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IMPACT OF INTERNET AMONG LIBRARY USERS IN ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

The study analysed the awareness and usage of the internet among 124 Students and research scholars of Alagappa University. A well-structured questionnaire was used for data collection and MS Excel software was used for analysing the data. The study revealed that majority of the respondents are female 93(75%) and 65(52.4 %) of respondents are PG students. research scholars and fewer respondents from Staff. Most of respondents 120(96.8%) using the Internet, Further the study found that 53(42.7%) of using Department in the University. 43(34.7%) of respondents use the University library. Most of the respondents 35(28.2%) of used the library monthly, 24(19.3%) of respondents use the library once in a fortnight. Most of the respondents 86(69.3%) of the respondents use the Google chrome; 20(16.1%) of the respondents use the Mozilla Firefox. 107(86.3%) of the respondents using database, The study found that 36(29%) of respondents using internet to Update knowledge and 27(21.7%) of respondents use it study purpose; 44(40%) of respondents used to store and share information in online resource using Google drive, 93(75%) of respondents used UGC-info net database/journal. 42(33.8%) of the respondents facing the problem not finding relevant information, followed by 36(29%) of respondents Software/ hardware problem, Efficiency of visiting internet 47(37.9%) of respondent use

Enhanced proficiency in writing; 35(28.2%) of respondent used Increasing the number of publication, 66(53.2%) of the respondent of using satisfied; 44(35.5%) of the respondent of using fully satisfied

Keywords: Internet, Internet resources and services, accessing library services

1. Introduction

In the 21st century connectivity to internet is an indispensable one as it provides latest information as well as facilities communication across continents within a short span of time. At low cost it is a collection of thousands of networks thus it is known as network of networks. Millions of journals and other sources of information are available on internet and internet and people from all over the world can access the internet easily. The internet significant theological developments of late 20th century it becomes one of the most powerful tools for the access of information. The internet first begins in higher education as a way for researchers to communicate and share project data. This largest worldwide network of networks is the biggest global digital information library which provides the fastest access to the right kind of information. To the end user Nano –second of time at any place in world but the internet. Today internet is also known in different names in different names which such information Super high the net the web the data sphere and the electronic frontier internet electronically connects computer of different parts of the world as a means of communication. The internet can be conceived as rich multi-layered complex ever –changing textual environment. The internet provides several opportunities for the academia it is mechanism for information dissemination and a medium for interaction between individuals and their computers without regard for geographic limitation of space. Content created on the internet ranges from simple the internet is a live constantly moving the theoretically infinite pace for the production and circulation of information. Most significant technological developments flexibility And finitude text published via the internet has a much more fluid character with text no longer thousand between library or book shop walls it becomes impossible to ‘pin down ‘all or even most Of available materials in given subject areas for archival and classification purpose the internet might thus be described as a sea of information subject various forces.

Internet

The term internet has been coined from a concept inter-networking. It denotes interaction between networking of computers. It is an umbrella under which different

networks, small and big, freely exchange information across the globe. Internet, thus, can broadly be defined as worldwide network of computers communicating via an agreed upon protocol (rules for exchange of information). It provides access to the most diversified source of information hosted by individuals and various organisation worlds wide on a vast network of servers Internet gives on to the world web the interconnection to thousands of servers created by various organisations, commercial establishments, industrial units, academic establishments, various groups, individuals. The web pages loaded on various servers provide variety of information in the form of text, graphics, animation, multimedia, etc. either free of cost or for a modest fee. The main characteristic of Internet and the WWW are:

- ❖ Users across the world can connect or access information irrespective of time and space factor.
- ❖ Point to point communication, rather than one to many broadcast communication
- ❖ Provides access to large number of databases
- ❖ The facility of hyper linking from one server to another by clicking on a highlighted word which enables the user to directly switch to another data source, on the other side of the world.
- ❖ Instant and interactive community creation on a global base.
- ❖ The internet therefore, is a vast electronic library made up of millions of pages of information stored in hundreds of thousands of linked computers a the globe. The Web has brought to the desk top, not only metadata sources like bibliographic databases and table of contents, but also full text of journals, preprints, technical reports, patents, courseware, etc.

Internet resources and services

A large portion of the literature on the Internet and library and information services addresses issues related to Internet resources and services, access, and tools and covers a wide range of topics including email, telnet, Hytelnet, FTP, Archie, Gopher, World Wide Web, Wide Area Information Service, Mosaic, Internet discussion groups, bulletin boards, electronic serials, electronic conferencing, hypermedia, online catalogs, virtual library, electronic library, access information on the Internet, various databases available on the Internet, network interface, digital image, and listservs. While these items provide rich information on Internet resources and services, many of the discussions are descriptive and repetitive.

