



Use of internet by research scholars of universities in Karnataka: A study

Dr. Giddaiah D

Assistant Librarian Senior Scale, Mysore University Library, Univeristy of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka, India

Abstract

Internet resources are considered a vital part of human life in the 21st century and it has tremendously changed the way of seeking information and is today important to learn and know the techniques for searching quick information. The investigator has attempted to study the use of Internet by researcher Scholars in the Universities of Karnataka. Some of the major findings of the study particularly with respect to researchers response of the Universities of Karnataka show that use of Internet resources has made the research expedite, the users opines the extent of advantages in using e-resources are of multiplicity of choices of file format. Many of the users prefer for orientation and e-learning programmes to be given in the library for accessing resources. With the complete analysis of users and librarians it is concluded that, orientation, e-learning or training programmes on use of Internet resources. Overall the users opinion shows that the Internet resources have played significant role on their research work.

Keywords: internet, universities of Karnataka, user study, information science

Introduction

Universities are the higher Intellectual hubs to transmit knowledge and it also made up of students and research community who understand the ideas and values of this knowledge through various intellectual means, and library is an important agent in this process. University libraries are the heart of every university as they support every teaching, learning and research activity. The impact of Information and Communication technology revolution in libraries over the last decade is tremendous, and the developments in the internet technology have surpassed the individual's imagination. The internet technology introduces both challenges and opportunities for libraries as well as information providers, database vendors and others involved in information handling. The development in the electronic publishing has also made a great impact on the users' use of information in all disciplines especially in the field of science. The development of web has provided us with a distribution channel that makes it cheap and easy to share information with others. Many individuals' researchers, research organization, universities, government agencies, professional associations, and commercial organizations have discovered that the internet is simply a cheaper and more effective way of disseminating their information than print on paper.

Review of Literature

Mayer, M. A., *et al* (2011) ^[5] discusses semantic Web technologies including one on the use of Web browsers and search engines for describing health-related resources, one on the model of medical Web content certification which exploits the Resource Description Framework (RDF) language, and another on developing knowledge and linguistic resources needed for indexing, labeling, and retrieval of health resources. Beck (2014) ^[1] assesses behaviors and attitudes of young people looking for online health-related information and their level of trust in such information. The study investigates the characteristics of Internet users aged 15-30 years who use the Web as a health information resource and their trust in it, and the effect of such use on French young adults' behavior in relation to their medical consultations. Satpathy, S., & Rout, B. (2010) ^[6] examines the exposure of faculty members to e-resources and highlights the problems encountered by the users and suggests some remedial measures for its improvement. Bhardwaj (2011) ^[2] examines the use of web based information resources and services and also web based LIS services used through portal. The study also highlights that information professionals cannot ignore the changes in the field of ICT and redefining as well as reengineering the library and information services.

Objective of the study

- To study the awareness and use of web information resources among researchers
- To find out the place and use of internet resources by researchers
- To find out the Purpose of Use of Internet

Methods

The study began with a detailed and extensive literature search. The investigator designed structured questionnaires. The questionnaire was finalized and was reviewed from the subject experts. Moreover, the final questionnaire was distributed among researchers (constitutes Research scholar leading to doctoral degree, post doctoral degree and Research scholars working for projects). The random sampling technique (convenience sampling) was used in administering questionnaires to the users and for further clarification interview techniques also applied

Data Analysis

Table 1: Age Groups of the Respondents

SL. No	Age	Frequency	Percent
1	<25	178	16.27
2	26-35	777	71.02
3	36>	139	12.7
Total		1094	100

Table-1 shows that the user age starts from more than 25 year of age. However, majority of researchers 777 are between the age group of 26-35. They represent 71.02% of total respondents. Followed by, 139 in the age group of 36 to 45 represent 1.70%.

Table 2: Gender of the Respondents

SL. No	Gender	Frequency	Percent
1	Male	629	57.5
2	Female	465	42.5
Total		1094	100

Table-2 presents gender-wise distribution of respondents from each of the University covered under the present study. The table demonstrates that out of total 1094 respondents 629 are male and 465 are female. They represent 57.5% and 42.5% respectively.

Table 3: Place of Use of Internet in Order of Preference

Sl. No	Place of use of internet	Order of preference given by the users						Total	
		1st		2nd		3rd		F	%
		F	%	F	%	F	%		
1	Library	320	29.25%	565	51.64%	209	19.10%	1094	100
2	Department Lab office	582	53.19%	388	35.46%	124	11.33%	1094	101
3	Internet café	160	14.62%	228	20.84%	706	64.53%	1094	102
4	Home (pc & mobile)	224	20.47%	360	32.90%	510	46.61%	1094	103
5	Other research institutes	502	45.80%	280	25.59%	312	28.51%	1094	104

Regarding the place of use of internet majority of the respondents (51.64%) give 2nd preference regarding use of internet in the library. 29.25% of researchers have given 1st preference followed by 19.10% have given 3rd preference for use the of internet in the library. With regard to use of internet in the department it can be observed that majority of researchers representing 53.19% opt 1st preference. At the time it can be found from the table 45.61% give 1st preference for use of internet at other research institutions when it felt necessary and 28.1% of the respondents give 3rd preference for use of internet at other research institution. Where we can see that the 1st preference percentage rate given to use of internet at the library is less than the 1st preference percentage rate given to use of internet at other research institution

