

Full Length Research Paper

Internet use in libraries of Sant Hirdaram Nagar

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The study examines the status and use of Internet in college libraries of Sant Hirdaram Nagar. Questionnaire was distributed among the college libraries including the degree granting institutions. Result shows that half of the college libraries of Sant Hirdaram Nagar have access to the Internet which has become an essential part of library services. The Internet is also used for performing various library functions such as reference work, classification and cataloguing, document delivery service and subscription to online journals. The study also discusses the problems that hinder the use of the Internet in the other educational institutions of Sant Hirdaram Nagar.

Key words: Information technology, internet use, teachers, Sant Hirdaram, Nagar, India.

INTRODUCTION

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

Every one needs information about everything, even in their day-to-day life. People need information right from organizational level to personal level; from the highly educated and experienced 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 pollution, people are confused about information need, information access and information sources. With the impact of new technologies such as information technologies, most people are interested in accessing 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 more 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 this 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 a rich resource of information and provides information to its users faster than any other resources. Therefore, it became the most popular resource of information.

The top ten sites internet users browse in India are the following:

1. Yahoo
2. Google India
3. Google
4. Orkut
5. Rediff
6. Youtube
7. Blogger.com
8. Windows Live
9. Rapid Share

Use of the Internet is changing research, teaching and

learning. The expansion of available information brings increasing dependence on the source. Use of the Internet by research scholars is an important area of study in today's information environment. The Internet plays a pivotal role in meeting information and communication needs of academic institutions, since it makes it possible to access a wide range of information, such as up-to-date research reports, from anywhere in the world. It also enables scholars and academic institutions to disseminate information to a wider audience around the globe through web sites in searching and organizing the output.

Many studies have been carried out on the use of Internet. Gifty (2003) did a study on "Internet use among faculty members of universities in Ghana". Internet makes it possible for users to have access to large volumes of information irrespective of their geographical location. The three older universities in Ghana are all linked to the Internet. The assumption then is that their faculty now has access to current information through the Internet. Research results show that in spite of the benefits of the Internet, its use among faculty is still very low. The main reasons for this are lack of access to the Internet and the need for training. Clearly, university authorities need to take immediate steps to provide general access points for faculty through computer laboratories. Again, the expertise of librarians, information professionals and computer scientists needs to be tapped to provide training and refresher sessions for faculty to be updated on harnessing the immense potential of the Internet as a source of information for teaching and research.

Kumar and Amritpal (2005) studied, "Internet and Its Use in the Engineering Colleges of Punjab, India: A Case Study". The aim of this study was to analyze the use of Internet and related issues among the teachers and students of engineering colleges of Punjab, India. A well structured questionnaire was distributed among the 960 teachers and students of all the engineering colleges of Punjab. The response rate was 84.2 per cent. 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 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. Some suggestions have been set forth to make the service more beneficial for the academic community of the engineering colleges under study.

Khan and Dominic (2006) studied "Use of Internet by the Faculty Members of Engineering Colleges of Moradabad: A Comparative Study of Coimbatore

Librarian"

Emerging network technologies have been revolutionizing society by making information available to the people in a new way. Use of internet is increasing day by day as it is time saving, more informative and less expensive.

Margam (2007) studied, "Internet Use by Research Scholars in University of Delhi, India". The paper seeks to examine the use of Internet among the research scholars of the Central Science Library (CSL), University of Delhi, India. Specifically, it seeks to find out the current trends in information search through Internet by the research scholars and type of problems faced by them in their research work. They are:

1. To find out status of internet access by researchers;
2. Determine trends in Internet use;
4. Problems that hinder use of internet by researchers.

Tools used for the study are questionnaire, observation and informal interview by stratified method. Content analysis is used to analyze open-ended questions. Data were collected from the 51 research scholars in the CSL, University of Delhi. The questionnaire consists of 15 main questions with many of the main questions having a number of subsidiaries. The questions are designed for the research scholars to elicit their experience with Internet use for their research work.

The study finds that Boolean logic, truncation and wildcards are the most often used search techniques, web directories, while subject gateways are least used navigational tools. And the researches are beset with the problems of inadequate computers with Internet facilities, slow Internet connection and lack of skills and training. The survey also reveals that 57 per cent of the respondents are facing retrieval problems. Some research scholars lack research techniques and training.

