

Usage of Internet by Students and Research Scholars of Karnatak University Library: A Survey

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Abstract

In the IT era, academic libraries and information centers have radically changed the information environment. Higher education institutions started subscribing to electronic resources to meet the user's requirements and expectation. The main aim of this survey is to understand student's usage of Internet and computer technology, their experience with technology and their aptitudes and expectation about technology resources and identify areas for improvement of services. The paper discusses the impact of Internet in Karnatak University Library.

Keywords: User Survey, Electronic Information Sources, Higher Education

1. Introduction

We are living in the so called 'information society' or 'information age' where information is one of the important factor of life. Kemp (1976) said, "Indeed, information has been described as the fifth need of man ranking after air, water, food and shelter".

Every one needs information about everything even in his day-to-day life also. People needs information right from the organizational level to the personal level, from the highly educated and experience person to schoolchildren, from a very famous person to an ordinary person, for taking the right decision in every step of life. Modern society incessantly produces and uses information. Information diffuses through society in many ways. In this information age there is so much of information being generated that we are confronted with information explosion, information pollution and exponential growth of information. Due to this information explosion or information pollution the people are confuse about the information need, information access and information sources. With the impact of new technologies such as information technologies most people are interested in accessing the information through these sources because of faster accessibility.

Access to electronic information of all kinds has been a major boon to academic libraries. We and our now patrons now have access to more accurate and precise information than ever before. The impressive pace of technological change influences all aspects of human communication. It is crucial that libraries prepare a range of responses to the pressing library questions in the electronic era. There are also other factors that shape the vision of the academic library today and in the near future.

The Internet has many user-friendly tools, which help the users to interact with the Internet and get the information they need. Some of these are Gopher, Archie, and World Wide Web (WWW). The Internet is rich resource of information and provides the information to its users faster than any other resources. Therefore it became the most popular resource of information.

2. User Study

User studies' is difficult area of knowledge to define. It can include conventional surveys of library and may be the main form of activity, which comes in mind when the term user studies' is mentioned.

3. Aims and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the survey is to understand more about student usage of electronic resources, their experience with the Internet and their attitudes and expectation about technology resources. The study offers a way to identify the level of acceptance of electronic resources, Internet and encountered while accessing e- journals

4. Specific Objectives of the Study

The following are the major objectives of the study:

- i. To access the use of Internet by the Karnatak University Library users.
- ii. To know the purpose of using Internet.
- iii. To study the impact of Internet on learning and research.
- iv. To know the satisfaction derived by the users with Internet and its services of Karnatak University Library.
- v. To find out the problems faced by the research and students while using INTERNET.

5. Methodology

Questionnaire method is followed to collect the relevant data from the Students and Research Scholars by distributing the suitably designed questionnaire. Personal interaction with the students and research scholars has revealed many important hard facts and enabled the investigators in making some important suggestions for the overall improvement of the Internet facility and services of the Karnatak University Library.

In this paper, an attempt has been made to analyze and interpret the data collected on the use of Internet by students and research scholars of Karnatak University Library, Dharwad. For this well structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed among 100 users of library they were asked to go through each set of questions and the users were expected to answer each and every question along with their opinion towards the use of Internet. Out of the total 100 users, 90 responded and returned the duly completed questionnaire. The collected data is presented in the form of tables and analyzed by using a simple method of calculation.

6. Scope and Limitations of the Study

The present study focuses on the usage of Internet by the Students and Research Scholars of Karnatak University library. Attempts have been made to know the information requirements of students and Research Scholars The main focus of this study is to identify the needs and requirements

of the Students and Research Scholars in general and Karnatak University Library Internet facilities in particular. The study is confined to Karnatak University library users.

7. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Internet has revolutionised the entire society. The impact of Internet can be seen in an every field without use of Internet the users will be not in a position to get any access to latest information in the field of subject.

The total Questionnaires distributed is 100 out of which 90 were received back from the users. The information or data given by the students is systematically analyzed and presented in the successive paragraphs.

7.1 Sex Wise Distribution of Users

All students utilized the library facility, which comprises of both male as well as female.

The table-1 presents that majority of the It is clear from the table that (56) 62.22% are male (34) 37.78% are female.

