Use of Internet by the Research Scholars of Indian Council of Social Science Research-Southern Regional Centre (ICSSR-SRC) Library, Hyderabad: A Study

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Abstract - The present study has been undertaken to investigate the extent and level of internet use by the Research Scholars of ICSSR-SRC library, Hyderabad as well as the electronic resources used by them on the internet. A well structured questionnaire was distributed for the purpose of data collection from the research scholars. Findings revealed that the majority of the scholars prefer to use internet and the online information sources in the ICSSR-SRC library.

Keywords: Internet, Research Scholars, electronic resources, ICSSR-SRC library.

Introduction

The Internet is the global system of interconnected computer networks that use the Internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to link devices worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of private, public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope, linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless, and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries an extensive range of information resources and services, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents and applications of the World Wide Web (WWW), electronic mail, telephony, and peer-to-peer networks for file sharing. It was conceived by the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) of the U.S. government in1969 and was first known as the ARPANET. The original aim was to create a network that would allow users of a research computer at one university to be able to "talk to" research computers at other universities. Today, the Internet is a public, cooperative, and self-sustaining facility accessible to hundreds of millions of people worldwide. The Internet has broken down barriers of communication and information access from anywhere in the world. It is often referred to as "Information Highway" because of its capacity to transmit a vast amount of information to anybody anywhere in the world. It is fast, reliable and does not have much restriction on content, format or geographical location. It also has a wide range of facilities which assist users to access the almost infinite information on the net. It thus offers the opportunity for access to up to date research reports and knowledge globally. It has thus became an important component of electronic services in companies, organizations, government, individual set-up as well as institutions especially libraries.

Internet use grew rapidly in the West from the mid-1990s and from the late 1990s in the developing world. In the 20 years since 1995, Internet use has grown 100-times, measured for the period of one year, to over one third of the world population. Most

traditional communications media, including telephony, radio, television, paper mail and newspapers are being reshaped or redefined by the Internet, giving birth to new services such as email, Internet telephony, Internet television music, digital newspapers, and video streaming websites. Newspaper, book, and other print publishing are adapting to website technology, or are reshaped into blogging, web feeds and online news aggregators. The Internet has enabled and accelerated new forms of personal interactions through instant messaging, Internet forums, and social networking.

ABOUT ICSSR-SRC

The primary objective of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) is to promote research in social sciences and to facilitate the utilization of its vast resources. To assist the council in the organization of its programmes within the Southern Region and to develop documentation and bibliographical services in some of the south Indian languages the southern regional centre was established on 1st February, 1973 at the Osmania University Library in collaboration with the Osmania University and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The centre has a good collection of books and reference material in the library. The library subscribes to both national and international periodicals which include journals from ICSSR, New Delhi and journals as gift from other institutions. The emphasis in the collection of books in the library is on research methods in different disciplines of social sciences, reference books, books on women studies etc. Important books in Telugu and Urdu languages in social sciences are also acquired. Visiting research scholars from outside Hyderabad and the local scholars are utilizing the library facilities. Research Scholars of Social Sciences from various places approach the regional centre for guidance in their research work in terms of reading materials, bibliographies, document lists, formulation of research proposals, construction of questionnaire etc. Library provides assistance to scholars. The Library database is made accessible on OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) and there is a proposal for network facility with other Regional Centres and ICSSR funded Research Institutes in India. Library has collection 11,137 books, printed journals, 15000 full text online journals, CD ROMs etc.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pangannaya (2000) investigated the use of internet resources by the academic community of Mysore University, using survey as the research tool. The paper has investigated the faculty wise, frequency and length of use of the Internet. The knowledge of search engines and prior skills in the use of INTERNET were also examined. Factors such as search results, usefulness and difficulties in browsing the net and the physical facilities providing satisfactory environment for using the INTERNET service were also examined. Moreover, it described the emergence of Internet, has revolutionized the academic world.

Luambano and Julita (2004) in their study revealed that, the level of students' access to the Internet was low, and the major reason was that at the time of the study, computers with Internet facilities were inadequate. The findings also revealed that the students who had access to the Internet were not using it effectively. They used it mainly for communication with friends and relatives more than for academic purposes. The cause of this was found to be lack of skill required for effective use of the Internet. The study recommended the provision of more computers with Internet facilities, increasing Internet access speed, as well as providing more chances of training in Internet us.

