these, the language that is mostly used is “Vietnamese” with 263 participants (71.1%). The next one is “English” with 77 participants (20.8%), and “Russian” with 18 participants (4.9%). “French” is the least used language in the survey with 12 participants (3.2%).

**Table 4:** Languages used in searching for information

S. No.	Language of information	Total (N = 270)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Vietnamese	263	71.1
2	English	77	20.8
3	French	12	3.2
4	Russian	18	4.9

**The current situation of information needs of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center – Hochiminh City**

A survey was made on information demand of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center using a scale of 4 main parts: “Demand regarding various kinds of information that is frequently searched/used”, “Demand regarding various contents of information that is frequently searched/used”, “Demand regarding forms of serving information that is frequently searched/used” and “Demand for frequently-searched/used information access”. Based on the survey results

from Figure 4, it is shown that coaches, athletes at National Sport Training Center has the highest “Demand regarding various kinds of information that is frequently searched/used” (Average = 3.61), and the next one is “Demand regarding various contents of information that is frequently searched/used” (Average = 3.42). The third position belongs to “Demand regarding forms of serving information that is frequently searched/used” (Average = 3.1) and the last one is “Demand for frequently-searched/used information access” (Average = 3.02)

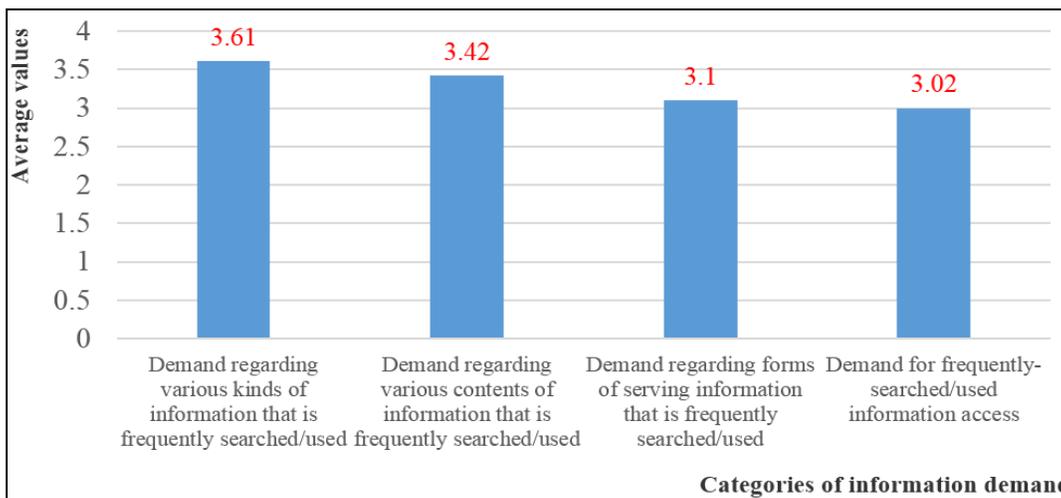


Fig 4: The current situation of information needs of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center

**Conclusion**

A survey indicates that there are 54.4% coaches and athletes “Regularly” searching for information during their training process at National Sport Training Center - Ho Chi Minh City. 49.5% coaches and athletes search for information from “Internet sources” with an aim to “Serve for professional purposes” (31.9%) by using tools which are mostly “Mobile phones, computers (laptops, PCs, tablets, etc.)” (31.5%), and the most widely-used language is “Vietnamese” (71.1%).

In terms of the current situation of information demand of coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center Ho Chi Minh City, there are four main categories: “Demand regarding various kinds of information that is frequently searched/used”, “Demand regarding various contents of information that is frequently searched/used”, “Demand regarding forms of serving information that is frequently searched/used” and “Demand for frequently-searched/used information access”. Coaches and athletes at National Sport Training Center has the highest “Demand regarding various kinds of information that is frequently searched/used” (Average =3.61), and the next one is “Demand regarding various contents of information that is frequently searched/used” (Average = 3.42). The third position belongs to “Demand regarding forms of serving information that is frequently searched/used” (Average = 3.1) and the last one is “Demand for frequently-searched/used information access” (Average = 3.02).

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