

USE OF INTERNET IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

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ABSTRACT

The progress in information Technology and the emergence of Internet and its WWW has given a new face-lift to the information systems. The library collections with the tradition of its holdings are now added with the electronic information resources in various formats. The popularity and ease in use of WWW has lured most of the reputed publishers to host their products on web. Technology advances over the past two decades have made data retrieval faster and easier, giving rise to a substantial industry providing access to professional, business and scientific information. Some progress has been made towards increasing the relevancy of the data with the induction of various search engines and subject directories.

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0. Introduction

The development of communication technology is playing a vital role in the development of society. In earlier days vocal and pictorial methods were mainly used for communication. But now a days these primitive methods have given way to electronic pulses. Using computer telephone links and microwave radio transmission, a vast amount of data is being transmitted within a few seconds. Speedy access to information is now being possible through computer networks. Internet is a network of computer, which provides information in the fields of business, education, military, science, government and non-governmental organizations etc. Internet is now developing as the major way of communication media in the present society. It is a challenge and means for Library and Information professionals for providing information services.

1. What is Internet?

The Internet is a computer network made up of thousand of networks worldwide. It is difficult to give a precise number of computers connected to the Internet as a few thousand are added every day all over the world. It is certain, however, that these number in the millions and are increasing at a rapid rate. For example in the year 2000, 21 million websites, 93 million Internet hosts and over 1 billion static web pages were there.

No one is In-charge of the Internet. There are organizations like NIC (Network Information Center) to look into the technical aspects of this network, but no governing body is in control. The Internet backbone, through which Internet traffic flows, is owned by various private companies.

Internet is

- ?? A network of network based on the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)
- ?? A community of people who use and develop those networks.
- ?? A collection of resources that can be reached from those networks.

1.1 Genesis of Internet:

In the year 1957 Department of Defense (DOD) of the United States formed the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) to look after all the R & D projects going around the US. In the year 1969, the DOD moved a step forward to develop a network to make connection with all the R & D organizations, institutions and universities, which are engaged in research funded, by Ministry of Defense through the Computer Media. This network was known as ARPA net (Advanced Research Projects Administration Network).

1.2 Components of Internet:

Internet comprises following major components

1. World Wide Web
2. E-mail
3. Telnet
4. FTP
5. E-mail Discussion Groups
6. Usenet News
7. Chat
8. Web Pages

2. Resources available on the Internet of librarian's interest:

Following resources are available for Library and Information professionals for providing various type of information.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| - E-journals | - Standards | - Preprints |
| - Library catalogue | - Bibliographical tools | - Share wares |
| - Old books | - News Papers | - Dictionary |
| - Magazine | - Encyclopaedias | - Database |
| - Directories | - Films | - Technical |

Reports

- | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|
| - Audio | - Patents | - Video |
| - Companies, Institutions, Organization, Associations etc. | | |

2.1 Application to Library & Information Services:

Internet will help as additional tool for LIS professionals for providing various types of information services to the users. Following are the some of the applications.

- ?? Perhaps no other recent innovation has impacted the library profession to such a great extent as Internet.
- ?? Created profound impact on L&IS by offering new modes of information delivery and a vast information source.
- ?? Not only is our world of Librarianship becoming an interconnected global community, but the early use of internet has changed fundamental roles, paradigms and organizational culture of libraries and librarians as well
- ?? Innovative uses of Internet technologies enable us to reach both local and distant users much more easily and effectively than hither to possible.
- ?? Technologies such as email and web provides tremendous opportunities for library & Inf. Scientists to deliver the information to the desktops of out users.
- ?? Realising the potential, many libraries are rushing to getting the connectivity

Internet plays a vital role in Library related activities in the following areas.

i. Acquisition:

- Suggestion from users
- Correspondence with Bookseller & Publisher.
 - Reminders, Price verification
- Bib. details downloading of records
- Ordering billing
- Bookshops are on-line e.g. amazon.com
- On-line Catalogues Searching
- Books finder: <http://www.booksfinder.com>
www.amazon.com

ii. Classification:

- BUBL-user DDC
- Cyber Dewey
- Maths Classification System
- Engineering Electronics Lib. Classification.
- Internet public Library and Gateways users Classification System
- DDC: www.oclc.org/dewey

iii. Cataloguing:

- Cataloguing network resources
- OPAC-web sites
- MARC adds 856 fields
- OCLC: <http://www.oclc.org>
Webcat: <http://www.light.com/webcats>

iv. Serial collection:

- Acquisition Process

- E-journals
 - Different Models
 - Web access etc.
- <http://www.blackwellpublisher.co.uk/>

v. Resource Sharing:

- Union catalogues
- Access, adding, downloading
- Access to databases over network
- ILLINET, WLN, OCLC, BIB (UK),
- Full text journals access etc.
- IFLA: <http://www.ifla.org/>

vi. Reference Services:

- Linking of useful sites
- Subject guides
- How to search
- Directing for right sources
- Answering short range and long range questions
- New Encyclopaedia Britannica
<http://www.eb.com>

vii. Services:

- Document Delivery Service e.g. Ariel
- Reference/Information Services
- Current Awareness Services
- Science Direct: <http://www.sciencedirect.com>
- Recent additions.
- Contents pages

viii. OPAC:

- Library Catalogues.
- University presses, etc.
- BLPC: <http://blpc.bl.uk/>

ix. Database access:

- Bibliographical
- Full text

x. User Education:

- Email
- Web
- Setting Intranet

3. Retrieval of information:

Retrieval of information over Internet is a major problem, because of vast amount of information over it. Searching is a key approach to using the Internet, but its

appropriateness in particular circumstances needs to be recognized browsing sources is often more fruitful. It is not possible to search the Internet in the sense of easily searching everything there it is more a matter of searching various parts. Thus we might search:

- ?? The general or specialist collections of millions of web pages: the web search engines.
- ?? Discussion list archives
- ?? Usenet newsgroup archives
- ?? E-mail address directories
- ?? Particular websites, such as the UK Government site
- ?? Frequently asked questions on a subject
- ?? Software archives
- ?? Archives of data or images.