Table-1

S. No.	Sex	No. of respondents	%
1	Male	56	62.22
2	Female	34	37.78
	Total	90	100

7.2. Name of the Course

Majority of the respondents use internet are M.Sc. background (32) 56%, some of the respondents (32) 22.22% are M.Com background, some of the respondents (14) 15.56% Ph.D and finally (12) 13.33% are respondents M.A and M.Phil.

Table-2

S. No	Course	No. of respondents	%
1	M.A	12	13.33
2	M. Sc	32	35.56
3	M.Com	20	22.22
4	M. Phil	12	13.33
5	Ph. D	14	15.56
	Total	90	100

This table reveals that maximum numbers of the user's usage of the Internet from Science background. It shows University library is providing good Internet services for the all types of the users.

7.3 Developing the Habit of Using the Internet

There are many factors that motivate the use of Internet. A question was asked to know the factors that motivate the usage of Internet. Majority of the respondents 35 (38.89%) indicated that, library staff is the main factor to use internet, (25) 27.78% of respondents are need based environment, and (15) 16.66 % of respondents are motivated by the self and friends.

Table-3

S. No	Initiated	No. of respondents	%
1	Self	15	16.66
2	Friends	15	16.67
3	Library Staff	35	38.89
4	Need based environment	25	27.78
	Total	90	100

This table shows that the library staff initiates maximum users. They always guide to students and research scholars in utilizing the services of the library.

7.4 Internet Operating Skills

This question helps to know the users Internet awareness level. Table-4 indicates that (34) 37.78% of computer respondents have average computer operating skills, (33) 36.67% have professional and only (23) 25.55% have advanced computer knowledge. It shows that maximum number of respondents know Internet operating skills.

Table-4

S. No.	Operating Skills	No. of respondents	%
1	Average	34	37.78
2	Professional	33	36.67
3	Advanced	23	25.55
	Total	90	100

7.5 Internet Access

As Internet trend is growing very fast, there is so many venues are available to access Internet. Even every office, institute and home computers are well equipped with Internet facility. The person who doesn't own computer or Internet facility can access Internet at other places.

Table-5

S. No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%
1	In department	25	27.78
2	In university library	50	55.56
3	Home	10	11.11
4	Others	05	5.55
Total		90	100

Table No.5 examines the access to Internet. The highest number of respondents (50) 55.56 % access Internet at University. In addition to this, (25) 27.78 % users access by their department. (10) 11.11 % of respondents access Internet at their home. Only (05). 5.55% of respondents access Internet at the other places.

The analysis of the above data indicates that Karnatak Library have well equipped Internet facility. Therefore the majority of respondents access Internet in the university library.

7.6 Use Internet Facility in K U Library

Our study mainly concentrates on use of Internet by the users of Karnatak University Library users, also their research and academic work.

Table-6

S. No.	Internet Facility	No. of Respondents	%
1	Yes	90	100
2	No	00	00
	Total	90	100

All the respondents are using the Internet for doing their day-to-day activities from which their performance in academic and research activities is increased.

7.7 Purpose of Using the Internet

Now in this information era computers have paved the way for advancement in technology, which eases the day-to-day activities of the user. Thus use of computers serves many purposes. Different people use Internet for different purposes.

Table-7

S. No	Purposes	No. of respondents	%
1	To send E-mail	22	24.44
2	To access online databases	32	35.56
3	Search General information	30	33.33
4	Others	06	06.67
	Total	90	100

Analysis of the above table-7 examines that; the majority of respondents (32) 35.56% use computers as the means to aid to access online databases, (30) 33.33% of respondents make use of Internet to search general information. (22) 24.44% respondents use Internet to send E-mail purpose. Some few number of users (06) 6.67% use Internet for the other purpose.

From the analysis it is very much clear that the most of the users use Internet as an aid or tool for online database, search general information, to send E-mail, and other purpose. This table-8 indicates University Library subscribes the online database and other research sources.

7.8 Surf Internet in Library

The respondents at per visit posed a question in the questionnaire to know that how much time. As Internet is the vital aid in academic activities and research field etc. there is no substitute to this. These are the main reasons for the regular usage of Internet.

Table-8

S. No.	Time spent	No. of respondents	%
1	Daily	26	28.89
2	Twice in a week	42	46.67
3	Once in two days	16	17.77
4	Occasionally	06	6.67
	Total	90	100

Table 8 reveals that, the majority of the respondents (42) 46.67 % use twice in a week. (26) 28.89% of respondents use Internet daily, (16) 17.77% of respondents use once in two days, where as very less number of respondents (06) 06.67% uses Internet occasionally.