2. Review of Literature

ILO and Ifijeh (2010) studied the impact of the internet on final year students' research projects at Covenant University, a private institution at Ota in Nigeria. The researchers discovered that all of the 150 respondents used the internet for their research. On the kind of sources the students used to access their materials, priority was more on online journals, online books, and online newspapers and magazines.

Baro and Asaba (2010) investigated the state of internet connectivity and use in Nigerian university libraries and found that despite the laudable efforts by the National Universities Commission (NUC) to network university libraries in Nigeria, many libraries were still operating without internet connectivity, even as late as 2010.

Goldfarb, (2008) there is a well-documented "digital divide" in internet connection. We ask whether a similar divide exists for internet usage. Using a survey of 18,439 Americans, we find that high-income, educated people were more likely to have adopted the internet by December 2001. However, conditional on adoption, low-income, less-educated people spend more time online. We examine four possible reasons for this pattern: (1) differences in the opportunity cost of leisure time, (2) differences in the usefulness of online activities, (3) differences in the amount of leisure time, and (4) selection. Our evidence suggests this pattern is best explained by differences in the opportunity cost of leisure time. Our results also help to determine the potential effects of internet-access subsidies

Younis (2002) studied mainly concerned with the extent of Internet utilization in Jordanian university libraries. The study also aimed to investigate the administrative effect of the Internet in academic libraries in Jordan and the effect of the Internet on the acquisition of traditional and non-traditional information sources (i.e. CD-ROMs), problems and solutions. Results of that study indicated that librarians perceive the Internet as a supplement to libraries' collections, as a substitute for databases on CD-ROMs, and a way of saving on subscription charges for printed journals, but not as a replacement for printed books. How the use of the Internet as a source of information is impacting on the library services was not addressed in that study.

3. Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To access the use of the Internet by the user of the University Library
- ❖ To know the purpose of using the Internet.
- ❖ To know the satisfaction derived by the users with the Internet and its services
- ❖ To investigate the frequency and purpose using of Internet
- ❖ To find out the extent to which the Internet helps graduate students in their academic work
- ❖ To find out the problems faced by the research and students while using the Internet

4. Methodology

The survey research design was used for the study. The total population includes 124 registered users of the library made up of UG, PG Students, Research scholars and Staff from Alagappa University. A questionnaire has been prepared in such a way that the respondents could easily understand the items. A total number of 130 questionnaires were distributed among the respondents. The investigator could collect questionnaires from only 124 out of 130 respondents among whom the questionnaires were distributed. This constitutes 95.3% (110/130) of the total response.

5. Data Analysis and Findings

This study is based on the Survey (questionnaire) Method. A structured Questionnaire was designed to collect data from UG, PG students, M.Phil. Scholar and Staff at Alagappa University. Keeping in mind the basic objectives of the study.

Table 1 Distribution of Gender, Age and Pursuing Respondents

S. No	General Information	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gender	Male	31	25
		Female	93	75
2	Age	18 – 22	102	82.2
		23 – 27	18	14.5
		28 & above	4	3.2
3	Pursuing	UG	27	21.1
		PG	65	52.4
		Scholar	22	18
		Staff	10	8.5
Total			124	100

Table 1 shows 93(75 %) of the respondents are female while the remaining 31(25%) of the respondents are male. Out of 124 respondents, 102(82.2 %) of the respondents belong to 18 – 22 year age group while 18(14.4 %) of the respondents belong to 23 – 27 year age group and 4(3.2 %) of the respondents belong to 28 & above year age group. 27(21.1%) of the respondents Pursuing UG Students, 65(52.4%) PG Students, 22(18%) Scholars and 10(8.5%) of the respondents are Staff.

Table 2 Distributions wise Respondents by Department

Department	Frequency	Percentage
Biotechnology	10	8.5
Library and information science	16	12.9
Chemistry	20	16.1
Commerce	12	9.6
Economics	9	7.2
English	19	15.3
Logiest Management	18	14.5
Mathematics	20	16.1
Total	124	100

Table 2 shows that most of the respondents are Students and Scholars from the Department of Chemistry and Mathematics 20(16.1%), followed by the Department of English 19(15.3%), department of Logiest Management 18(14.5%), Department of Library and Information Science 16(12.9%), Department of Commerce 12(9.6%), Department of Bio-Technology 10(8.5%), and Department of Economics 9(7.2 %) respectively.

Table 3 Purpose of Using the Internet

Purpose of Using the Internet	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	120	96.8
No	4	3.2
Total	124	100.0

The table 3 shows that majority of the respondents using Internet 120(96.8%) and not using internet 4(3.2%).