Sunil and Biswanath (2010) studied, "Use of E-Resources by Faculty Members with Special Reference to CVRCE, Bhubaneswar". This paper aims to assess and evaluate the use of e-resources by the faculty members of C.V. Raman College of Engineering (CVRCE), Bhubaneswar, with a view to examining the exposure of faculty members to e-resources. Besides, it aims to highlight the problems encountered by the users and suggests some remedial measures for its improvement. The authors investigate the use of e-resources by the faculty members of CVRCE through a survey based on a structured questionnaire. Various statistical methods have been used for data analysis. The study confirmed that faculty members are aware of the e-resources and various types of e-resources, e-database, and e-journals. It suggests improvement in the access facilities, with high Internet speed and subscription to more e-resources by the Central Library of CVRCE.

Bulu et al. (2010) did a study on, "Use of internet and e-resources by the Students of Business Management: A

survey of P. G. students of Business Administration, Sambalpur University, India”.

In recent years, Internet and electronic resources have become most popular sources of information for the researchers, scholars, teachers, professionals and students. The present study was designed to find out the necessity and usage of Internet and e-resources by the students undertaking Masters in Business Administration, in Sambalpur University, Orissa, India. A structured questionnaire was monitored among 120 MBA students, out of which 91 (75.83%) responded to this survey. The present investigation gives an indication of the range of uses of internet and e-resources by MBA students. The investigation result shows that majority of the students (1/3 of them) have a long experience of using Internet for 2 - 4 years and all are more or less aware of the applications of Internet technology. More than half of the students surveyed in the study strongly feel that management study will be severely affected with out the use of internet and e-resources.

The objectives of the study are:

1. To explore the extent of Internet usage by the faculty members.
2. To solicit their purpose of seeking information on Internet.
3. To investigate their purpose of using Internet services and resources.
4. To find out their preferred place for Internet usage and time spent per week.
5. To find out what problems are faced by faculty members in seeking information on Internet.

Sant Hirdaram, known for his philanthropic endeavors in Bhopal and around, died at the age of 101 year at his hermitage in Bairagarh Township here on Wednesday. He had been ill for sometime. His mortal remains were placed for public viewing at his Ashram after 9.00 am on Thursday. He was cremated at his Ashram later on in the afternoon. The entire Bairagarh Township was shut on Saturday and all business activities there remained closed. Sant Hirdaram came from Ajmer in 1962, settled here and took to social work, public welfare, charity and service of poor. He worked under the banner of Jeev Sewa Samiti, a registered social service organization based in Ajmer, Rajasthan. With an aim to uplift the poor and needy of the society, he focused his activities mainly on the areas of morality, culture, education and health. Sant Hirdaram founded institutions like Seva Sadan Eye Hospital, Arogya Kendra and a number of schools for learning of poor children and many colleges for quality education. As the news of his demise spread in the Bairagarh Township, a pall of gloom descended upon the locality and people rushed to the Sant Ashram to confirm the news of his death. Sant Hirdaram had worked tirelessly to establish hospitals, maternity homes, educational institutions and homes for widows in Pushkar

and Bairagarh. With his blessings, several eye camps, urological operations as well as mass marriages are conducted on big scale at the aforesaid places. In recognition of his work, the Madhya Pradesh Government has officially changed the name of Bairagarh to Sant Hirdaram Nagar.

METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire was used to collect the relevant data from the faculties. Personal interaction with the faculties has revealed many important hard facts and enabled the investigators in making some important suggestions for the overall improvement of Internet facility and services of the library.

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

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Demographics of respondents

Responses were received from one hundred faculty members. The data show that 100 members of academic staff hold Masters Degree, 7 of them possess M.Phil, and 25 have Doctorate. The list of the departments included in the study is as follows: English, Hindi, Biotechnology, Economics, Education, Commerce, Physics, Mathematics, Clinical Nutrition, Botany, Microbiology, Zoology, Chemistry, and Library and Information Science.

Internet use by faculty members at the college

The aim of the present survey was to study the use of the Internet by the faculty members from the four academic institutions of Sant Hirdaram Nagar: Sant Hirdaram Girls College and Sant Hirdaram Medical College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, JSS Faculty of Management, Sadhu Vaswani College, so as to determine its impact on their academic practices.

Time spent on Internet per week

The question regarding percentage of time spent in exploring information sources on Internet revealed that majority (52%) spend ten to eight hours per week (Table 1 and Figure 1). Again this ratio was higher among faculty members from science. The faculty members of medical science were found to give six to two hours per week for Internet usage.

Table 1. Time spent on Internet per week.

Time (h per week)	Responses (%)
20-15	15
15-10	20
10-8	52
8-6	11
6-4	12
4-2	10
None	0.00

Table 2. Preferred places.

Places	Responses (%)
Library	57
Workplace	28
Computer Lab	22
Home	25
Cybercafés	07
Other	0.00

Table 3. Use of Internet services.

