Internet and Its Use in Enriching and Upgrading of Information Resources in an Engineering Library

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to analyze the use of the Internet and related issues among the teachers and students of engineering college at Karur. A well structured questionnaire was distributed. The present study demonstrates and elaborates the various aspects of Internet use such as, frequency of Internet use, most frequently used place for Internet use, purposes for which the Internet is used, use of Internet services, ways to browse the information from the Internet, problems faced by the users and satisfaction level of users with the Internet facilities provided in the colleges. The result of the survey also provided information about the benefits of the Internet over conventional documents. It was found that the Internet had become a vital instrument for teaching, research and learning process of these respondents.

Keywords: Internet use, Teachers, Students.

INTRODUCTION

Internet is perhaps the most important development in the field of information technology that has been described as arguably the most complex structure yet discovered in the world. Internet, an open computer communication infrastructure and a network of networks also known as the cyberspace, information superhighway etc, has enabled global level interconnectivity of computers and computer networks as an avenue for sharing research data and information. Thus Internet has brought in a new era in global communication.

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Need for the present study

The Internet is an inseparable part of today's engineering educational system. Engineering colleges invest a good deal of amount on providing this facility to both the teachers and students. It is, therefore, important to find out up-to what extent they are utilizing this facility.

As engineering colleges provide Internet facility to both the teachers and the students and expect them to utilize it for education purposes, it is necessary to conduct a study to determine whether Internet is used for academic activities and how the Internet has influenced the academic efficiency of the target users. The study also explores the satisfaction level of the users with the Internet facility provided by the engineering colleges under study. The study has particularly been taken up to assess the benefits of Internet over conventional documents.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The study is concerned with the following aim and objectives.

1. To know the age group and gender of internet users.
2. To know the qualification and status of respondents.
3. To know the quantum of time spent in Netscafe situated outside the college.
4. To know the usage of various catalogue
5. To identify the major resources used by the respondents and usage of e journal.
6. To know usage of the web course.
7. To know the use of Internet form entertainment besides educational purpose.
8. To identify the web browser used by the users.
9. To know the level of satisfaction with internet.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are posed

1. There is a significant relationship between sex and hours used.
2. There is a significant relationship between age and satisfaction in usage of internet.

Universe and sampling

M. Kumarasamy College of engineering was used for the study purpose. Out of the 150 visitors who visit regularly and use the internet a sample of 110 was taken. Since, the universe is large, simple random sampling was adopted for this study.

Tools of Data Collection

Questionnaire

A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to secure response to certain questions by the respondent. It is a systematic compilation and organised order of questions that are submitted to a sampling of population for if inquiry, 150 questionnaires were distributed to various students and staff members and a return of 110 has been received from the respondents.

Statistical tools adopted for the study

Percentage

Chi-square

Pilot study

The researchers got the permission from the authorities to conduct the study. The researchers also explained them the nature and purpose of the study. A few number of regular Internet user was collected.

Pre test

The researchers in order to find out the feasibility of the study conducted a pretest with 10 of the Internet users in the Library where the majority of users had been accessing the Internet and data are collected. It was found to be satisfactory and hence the questionnaire was administered to test the sample.

Procedure of Data Collection

The researchers approached each of the students and staff and explained to them for the purpose and the contents of the questionnaire as well as the research study. The questionnaire was given to the students and staff after brefing them of purpose of the for filling it and collected afterwards. The data was collected during the month of April.

Limitations of the study

1. The study has been undertaken only with 110 users due to time factor.
2. Since students were preparing for their university exams, so collecting questionnaire from them very difficult.
3. Proportion of response was low.

Analysis and Interpretation

This deals with the analysis of data collected and tabulating them in an orderly fashion. Here the researchers have interpreted each the findings. Few diagrams have been included for some of the tables and graphical representation of the analyzed data.

Table 1. Age wise classification

S.NO	AGE GROUP	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	15-25	85	77.27
2	25-35	19	17.27
3	ABOVE 35	6	5.46
	TOTAL	110	100

The table 1 shows that 77.27% of the users are coming under the age group of 15-25. Because the students admitted in the Engineering College is in the age group of 18, 15-25 age group sample is more than the other group.