Table 4 Location of Accessing the Internet use by the User

Accessing the Internet	Frequency	Percentage
Central Library	43	34.7
Department/Hostel	53	42.7
Cybercafé	11	8.9
Other places	17	13.7
Total	124	100.0

The table 4 shows that Majority 53(42.7%) of respondents Access the Internet Department/Hostel, 43(34.7%) of respondents access in Central Library followed by 11(8.9%) of respondents access Cybercafé and 17(13.7%) of the respondents access internet in other places.

Table 5 Frequency of using the University Library

Frequency of using the library	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	11	8.8
Once in two days	14	11.2
2-3 times in a week	18	14.5
Once in a week	22	17.7
Once in a fortnight	24	19.3
Monthly	35	28.2
Total	124	100.0

The table 5 shows that Majority of respondents used information need Monthly 35(28.2%), Once in a Fortnight 24(19.3%), followed by One in a Week 22(17.7%), 2-3 time in a week 18(14.5%), One in two days 14(11.2%) and frequency of using the Library Daily 11(8.8%).

Table 6: Opinion on using Internet Browser

Accessing Web Browser	Frequency	Percentage
Google Chrome	86	69.3
Mozilla Firefox	20	16.1
Internet Explorer	12	9.6
Other	6	4.8
Total	124	100.0

Table 6 shows the respondent's use of a Web Browser. It is clear that majority of the respondents 86(69.3%), Using Google Chrome, followed by Mozilla Firefox 20(16.1%), Internet Explorer 12(9.6%) and other web browser 6(4.8%).

Table 7 Purpose of using Internet

Purpose of using the Internet	Frequency	Percentage
To update Knowledge	36	29
For study purpose	27	21.7
For research work	16	12.9
Writing Paper	17	13.7
For preparing assignment	15	12
Project	13	10.4
Total	124	100.0

The table 7 shows that 36(29%) respondents used library to Update knowledge with the current record, followed by 27(21.7%) for study purpose, 17(13.7%) writing paper, 16(12.9%) of the respondents for research work, 15(12%) for preparing assignment, and 13(10.4%) project.

Table 8 Aware of Online Database

Using Database	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	107	86.3
No	17	13.7
Total	124	100.0

Table 8 shows that majority of the respondents using Database 107(86.3%) and not using Database 17(13.7%).

Table 9 Aware of UGC- Info net database/journal

UGC-Info net database/journal	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	93	75
No	31	25
Total	124	100.0

Table 9 shows that majority of the respondents using UGC-Info net database/journal 93(75%) and not using database/journal 31(25%).

Table 10 Problem facing while using internet

The problem facing while using internet	Frequency	Percentage
Not finding relevant information	42	33.8
Electricity failure	17	13.7
Software/ hardware problem	36	29
Other problem	29	23.3
Total	124	100.0

The table 10 shows that most of the respondents 42(33.8%) Problem facing while using internet 'Not finding relevant information', followed by 36(29%) Software/ hardware problem, 29(23.3%) Other Problem and 17(13.7%) Electricity failure.

Table 11 Efficiency of visiting the Internet

The efficiency of visiting the Internet	Frequency	Percentage
Increasing the number of publication	35	28.2
Enhanced proficiency in writing	47	37.9
Enhanced proficiency in reading	28	22.5
Improvement in professional competence	14	11.2
Total	124	100.0

The table 11 shows that Majority of respondents Enhanced proficiency in writing 47(37.9%), Increasing the number of publication 35(28.2%), followed by Enhanced proficiency in reading 28(22.5%) and 14(11.2%) of the respondent's Improvement in professional competence.

Table 12 Opinion on Satisfied of Internet

Level of Satisfied	Frequency	Percentage
Fully satisfied	44	35.5
Satisfied	66	53.2
Moderate	10	8.1
Not satisfied	4	3.2
Total	124	100.0

The table 12 shows that Majority of respondents Satisfied 66(53.2%), Fully Satisfied 44(35.3%), followed by Moderate 10(8.1%) and 4(3.2%) of the respondents Not Satisfied.

6. Conclusion

Majority of the respondents are accessing the use of the Internet. Most of the respondents are the first to graduate. 124 out of 130 respondents use computer facilities of students and research scholar. This study shows the used Internet using which is very common among the students and research scholars of Alagappa University Karaikudi. This study focuses that the majority of PG students depend on e-resources to get the desired and relevant information for their research. The present study concluded that the students and research scholars in Alagappa University need proper training in the use of internet and information search tools. Users suggested that the college research scholar must need high-speed internet Wi-Fi technology on the college campus. In case of the computer system is not available; one can browse the internet on library users. This study suggests some measure to achieve effective and efficient utilization of e-resources used for the research scholar.

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