3.1 Search Engine:

Search engines are tools that use computer programs called spiders and robots to gather information automatically on the Internet with this information, they create database.

Spiders are computer programs that go out on the Internet and locate hyperlinks that are available to the public, such as WWW and Gopher documents. These spiders or robots as they are commonly called load these resources in a database, which one can then search by using a search engine. These spider or robot, programs were created because the number of Internet documents increases so rapidly that people can't keep up with indexing them manually. Each of the major search engines attempts to do the same thing namely-index as much of the entire web as possible - so they handle a huge amount of data.

There are advantages to computer-generated database. They are frequently updated, give access to very large collections and provide concept or phrase, a search engine is the best place to state, and you would be smart to look in more than one, because each engine gives different results.

Following are the major search engines used frequently for searching the information.

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | Altavista | http://www.altavista.digital.com |
| 2. | Excite | http://www.excite.com |
| 3. | Yahoo | http://www.yahoo.com |
| 4. | HotBot | http://www.hotbot.com |
| 5. | Infoseek | http://www.infoseek.com |
| 6. | Lycos | http://www.lycos.com |
| 7. | Northern-Light | http://www.northernlight.com |
| 8. | WebCrawler | http://www.webcrawler.com |
| 9. | Galaxy | http://www.galaxy.com |

3.2 Meta Search Engine:

Meta search engines will help for looking in more than one search engine when trying to find relevant web pages. Each search engine varies in size, indexing structure, update frequency and search options. It can be confusing and time consuming to do your search in several databases, especially if you have to keep track of all of their differences.

To solve some of those problems, database providers have come up with Meta search tools. If meta search tools allow one to use several search engines simultaneously, they are often called, parallel search tools or unified search interfaces. Instead of building their own databases, meta search tools use the major search engines, meta directories that already exist on the Internet and provide the user with search forms or interfaces for submitting a queries to these search tools. Simply by submitting a query the meta-search tool collects the most relevant sites in each database and sends them to the screen. Some sites merely list World Wide Web search tools with their search forms so you can search one at a time. These are called all-in-one search tools.

Following are the some of the examples for meta search engines.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. All-in-one search page | http://www.albany.net/allinone |
| 2. Dogpile | http://www.dogpile.com |
| 3. Internet Sleuth | http://www.isleuth.com |
| 4. MetaCrawler | http://www.metacrawler.com |
| 5. Search.com | http://www.search.com |
| 6. Savvy search | http://www.guaraldi.cs.colostate.edu.2000 |
| 7. Mamma | http://www.mamma.com |

3.3 Directories:

There are two basic ways to find information on the World Wide Web: one can browse directories by subject or one can search by keyword in search engines. While computer programs create search engine database, directories are crated and maintained by people. Directories don't cover the entire web. In fact, directories are very small collections of resources, compared with the huge database that search engines employ.

Browsing directories can be a very effective way to find the resources one need, especially if one need general information on a subject, such as recycling. If one is at the beginning of his research, or if one is searching for an overview of the topic at hand, it may also be helpful to use a directory. Many of the major search tolls contain a directory and a search engine. Using these one can try both methods in one service. The directory part of the search engine is usually a subset of the entire database, and the sites listed in a directory are often evaluated, summarized and given ratings. Some directories provide rudimentary search interfaces as well.

Following are some of the examples for the directories.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. Galaxy | http://galaxy.einet.net |
| 2. Infoseek | http://www.infoseek.com |

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 3. Looksmart | http://www.looksmart.com |
| 4. NetGuide | http://www.netguide.com |
| 5. Webcrawler.channels | http://weberawlaer.com |
| 6. Yahoo | http://www.yahoo.com |

3.4 Virtual Libraries:

Virtual libraries are directories that contain collections of resources that librarians or cybrarians have carefully chosen and organized in a logical way. The resources one find in a virtual library have been selected and placed there because of their excellence and usefulness. Someone knowledgeable usually evaluates the web pages included in that field. Typically, virtual libraries provide an organizational hierarchy with subject categories to facilitate browsing simple searches. Virtual libraries are great places to begin your research.

Following are the examples for the virtual libraries.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Argus clearinghouse | http://www.clearighouse.net |
| 2. INFOMINE | http://lib-www.ver.edu |
| 3. Internet public library | http://www.ipl.org |
| 4. Librarians' Index to the Internet | http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/internetindex |
| 5. World wide web virtual library | http://vlib.stanford.edu/overview.html |

4. Conclusion:

The use of Internet has increased the efficiency of the library and informational professionals, altered the nature of library and information related work, and have provided users with an opportunity to access information sources without entering a library at all.

Internet based resources and service are very valuable particularly for the developing countries since the printed sources of information are not easily available in time from the developed countries. The information searching with reference to India. Library and Information Services will be very handy and useful in sharing the information resources available in the Internet.

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