Table 2. Sex wise distribution of respondents

S.NO	CATEGORY	TOTAL NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	MALE	72	65.45
2	FEMALE	38	34.55
	TOTAL	110	100

The table 2 shows the gender wise distribution of the sample 65.45% Male and 34.55% are female. Male members are more than female members because the college admits less number of female. Hence the female sample is less.

Table3. Education wise classifications

S.NO	QUALIFICATION	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	B.E	65	59.09%
2	MCA	26	23.64%
3	M.SC	12	10.9%
4	M.E	7	6.37
	TOTAL	110	100

The table 3 shows that majority 59.09% of the users are coming from various Engineering disciplines (B.E) and 23.64% of the users are MCA. 10.9% are student of M.SC computer science and 6.37% belong to M.E.

Table 4. Status wise distributions

S.NO	STATUS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	STUDENT	82	74.54
2	FACULTY	28	25.46
	TOTAL	110	100

Table 4 indicates that 74.54% of the users are students and 25.46% of them are faculty members.

Table5. Outside browsing center preferred

RATING	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1HOUR	17	18.28
2HOURS	53	56.99
3HOURS	18	19.35
ABOVE 3 HOURS	5	5.38
TOTAL	93	100

The Table 5 shows the time spent outside the college in the Net café. There are number of netscafé browsing centre in and around the college and Karur the textile city has also a number of center. The costs outside in these renters differ from Rs15 to Rs20. In the early morning the rate is still less. A question was asked to know how much of time the users spend browsing in these internet 18.28% of the users spend 1 hour 56.99% spend 2 hours and 19.35% spend 3 hours 5.38% of the users spend more than 3 hours.

Thus, the table shows that students and staff are browsing internet for more than an hour (the d1 hour is given in the college internet centre.

Table6. Usage of catalogue

S.NO	USAGE OF CATALOGUE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	YES	83	75.45
2	NO	27	24.55
	TOTAL	110	100

75.45% of the users are using catalogues available on internet, 24.55% of them are not using catalogues because some of the new users do not know how to search the catalogues and purpose of the catalogue. Many libraries in the developed countries have created OPACs accessible at their premises as well as through internet. Internet provides access to the online catalogues of worldwide academic, research and public libraries which can be accessed via telnet, gopher, WWW, some of the examples are OPAC's of British Library, library of congress, online computer library centre, Bath information and data service etc.

Table 7. E-Journals purpose

S NO	PURPOSE OF E JOURNALS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	UPDATE SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE	43	39.09
2	RESEARCH	14	12.73
3	ARTICLES FOR CONFERENCE, SEMINAR ETC.	53	48.18
	TOTAL	110	100

Internet has become an effective medium for publishing electronic versions of current Journals. Table 7 shows that 39.09% of the users are using E- journals for updates subject knowledge and 12.73% are using for research purpose 48.18% of them use for their seminar, and conference purpose, Electronic Journals are accessible much faster than their printed documents.

The intended audience uses the internet more than the general populations and is familiar with using documents in an electronic form libraries are experiencing extreme financial hardship and cutbacks in finding there is a strong more for scholars to find less costly ways to promote their work.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS 1
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN AGE AND SATISFICATION IN USAGE OF INTERNET

AGE	HIGHLY SATISFIED N=85	LESS SATISFIED N=20	NOT SATISFIED N=5	STATISTICAL INFERENCE
15-20	65	15	5	CHISQUARE=69.012
25-35	12	4	3	DF=2
35 AND ABOVE	2	3	1	P IS≤ 0.05

It mayn be constructed from the above findings that there is no relationship between age and satisfaction in usage of internet. So the hypothesis does not seen to be valid.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS 2
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SEX AND HOURS USED DURING COLLEGE TIME

SEX	1HOUR	2 HOURS	STATISTICAL INFERENCE
MALE	75	13	CHI SQUARE=O.157
FEMALE	18	4	P≥0.05

From the above table conclude that there is a relationship between sex and hours used during college time. So the hypothesis is accepted.