7.9 Resources Accessed Over Internet

Internet is a retrieval tool such as Electronic Journals, Online databases; Web based OPAC, Discussion Forum, Publisher files and company profile.

Table-9

S. No.	Services	No. of respondents	%
1	Electronic Journals	34	37.78
2	Online databases	42	46.66
3	Web based OPAC	26	28.89
4	Discussion forum	08	08.88
5	Published files	12	13.33
6	Company profile	40	44.44

Table-9 reveals majority of the respondents (42) 46.46% using Online database, (40) 44.44% use for company profile (34) 37.78% use internet for Electronic journals (26) 26.89% use internet web based OPAC (12) 13.33% use the internet published files (8) 8.88% respondents use internet discussion forum.

7.10 Preference of using Search Engines

Internet it is a most important search engine tool such as Google, Yahoo, India times, Alta-vista, and other search engines.

Table-10

S. No	Search engines	No. of respondents	%
1	Google	82	91.11
2	Yahoo	65	72.22
3	India times	12	13.33
4	Alta-vista	40	44.44
5	Others	17	18.89

The above table-10 shows that majority of the respondents (82) 91.11% use Google (65) 72.22% respondents use yahoo (40) 44.44% respondents use Alta-vista (12) 13.33% respondents use India times (17) 18.89% use other types search engines.

The analysis and interpretation of the above data indicates that, majority of the respondents' access through Google search engine. The analysis and interpretation of the above data indicates that maximum of respondents are satisfied the Karnatak University Library Internet services.

8.1 Findings and Recommendations

Based on the analysis of data, the following findings and suggestions are made to improve the usage of Internet among the students and research scholars.

1. The majority of the respondents were male of which 62.22% of the respondents were male and 37.78% of the respondents were female.
2. Majority of the respondents are from M.Sc. background 56%, 22.22% respondents are M.Com background, 15.56% respondents are Ph.D and finally 13.33% are users M.A and M.Phil.
3. From the survey, it is noticed that all the respondents are using computer and online services in the library.
4. Majority of the respondents 46.46% are using Online databases, 44.44% are using for company profile, 37.78% are making use of internet for accessing Electronic journals, 26.89% are using internet for web based OPAC, 13.33% are for published files, and 8.88% respondents use internet for discussion forum.

5. Most of the respondents first preferred to use search engines using Google search engine followed by Yahoo and Alta vista.
6. Majority of the respondents use Internet to keep abreast with the research and academic purpose

8.2 Suggestions

Based on the findings following suggestions have been made for the proper utilization of Internet facility and the over all development of Internet service at Karnatak University, Library.

1. The University should make an arrangement to keep the library open from 8.a.m. to 10. p.m.
2. Online services is also to be improved, individual computer terminal with Internet connection is to be provided for staff and students.
3. Campus networking should be strengthened.
4. To increase the online journal subscription.
5. Internet with high speed and having latest configuration should be installed in different new computers having higher configuration is essential.
6. Orientation programme should be conducted at regular intervals regarding the effective use of Internet by the social science faculty.
7. To purchase online Bibliographic Databases eg. COMPENDEX, INSPEC, PROQUEST, EBSCO etc, and provide access to the users.

9. Conclusion

The concerned stake holders should make an overall attempts to provide the necessary infrastructure facilities such as high speed network connection to access the e-resources and to conduct some training programmes for the library professionals and user orientation programmes for users for the effective use of internet facilities, and also to conduct seminars and conferences on latest trends in library and information science.

Internet is evident that it is truly a global infrastructure for the new millennium. It offers unimaginable potentials for information services. Internet has revolutionized and has brought sea change in the entire information handling process. Change is inevitable and healthy for development of Library services. The traffic on the Internet is increasing day by day. It has undergone virtual explosion and is still growing widely at a staggering pace. Internet has penetrated deep into every field of human life and has already secured the status of top ranking utility in every field.

The Internet is one of the best medium today for getting relevant information in time and we should be prepared accepting the challenge of the change of technology to be remained in the race of modernization. This is more applicable for the students of Library and Information Science to survive and compete with the future challenges.

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