IMPACT OF INTERNET USE ON THE READING HABITS OF THE UG AND PG STUDENTS OF HINDU COLLEGE, SONEPAT: A SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

This study described a survey conducted at Hindu College, Sonepat to find out the impact of Internet use on the reading habits of undergraduate and postgraduate students. Also described were the problems faced in using the Internet and purposes of Internet use by them. The study found that a majority of respondents use Internet daily, followed by at least once a fortnight with the percentage of. Majority of respondents were used Internet, when compared to library reading.

Keywords: Reading Habits, Internet, User Survey

INTRODUCTION

Internet is an inseparable of today' educational system. The dependency on Internet and its services are increasing every day and users of colleges too are depending more and more on the Internet for their various educational purposes.

The last few years have seen a phenomenal growth of the Internet. It has already leaded to a transformation in the lives of large numbers of students and is fast changing their reading habits. Many students are aware of the changes it has rung. Internet cafes have made an appealing presence as the latest thing in town. There marked differences in the rate of the up-take of the technology between many countries.

The apprehensions of media communication, as well as evidence for its effects, are as old as the history of the subject itself. People have always wondered how media messages are affecting them by bringing about an imperceptible change in their culture, values and behavioral patterns. They have always been concerned for the negative influence of a particular message or message system and have been curious about the potential prosaically effects of others.

The idea of the Internet originated about 30 years ago at the US Defense Department Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), to keep track of data through computer hardware and software. There are no set boundaries for the Internet in cyberspace. Recent statistics show 50,000 networks in more than 100 countries with more than 50 million users (MIDS press release). It is estimated that the rate of growth in Internet use is around 20 percent a month. Currently the Internet is not proprietary and is available to anyone with

computer access connected to the external world. Since the USA launched the information superhighway in 1994, the Internet has come to play an ever-increasing role in the vast information market in many countries

It is widely acknowledged that reading for pleasure is a beneficial leisure activity. While serving as a source of entertainment, reading also aids cognitive development by keeping the mind actively engaged and training it to process and store information. The importance of recreational reading has been highlighted by educators and policy makers alike. Reading habits are also vital part of lifelong learning concept. Everyone who wants to take part in learning society, including students, working people and senior citizens should be developing their reading habits through their whole life.

A PROFILE OF HINDU COLLEGE, SONEPAT

Hindu College, Sonepat was established in 1956 and in 1958 it covered out a niche for itself in the former composite Punjab state in the form of a creditable institute when its student Randhan Singh topped the merit list of Intermediate exam (FA) conducted by the Punjab University Chandigarh to which this college stood affiliated at that time. Ever since, the college has maintained high tradition. Its record in examination results has remained unbeaten by any other institution in Haryana in terms of pass percentage. This college was the first college in this region to offer post-graduate classes in all the three streams viz. Arts, Science and Commerce.

Sonepat is located at a distance of 35 Kms. from the capital of the country. The college building is situated in the heart of the city and is very close to the Railway Station. A massive double story structure with specious and well ventilated lecture theatres, a magnificent auditorium, state of the art Seminar Hall with LCD Projector, an impressive library block, aesthetically- appearing layout with sprawling lush green lawn- all these provide congenial atmosphere for academic pursuits. Some seventy learned teachers proved instructions to around 2000 students. The college has a large playground at Gohana Road, where infrastructure for playing various games exists. Indira Ganthi National Open University (IGNOU) also maintains a centre in this college.

COLLEGE LIBRARY

The college library has been established in the year 1956. It is housed in a three stored building located at the Arts Block in the main campus. The total area of the library building is about 4000 sq.m. The library has 22142 book-bank books, 77527 library books, 34 journals and magazines and 23 Hindi and English news papers for the users.

REVIEW OF LITRATURE

Impact of internet is an area of active interest among library/information professionals worldwide. In the presentation the review of literature followed are:-

Maynard (2010) conducted a study on the impact of e-books on young children's reading habits. Key found included the fact that, of the six children involved, four rate themselves as 'enthusiastic' readers, one 'average' and one 'reluctant'; whilst all six of the parents enjoy reading. In addition, there were indications that the one reluctant young reader was inspired to read by the Kindle. His parents were pleased with this enthusiasm, noting that he was reading rather than watching television, excited by downloading and choosing books and it

was the only time they had known him to ask to read voluntarily. When asked whether they prefer printed or electronic books, all of the adults chose printed books, whilst the children were more ambivalent, with half preferring electronic books.

