

A Study on Utilization of Internet Resources and Tools by Basic Medical Science Professionals

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to examine the utilization of internet resources and tools by basic medical science professionals studying in the University of Madras. Questionnaire method was adopted to collect the data followed by post graduate students and research scholar. The data collected were analyzed and inferences made based on standard statistical methods. The study indicates 48 percent of the respondents using it internet everyday 23.11 of them once in a week. And it shows the 97.77 percent of the respondent's use the internet for gathering information and 94.22 percent of the respondents were used the internet for the e-resources available in the internet. The, 82.22 percent of the respondents were use the Google, 70.22 percent of the respondents were use the yahoo search engine.,

Keywords: *Internet Tools, Utilization, Medical Sciences*

1. INTRODUCTION

The growth of Internet technology has brought major changes in the modes and systems of information, storage retrieval and transmission. The advent of Internet has created a greater impact on the library services to have access to various reference sources to its users. The internet has offered unique benefits to education and research with increasing accessibility and user motivation, searching databases and vast array of online resources. Internet technology provides services to help the users in such condition. These are search engines, subject gateways information, reference sources and encyclopedia.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Singh [1] conducted a research study on the use of internet by the librarians in Malaysia. The main findings of the study indicated that 90% of the respondents used the Internet for work related purposes. Most of the respondents were recent users. Voorbij. [2] Examined the use of the Internet amongst students and academicians in the Netherlands. A questionnaire was distributed among 1000 members of the academic community and three focus-group interviews were also held with faculty members. The study revealed that the Web was being used primarily to search general, factual, ephemeral or very specific information. The study also revealed that students and academicians faced many problems while searching the Web. Laite,[3] surveyed 406 graduate and undergraduate students from Shippensburg University. The survey showed that 57.6% of the undergraduate students used the Internet 1-2 times per week and another 37.1% used it 1-2 times daily. More than 50% of the graduate students used Internet 1-2 times per week and 37.7% used it 1-2 times daily. The survey showed that the most used Internet service was e-mail. All the graduates and undergraduate students used e-mail services. Rajput, et al., [4] surveyed the internet resources and services of the Institute of Engineering & Science, Indore (India) and the findings in the paper "Internet Resources and Services

in Institute of Engineering & Science, IPS Academy Indore: An Exploratory Study". A large number of users were dissatisfied with the infrastructure facilities available in IES, specifically in terms of hardware facilities. Kumar [5] this study purpose was to investigate that the faculty use of Internet Services at a University of Agriculture and Technology at Meerut. It is objectives present internet services, which preferred search engines, which of sources of information, problem faced by faculty, satisfaction of internet services etc. The concluded of this study indicates that majority respondents is one of their sources of information, users use the internet daily for research and development purpose

3. OBJECTIVES

In order to analysis the study the following objectives are framed,

- a. To study the characteristics of the population
- b. To analyze the usage pattern of the internet
- c. To know how the internet based resources and tools are identified by the respondents
- d. To study the frequency usage of internet resources and tools by the respondents
- e. To analyze the use of search engines and websites by the respondents
- f. To study the difficulties and barriers in accessing the internet by the respondents.

4. METHODOLOGY

This analysis attempts to study the characteristics and the internet using behavior of the respondents in Madras university Library system. This study carried over among the students of medical sciences. The well tested Questionnaire was distributed personally to the student community and also sufficient time was given to the respondent to furnish the information. 250 Questionnaire were distributed to the respondents, out of this 225 were received back, making the response rate 90%. The collected data were classified and tabulated according to the objectives of the study analyzed by using statistical tools, such as percentage analysis.

Table 1: Characteristics of the study population

| Gender wise Distribution | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|------------|
| S.No | Gender | No.of Users | Percentage |
| 1 | Male | 143 | 64 |
| 2 | Female | 82 | 36 |
| Department wise Distribution | | | |
| S.No | Department | No.of Users | Percentage |
| 1 | Anatomy | 17 | 7.55 |
| 2 | Physiology | 16 | 7.11 |
| 3 | Biochemistry | 54 | 24 |
| 4 | Pathology | 13 | 5.77 |
| 5 | Microbiology | 24 | 10.66 |
| 6 | Pharmacology | 15 | 6.66 |
| 7 | Genetics | 48 | 21.33 |
| 8 | Endocrinology | 32 | 14.22 |
| 9 | National centre for ultrafast processing | 6 | 2.66 |
| Category wise Distribution | | | |
| S.No | Category | No.of Users | Percentage |
| 1 | P.G. | 165 | 73.33 |
| 2 | M.Phil | 22 | 9.78 |
| 3 | Ph.D | 38 | 16.89 |

5. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY POPULATION

The above table 1 shows that the study population comprised of male and female postgraduate students and Research scholars belonging to the nine branches, Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pathology, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Genetics, Endocrinology and National centre for Ultrafast processing. Among the study population (N=225) 7.55% students in Anatomy, 7.11% students in Physiology, 24% students in Biochemistry, 5.77% students in Pathology, 10.66 students in Microbiology, 6.66% students in Pharmacology, 21.33% students in Genetics, 32% students in Endocrinology and 6% students in National centre for Ultrafast processing. Regarding the gender wise 64% respondents were male and remaining 36% only the female respondents. In this study the major respondents belongs to postgraduate students.