FINDINGS

1. Monitoring of the respondent 77.27% is from 15-25 age in group 17.27% of them are 25-35 age group, and 5.46 are above 35 age group.

2. 65.54% are male students while 34.55% of respondents are female students.

3. 59.09% are B.E qualifying and 23.64 of the users are MCA graduates. 10.9% are doing M.sc computer science and 6.37% belong to M.E.

4. 74.54% of the users are students and 25.46% of them are faculty members.

5. 75.45% of the users are using catalogues and 24.55% of them are not using catalogues.

6. 60.90% said that dictionaries are their choice as reference source, and 10.91% say that encyclopedia & guides are their useful reference sources, and 10% browsing yearbooks.

7. 48.18% says that they use E-Journals for seminar, conference purpose 39.09% said that for to update subject knowledge, 12.73 for research purpose.

8. 95.45% said that they are not using web-based courses and 4.55% says that they are interested to use web-based courses.

9. 75.45 use academic websites to refer academic details. 25.45% say that there is no need to refer the academic details.

10. 84.55% said that they are using 1 hour for browsing inside the college and 15.45% are using 2 hours.

11. 10.91% are using business websites for ordering books with publisher contact. 89.09% of them are not using business websites.

12. 100% are using entertainment like chatting, seeing cine fielders and other.

13. 96.36% are not interested to create website, whereas 3.64% are interested to create website.

14. 82.73% said that internet explorer is their choice to work compared to 13.64% of usages of Nets café Navigator. 3.63% of the respondent use opera.

15. Finally the feedback is 77.27% of the users are highly satisfied when using internet, 18.18% of the uses are less satisfied and 4.55 of the users only not satisfied

Research hypothesis: 1

"There is significant association between age and satisfactions in usages of Internet" It is found from the test there is no significant association between age and satisfaction in usages of Internet.

Thus, the hypothesis could not stand.

Research hypothesis: 2

"There is significant association between sexes, hours used during college time"

It is found from the test there is significant association between sexes, hours used during college time"

Thus, the hypothesis is accepted.

SUGGESTION

• Time allotted to each person can be extended, so that person who is less satisfied with time can be more satisfied.

• User orientation training programmers have to be strengthened to the comers, so that without internet knowledge users can be benefited.

• Increasing number of machines in the center is a must

• If number of machines increases the users may increase. so that utilization may be strengthened

• Connection of internet must be provided with high speed cables of advanced technology like optical fibers can be implemented.

• Server problem can be avoided by continuous monitoring of server by system administrator in college.

• Seats allotted for girl students are less. It will be rectified by extra machines provided to them.

• Female students are restricted after 6.30 P.M in evening even though they are hostellers. To extend the time to girls students will be highly utilized

• Chatting should be allowed, so that communica-

tion between the other people in any other end of the world can be increased.

- Lab size can be extended which in turn occupy more system and more users.
- Old machines can be replaced by new machines to reduce the fault in system.
- Internet trained person can be allotted to internet hour. Then only they can be teaching the new users.
- There should be a smooth interaction between the students and staff in charge in internet hour.
- The internet hour given to students is alternate week only. It may be extended at least weekly twice
- Individual machine fault can be rectified by continuous monitoring.
- Due to multiple accesses to Internet through the present 64 kbps like, connectivity is comparatively slow. It is proposed to increase the bandwidth through VSAT connection.
- It is proposed to put necessary firewalls on the server to prevent access to undesirable sites.

CONCLUSION

The study carried out at the M. Kumarsamy college of Engineering revealed that 74.54% of students and 25.46% of faculty use Internet to a great extent. It is crystal clear from the result that the younger generation here accepted the information resources through Internet.

Today almost all the activities of human beings would not be successful without the effective use of information.

The librarian and information professional has a vital role to play in supplying the right information to the right people at the right time'. This slogan deserves that libraries in every corner of our country should be glued together with the Internet.

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