Mokhtari, Reichard and Gardner (2009) conducted a study on the impact of internet and television use on the reading habits and practices of college students. The result found that the most common activities of internet use were using e-mail (90.4%), chatting using intent massaging (63,8%), surfing the web (56.2%). The students had not perceived that the time spent watching television affected the amount of time they spent on internet.

Adogbeji and Akporhonor (2005) conducted a study on the impact of ICT (Internet) on research and studies: the experience of Delta State University students in Abraka, Nigeria. The study found that 425 (79.9 per cent) of the respondents found it easy browsing the internet of information, 65 (12, 2 per cent) of the students use the internet to gather study materials and also materials, which they need for assignment and 117 (22 per cent) of the students the internet to search for research materials.

Gulek & Demirtas (2005) conducted a study on learning with technology: the impact of laptop use on student achievement. The study presented here examined the impact of participation in a laptop program on student achievement. A total of 259 middle school students were followed via cohorts. However, laptop students showed significantly higher achievement in nearly all measures after one year in the program. Cross-sectional analyses in Year 2 and Year 3 concurred with the results from the Year 1. Longitudinal analysis also proved to be an independent verification of the substantial impact of laptop use on student learning outcomes.

Oduwole (2004) conducted a study on impact of internet on agricultural research output in Nigerian University of Agriculture. The study found that 125(85 per cent) of the agricultural scientists surveyed at the university have access to and used the internet. The study also revealed that a greater percentage of scientists of the university (74 percent) accessed the internet outside the camps.

Chivhanga (2000) conducted a study on an evaluation of the impact of the Internet in Africa. It showed which countries were leading the way and why, and more importantly the problems confronted by people in different countries. A conceptual framework based on the work of Press, Daly and Menou was used to analyze the diffusion of Internet technologies in Africa. A case study, involving the application of web technologies in the agricultural sector, was used as an example of the key role the Internet can play in respect to key socio-economic activities in Africa.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Today, information technology has developed rapidly and has a huge impact on access to information by the students. Though librarians and information specialists do possess knowledge about these issues, there is still much to learn in the area of information technology. During the time of frequent change in technology, it is becoming increasingly important to keep pace with the constant fluctuation in user information needs.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study examines the prevailing situation the Hindu College, Sonepat with reference to money, man power, material resources and information services. The major goal of this research is to acquire insights relative into how information age has changed internet. Hindu College, Sonepat offers UG and PG level courses in various disciplines. The presents study is conducted to understand the impact of internet use on the reading habits among the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Hindu College, Sonepat.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study has been restricted to the impact of internet use on the reading habits among undergraduate and postgraduate student of Hindu College, Sonepat.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are to examine the above stated problem on the basis of survey of the users of Hindu College, Sonepat. The following were selected as the specific objectives of the study as under:

- To find out the information needs of the students of Hindu College, Sonepat;
- To identify the various channels through which information is accessed by the students;
- To identify the frequency of Internet use by the students;
- To find out the problems of students trying to use internet;
- To study the impact of Internet on the reading habits of the students.

METHODOLOGY

In this study in all 120 questionnaires were distributed among the undergraduate and postgraduate students in Hindu College, Sonepat. Out of 120 questionnaires distributed, 113 questionnaires were received back, making the response rate 94.16%. The data was analyzed using the simply percentage method.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaire

Category of users	Questionnaire Distributed	Response Received	Percentage
UG Students	60	56	93.33%
PG Students	60	57	95%
Total	120	113	94.16%

Table: 1 shows that a total no. of 120 questionnaires was distributed between two categories of the users. 113 were duly filled and received back, although the response of all categories of users was quite good, the highest response was received 95% for postgraduate students.

Table -2 Age wise distribution of the respondents

Age	UG Students	PG Students	Percentage
18-21	31	7	38 (33.63%)
22-25	26	27	53 (46.91%)
26-29	5	9	14 (12.39%)
30 and above	2	6	8 (7.07%)

From the above table no. 2, it is inferred that only 7.07% of the respondents were in the age group of 30 and above years, 12.39% of the respondents were in the age group of 26-29 years, 33.63% of the respondents were in the age group of 18-21 years and the highest response 46.90% of the respondents were in the age group of 22-25 years.