Use	Responses (%)
E-mail	78
Academically-oriented mailing lists	34
Newsgroup	39
The World Wide Web	66
Online Chatting	46

Preferred places

More than one-quarter of the faculty members use the Internet facility at their workplaces (in their respective departments), whereas 57% visit their library. A significant number of faculty members use the Internet at their home; this includes the female respondents who may be due to cultural factor use this facility at homes. Only 07% go to Cybercafés to have access to Internet (Table 2).

Use of Internet services

The faculty members from all the faculties in the study show good response towards various services on Internet: e-mail, the WWW, academically oriented mailing list, newsgroups and on-line chatting (Table 3 and Figure 2).

Sources of information used on Internet

The data show that 22% of the faculty members have

Table 4. Sources of information used on Internet.

Source	Responses (%)
E-journals	22
E-books	14
E-encyclopedias	18
E-dictionaries	21
Online abstracting & indexing services	28
Online bibliographical services	11
Databases	22
Others	05

Table 5. Search engines used.

Search engines used	Responses (%)
Google	67
Yahoo	54
MSN	40
Face book	0.00

gone online to find information from the e-journals that are available through the Google. Again, the respondents from science faculty, medical science and management were more positive about the use of e-journals, e-books, e-encyclopedias, e-dictionaries, abstracting and indexing services and databases (Table 4 and Figure 3). However, such tendency among faculty members from other faculties was found to be low mainly due to inadequacy of such Internet information sources related to their disciplines

Search engines used

A majority of faculty members who use Internet for acquiring information use search engines such as Yahoo, Google and MSN (Table 5 and Figure 4). Some described the use of Info seek.

Difficulties encountered

The study attempted to identify difficulties while seeking information on Internet with the hope that the findings will provide recommendations to improve the current state of the use of the Internet by faculty members (Table 6 and Figure 5).

Lack of awareness of the availability of material and low speed of Internet was mentioned by majority of faculty members. A vast majority mentioned shortage of e-books. Lack of time and inadequate knowledge about information retrieving techniques from Internet was found to be the problem for some faculty members. This pointed out the needs to provide training for faculty members searching online information for whatever purpose.

Table 6. Difficulties encountered.

Difficulties encountered	Responses (%)
Lack of awareness of the availability of material	44
Shortage of latest e-books	61
Information scattered in too many sources	55
Lack of time (Overworked)	63
Low speed	71
Lack of knowledge about Internet information retrieving techniques	30
Unavailability of Internet facility in the departments	47
Shortage of computers	76
Others (Electricity, Power supply problem)	0.00

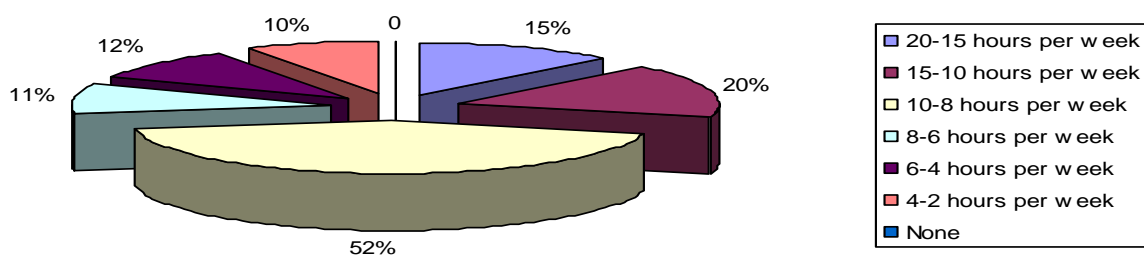


Figure 1. Time spent on Internet per week.

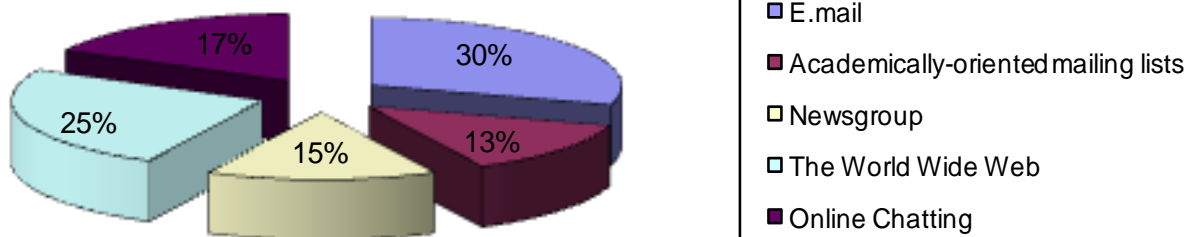


Figure 2. Use of Internet services.