Table 2: Usage pattern of Internet

| Duration to update the information | | | |
|--|--|-------------|------------|
| S.No | Duration | No.of Users | Percentage |
| 1 | Everyday | 108 | 48 |
| 2 | Once in a week | 52 | 23.11 |
| 3 | More than once in week | 27 | 12 |
| 4 | Once in a fortnight | 18 | 8 |
| 5 | Once in a Month | 11 | 4.89 |
| 6 | Occasionally | 9 | 4 |
| Place for accessing internet | | | |
| S.No | Place | No.of Users | Percentage |
| 1 | Central library | 104 | 46.22 |
| 2 | Departmental library | 52 | 23.11 |
| 3 | Home | 13 | 5.77 |
| 4 | Central library & Departmental library | 36 | 16 |
| 5 | Departmental library & Home | 12 | 5.33 |
| 6 | Central library & Home | 10 | 4.44 |
| Time Frequency for gathering information | | | |
| S.No | Frequency | No.of Users | Percentage |
| 1 | More than 20hrs per week | 48 | 21.33 |
| 2 | 11 - 15hrs per week | 95 | 42.22 |
| 3 | 7-10hrs per week | 32 | 14.22 |
| 4 | 4-6hrs per week | 35 | 15.55 |
| 5 | Less than 4hrs per week | 15 | 6.66 |

The above tables explain the usage pattern of the internet. This analysis revealed that nearly 80% of the respondents use the internet. Among the respondent (N=225) 48 percent of the respondents using it every day 23.11of them once in a week, 12 percent of them more than once in a week,8 percent of them once in a fortnight, 4.88 percent once in a month and 4 percent only using occasionally. Place of accessing revealed that the more respondents (46.22) were accessing internet in central library and 23.11 percent were accessing the internet in departmental library, 5.77percent accessing in home, 16 percent were accessing the internet in departmental library and central library, 5.33 percent were accessing departmental library and home and 4.44 percent respondents were accessing the internet in central library and home. The time frequency for gathering the information, From the total number of respondents, 21.33 percent were spent more than 20hrs per week, 42.22 percent of the respondents were spent 11-15hrs per week, 14.22 percent were spent 7-10hrs per week, 15.55 percent respondents were spent 4-6hrs per week and 6.66 percent respondents were only spent less than 4hrs per week. The average time spent by the respondents reveals that the most of the respondents spent their time in studying and updating their knowledge in the respective fields.

<http://www.cisjournal.org>

Table 3: Purpose of Using Internet

| S.No | Purpose | Yes | No |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Accessing E-Resources | 212 (94.22) | 13 (5.77) |
| 2 | Abundant information | 220 (97.77) | 5 (2.22) |
| 3 | Various Subject gateways | 195 (86.66) | 30 (13.33) |
| 4 | Open Access Journals | 185 (82.22) | 40 (17.77) |
| 5 | Downloading Program / file / images | 167 (74.22) | 58 (25.77) |
| 6 | Career information | 183 (81.33) | 42 (18.66) |

Table – 3. Shows that the purpose of using internet. Available of E-Resources, abundant information, various subject gateways, open access journals and career information were played an important role to use the

internet. From the above study 97.77 percent of the respondents use the internet for gathering information and 94.22 percent of the respondents were used the internet for the e-resources available in the internet.

Table 4: Frequency of using internet for various purposes

| S.No | Purpose | Very Frequently | Frequently | Occasionally | Rarely |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Search course related materials | 128 (56.88) | 57 (25.33) | 27(12) | 13 (5.77) |
| 2 | Visit websites | 62 (27.55) | 110(48.88) | 30 (13.33) | 23 (10.22) |
| 3 | Search subject databases | 162 (72) | 32 (14.22) | 26 (11.55) | 5 (2.22) |
| 4 | Access to e-documents | 173 (76.88) | 45 (20) | 5 (2.22) | 2 (0.88) |
| 5 | Access to e-journals | 143 (63.55) | 59 (26.22) | 16 (7.11) | 7 (3.11) |
| 6 | Sending & Receiving emails | 57 (25.33) | 119 (52.88) | 38 (16.88) | 11 (4.88) |
| 7 | Career information | 23 (10.22) | 176 (78.22) | 17 (7.55) | 9 (4) |
| 8 | Online learning | 49 (21.77) | 153 (68) | 9 (4) | 14 (6.22) |
| 9 | Downloading program / Files / Images | 82 (36.44) | 97(43.11) | 28 (12.44) | 18 (8) |
| 10 | Reading Newspapers | 62 (27.55) | 128 (56.88) | 7 (3.11) | 28 (12.44) |