Table 3: Frequency of Internet Use

Frequency	UG Students	PG Students	UG Students
Daily	17	27	44 (38.93%)
At least once a week	11	8	19 (16.81%)
At least once a fortnight	19	11	30 (26.56%)
At least once a month	3	6	9 (7.96%)
Rarely	7	4	11 (9.74%)

Table: 3 deals with the frequency of Internet use by undergraduate and postgraduate students. A majority of respondents 38.93% use Internet daily, followed by at least once a fortnight with the percentage of 28.55%. Interestingly rarely and at least once a month both were the least used frequency for finding information.

Table 4: Purpose use of Internet

Purpose	UG Students	PG Students	Percentage
For preparing assignments	11	8	19 (16.82%)
For updating knowledge	3	7	10 (8.85%)
For checking E-mail	8	11	19 (16.82%)
For chatting on Face book/what 'sap	7	14	21 (18.58%)
For looking online videos/films	8	3	11 (9.73%)
For entertainment	5	8	13(11.50%)
For reading online journals	2	6	8 (7.08%)
For using electronic database	5	7	12 (10.62%)

Table: 4 reveal that all the respondents need information either to keep themselves chat on Face book/what 'sap or some for checking e-mails. A large number of students use Internet for entertainment and for use electronic databases. Most of the students also responded in favor of looking online videos/films. Quite a sizeable number of students use Internet for reading online journals.

Table -5 Distributions of time spent

Time spent	UG Students	PG Students	UG Students
Usage of Internet more than the library reading	25	17	42 (37.17%)
Usage of Internet more than the library reading same level	12	18	30 (26.55%)
Usage of Internet less than the library reading	20	21	41 (36.28%)

From the table no. 5 it can be concluded that majority of respondents 37.17% were used Internet, when compared to library reading, 26.55% of the respondents were used the Internet and library reading equally. Whereas rest of the respondents 26.20% were used the library reading than the Internet.

Table -6 Impact of Internet on reading habits

Impact of Internet	UG Students	PG Students	UG Students
Always	13	16	29 (25.66%)
Mostly	22	12	31 (27.43%)
Rarely	9	13	22 (19.48%)
Never	8	12	20 (17.70%)
Not at all	7	4	11 (9.73%)

Table no. 6 shows the options about the impact of Internet on the students when they try to read. As per the survey 27.43% of the students agree mostly, 25.66% of the students always impact, 19.48% of the students never, 17.70% of the students mostly and 9.73% of the students not at all impact on the students when they try to use the Internet.

Table -7 Problems faced by the users

Problem	UG Students	PG Students	Percentage
Problem with accessing suitable personnel computers	19	12	31 (27.42%)
Problem with accessing suitable personnel software	8	4	12 (10.60%)
Problem with accessing external networks for e-mail	9	8	17 (15.03%)
Lack of information about how to use Internet	11	15	26 (23.07%)
Lack of time acquire skills needed to use Internet	8	5	13 (11.49%)
Feeling that Internet is not relevant to your needs	5	9	14 (12.39%)

Table: 7 deals with the difficulties faced by undergraduate and postgraduate students in keeping themselves up to date and obtaining required information when they tried to use Internet. The majority of respondents 27.43% faced problem of problem with accessing suitable personnel computers, followed by 23.08% lack of information about how to use Internet.

SUGGESTIONS

- The college should make an arrangement for 18 hours library services.
- Online services also to be improved.
- The library should subscribe more numbers of magazines, journals and newspapers.
- The college should introduce user education programmes about library to all the students.
- The library should start night services.

CONCLUSION

The study founded the reading habits of undergraduate and postgraduate students are changed; they are giving more important to the Internet. A majority of respondents use Internet daily, followed by at least once a fortnight with the percentage of. As per the result

27.43% of the students agree about the impact of Internet when they try to read. A large number of students use Internet for entertainment and for use electronic databases. Majority of respondents were used Internet, when compared to library reading. The majority of respondents faced problem of with accessing suitable personnel computers.

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