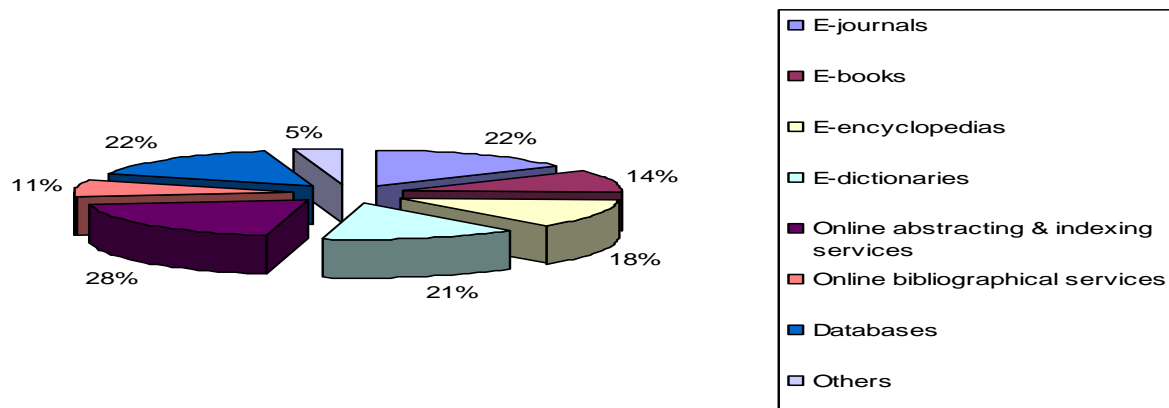


Figure 3. Sources of information used on Internet.

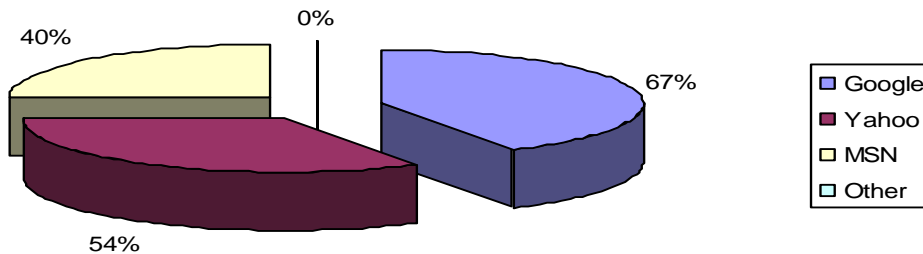


Figure 4. Search engines used.

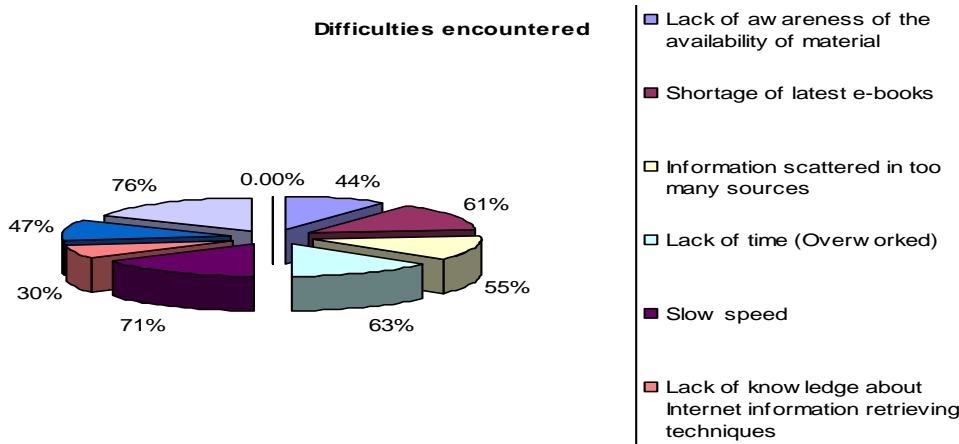


Figure 5. Difficulties encountered.

Conclusion

The concerned stakeholders should make an overall attempt 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 effective use of internet facilities. They should also conduct seminars and conferences on latest trends in library and information science. It is evident that Internet is truly a global infrastructure for the new millennium. It offers unimaginable potentials for information services. Internet has revolutionized and 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 to accept the challenge of the change of technology to be able to remain in the race of modernization. This is more applicable for the students of

Library and Information Science in order to survive and compete with the future challenges.

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