Table-4 show that the frequency of using internet for various purposes by the respondents. Among them 72 percent respondent very frequently use the internet for searching the subject databases, 76.88 percent respondents access the internet very frequently for searching the e-

documents, 78.22 percent respondents use the internet frequently for their carrier information, 3.11 percent of the respondents use the internet occasionally for reading the newspapers, only0.88 percent rarely use the internet for accessing the e-document.

Table 5: Usage pattern of Internet Resources and Tools

| S.No | Internet Resources & Tools | Very Frequently | Frequently | Occasionally | Rarely |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | E-mail | 65 (28.88) | 110 (48.88) | 32 (14.22) | 18 (8) |
| 2 | Mailing List | 24 (10.66) | 46 (20.44) | 47 (20.88) | 108 (48) |
| 3 | Use Net / News group | 26 (11.55) | 62 (27.55) | 22 (9.77) | 115 (51.11) |
| 4 | FTP | 43 (19.11) | 157 (69.77) | 18 (8) | 7 (3.11) |
| 5 | Gopher | 15 (6.66) | 20 (8.88) | 17(7.55) | 173 (76.88) |
| 6 | Archie | 9 (4) | 6 (2.66) | 46 (20.44) | 164 (72.88) |
| 7 | WAIS | 6 (2.66) | 35 (15.55) | 37 (16.44) | 147 (65.33) |
| 8 | Telnet | 7 (3.11) | 19 (8.44) | 42 (18.66) | 157 (69.77) |
| 9 | www | 43 (19.11) | 159 (70.66) | 16 (7.11) | 7 (3.11) |
| 10 | FAQ | 27 (12) | 56 (24.88) | 120 (53.33) | 22 (9.77) |

Table.5. shows that the frequency of using internet resources and tools by the respondent. The tools and resources like www, FAQ, WAIS, FTP, Archie, Gopher, News groups, Mailing list, E-mail. From the table the analysis revealed that 70.66 percent of the respondent were frequently use the www, 53.33 percent of the respondent use the FAQ's occasionally, 3 percent of the respondents were only use the www rarely. In the

information superhighway, abundant of search engines are available such as AltaVista, Google, Hotmail, Rediff, Sify, Yahoo, msn, Aski, Windows live etc. They help the searchers to providing the correct directions in the information platform and prevent the loss of time

<http://www.cisjournal.org>

Table 6: Use of Search engines

| S.No | Search engines | No.of Users | Percentage |
|------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Altavista | 12 | 5.33 |
| 2 | Google | 185 | 82.22 |
| 3 | Hotmail | 57 | 25.33 |
| 4 | Rediff | 63 | 28 |
| 5 | Sify | 42 | 18.66 |
| 6 | Yahoo | 158 | 70.22 |
| 7 | msn | 72 | 32 |
| 8 | Ask | 21 | 9.33 |
| 9 | Windows live | 16 | 7.11 |

Table 6 shows that the rating of search engines among the respondents. From the total respondents, 82.22 percent of the respondents were use the Google, 70.22 percent of the respondents were use the yahoo, nearly 1/3 part of the respondents were use the hot mail compared with Google, 28 percent respondents were use the rediff and the 7.11 percent of windows live is the lowest one were the respondents .

Table 7: Barriers to Use the Internet

| S.No | Barriers | No.of Users | Percentage |
|------|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Unawareness about the information sources | 40 | 17.77 |
| 2 | Inadequate time | 120 | 53.33 |
| 3 | Lack of facility | 25 | 11.11 |
| 4 | Fear anxiety | 27 | 12 |

The above table indicate the barriers to use internet .53.33 percent of the respondents expressed the inadequate time for use the internet simultaneously with their clinical activities and classes, 17.77 percent of the

respondents were feel the unawareness about the information sources available in the internet and 12 percent of the respondent expressed fear and anxiety were the main barriers to use the internet.

6. CONCLUSION

There are many tools freely available over the Internet. There are many workshops, tutorials and seminars conducted by the experts in the library field for updating the technically and technologically to the basic medical science professionals.

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