

# Information Seeking and Information Needs

Ahmad Bakeri Abu Bakar



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**Editor**

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# 4. A SURVEY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES REQUIRED BY ULAMA TO PERFORM THEIR WORK ROLES

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## ABSTRACT

User studies within the professional context have come a long way as a major area of study in Library and Information Science. The large number of researches conducted in the field especially in the last decade, is an indication of the interest has generated (Case, 2002). While a lot of progress can be seen in efforts made to meet the Information needs of various professional groups such as engineers, lawyers, medical practitioners, scientists, administrators etc. through the development of specialized databases and tailor-made Information Retrieval Systems (IRS), the *Ulama*, the most influential professional group in the Muslim world vested with the responsibility of preaching, counseling, administration and providing religious leadership to the *Ummah* is neglected. Thus, this study surveys the resources mostly consulted by the *Ulama* in relation to their roles to which the information is used. Five major information resources and four main roles have been identified. The study recommends the development of a comprehensive Islamic database and a suitable IRS that will not only incorporate search terms familiar to the *Ulama*, but also comply with Islamic search pattern.