Table 4: Purpose of Use of Internet

Purpose of use	Total = 1094	Responses						Chi-square	P Value
		Can't say	Not at all	To a little extent	To moderate extent	To great extent			
Searching catalogues/OPAC	Total	F	1	98	129	505	361	787.13	=.000
		%	0.10%	9.00%	11.80%	46.20%	33.00%		
Access e-journal. e-books, e databases	Total	F	4	28	69	218	775	1893.71	=.000
		%	0.40%	2.60%	6.30%	19.90%	70.80%		
Writing research	Total	F	9	14	105	293	673		

proposals/projects reports/assignment.		%	0.80%	1.30%	9.60%	26.80%	61.50%	1420.08	=.000
Emails	Total	F	8	14	47	566	459		
		%	0.70%	1.30%	4.30%	51.70%	42.00%	1344.33	=.000
Downloading programs/software/images.	Total	F	15	23	129	302	625		
		%	1.40%	2.10%	11.80%	27.60%	57.10%	1187.65	=.000
For collaborative research work	Total	F	97	51	436	193	317		
		%	8.90%	4.70%	39.90%	17.60%	29.00%	459.218	=.000
To access IR of universities.	Total	F	116	26	231	485	236		
		%	10.60%	2.40%	21.10%	44.30%	21.60%	544.09	=.000
To browse UGC-Infonet Digital Library	Total	F	93	52	119	514	316		
		%	8.50%	4.80%	10.90%	47.00%	28.90%	686.466	=.000
To update knowledge	Total	F	20	22	206	281	565		
		%	1.80%	2.00%	18.80%	25.70%	51.60%	923.852	=.000
To access Universal Resource of Knowledge ex. American library, Canadian library.	Total	F	129	34	173	569	189		
		%	11.80%	3.10%	15.80%	52.00%	17.30%	767.097	=.000
For participation in Discussion forums	Total	F	78	51	505	246	214		
		%	7.10%	4.70%	46.20%	22.50%	19.60%	597.143	=.000

Regarding the purpose of use of internet 46.2% respondents use the internet to a moderate extent for searching web OPAC 70.8% use internet to a great extent to access e-journals, e-books, e-database. 61.5%, 57.1% and 51.6% of the respondents use internet to a great extent for writing research proposal/project report/assignment, downloading program/software/images and to update knowledge through website in the area of research respectively. 51.7%, 43.3%, 47.0% and 52.2% of the respondent use internet to sending receiving email, to consult databases of university, to browse UGC info net e-resource, to visit digital library like American library, Canadian library and other biological libraries respectively. 39.9%, and 46.2% of the respondents use internet for collaborative research work and participation in discussion forums respectively. It can be found that majority of respondents 775(70.8%) use internet to access e-journals e-books e-database. When chi-square was applied to these parameters chi-square test revealed significant difference.

Finding and Conclusions

The majority of researchers 777 are between the age group of 26-35. They represent 71.02% of total respondents. Followed by, 139 in the age group of 36 to 45 represent 1.70%. the out of total 1094 respondents 629 are male and 465 are female. They represent 57.5% and 42.5% respectively. Regarding the place of use of internet majority of the respondents (51.64%) give 2nd preference regarding use of internet in the library. 29.25% of researchers have given 1st preference followed by 19.10% have given 3rd preference for use the of internet in the library. Regarding the purpose of use of internet 46.2% respondents use the internet to a moderate extent for searching web OPAC 70.8% use internet to a great extent to access e-journals, e-books, e-database. 61.5%, 57.1% and 51.6% of the respondents use internet to a great extent for writing research proposal/project report/assignment, downloading program/software/images and to update knowledge through website in the area of research respectively. It is recommended that right strategies and tools need to be identified in the Internet so that researchers can maximize the most use of internet and this also helps researchers of interdisciplinary fields to retrieve information without perplexity. With the developments in electronic resources, the focus has shifted over to access of information rather than owning it. The emergence of internet has been a landmark of this era. The internet and web resources have become a wonderful tool for accessing the information. The changing mode of information access also saw the need for acquiring the skills and knowledge about providing information as per the user demands.

References

1. Beck F, Richard JB, Nguyen-Thanh V, Montagni I, Parizot I, Renahy E. Use of the Internet as a Health Information Resource Among French Young Adults: Results from a Nationally Representative Survey. *Journal of medical Internet research*,2014;16(5):e128.
2. Bhardwaj RK, Walia PK. Web based information sources and services: a case study of St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 2012.
3. Chandrashekara M, Hydar Ali, KR Mulla. Internet Usage by the Students of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Mysore: A Survey, *KLA Bulletin*,2011;1(2):26-38.
4. Chikkamanju Ambika, Ali Hydar. Use of ICT based library resource and ervices in constituent first grade colleges affiliated to University of Mysore: study, *International Journal of Research – Granthaalayah*,2016;4(4):42-48.

5. Mayer MA, Karampiperis P, Kukurikos A, Karkaletsis V, Stamatakis K, Villarroel D *et al.* Applying Semantic Web technologies to improve the retrieval, credibility and use of health-related web resources. *Health informatics journal*,2011;17(2):95-115.
6. Satpathy SK, Rout B. Use of e-resources by the faculty members with special reference to CVRCE, Bhubaneswar. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*,2010;30(4):11-16.