Genoni, et al. (2006) explored the way in which the Internet and e-research are changing the nature of scholarly communities. The finding indicated that research users were positive regarding the usefulness of the Internet for research purposes and for expanding their scholarly community.

Bansode & Pujar (2008) highlighted the purpose of use, methods of locating information and search techniques used in retrieving the information by the research scholars of Shivaji University, Kolhapur and found out that the research scholars use the internet for their research and communication purposes. Finally concludes that more awareness about internet resources and training in use of the same needs to be provided by library professionals.

Gudimani, S. B., & Mulimani, M. N. (2008) Surveyed 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 discussed the impact of Internet in Karnataka University Library.

OBJECTIVES
The main objectives of the study are
- To find out the frequency of internet use by the Research Scholars of ICSSR-SRC Library, Osmania University.
- To find out the purposes of internet use by research scholars.
- To find out the problems faced by the research scholars while using the Internet sources and services.
- To make suggestions for improving the services of the internet centre.

METHODOLOGY

A well structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to 120 research scholars of ICSSR-SRC Library, Hyderabad for the purpose of data collection.

DATA ANALYSIS

A well structured questionnaire was distributed to 120 research scholars of ICSSR-SRC. Out of them 114 research scholars have responded. Among the respondents 79(69.30%) are male and 35(30.70%) are female research respondents. The responses received from research scholars are analyzed using tables and charts.

Table 1: Frequency of visit to the Library

S. No.	Frequency of visit	No. of respondents	%
1	Daily	83	72.81
2	Weekly	11	9.65
3	Thrice in a week	9	7.89
4	Occasionally	11	9.65

Table 1 shows the frequency of visit to the library by the research scholars. In that 83(72.81%) of the respondents visit the library daily, 11(9.65%) of the respondents weekly, 9(7.89%) of the respondents thrice in a week and 11(9.65%) respondents occasionally visit the library**.**

Table 2: Prefer to use internet

S. No.	prefer to use internet at	No. of respondents	%
1	Home	0	0
2	Departmental Library	0	0
3	Office	5	4.39
4	ICSSR-SRC Library	94	82.45
5	Central Library of the University	15	13.16

Preference to use internet is shown in Table-2. About 5(4.39%) scholars prefer to use internet in the office, 94(82.45%) Prefer to use internet at ICSSR-SRC Library and 15(13.16%) at Central Library of the University.

Table 3: Average time spent in the library for use of internet

S. No.	Average time spent	No. of respondents	%
1	Less than 30Minutes to 1 hour	5	4.39
2	1 to 2 hours	7	6.14
3	2 to 3 hours	11	9.65
4	3 to 4 hours	27	23.68
5	More the 4 hours	64	56.14

Table 3 shows the average time spent by the scholars in the library for use of internet. 5(4.39%) of the respondents spend less than 30 minutes to 1 hour in the library for use of internet followed by 7(6.14%) of the respondents spend 1 to 2 hours, 11(9.65%) respondents spend 2 to 3 hours, 27(23.68%) of the respondents spend 3 to 4 hours and 64(56.14%) of the respondents spend more than 4 hours which means that the scholars are very much satisfied in using the internet in the ICSSR-SRC Library.

Table 4: purpose of internet use

S. No.	purpose of internet use	No. of respondents	%
1	Research Work	73	64.03
2	Education	22	19.30
3	writing paper & presenting paper	8	7.02
4	updating knowledge	8	7.02
5	Entertainment	3	2.63
6	Any other (Pl. specify)	0	0

Table 4 shows the purpose of use of internet. 73(64.03%) scholars use internet for the purpose of research, 22(19.30%) for education purpose, 8(7.02%) for writing & presenting paper, 8(7.02%) for updating knowledge and 3(2.63%) for the purpose of entertainment.

Table 5: Use of internet/online resources

S. No.	Internet/online resources	No. of respondents	%
1	E-Books	24	21.05
2	E-Journals	65	57.02
3	E-databases	14	12.28
4	E-Thesis/Dissertations	11	9.65
6	Any other (Pl. specify)	0	0

Table 5 shows the use of internet/online resources by the scholars. 24(21.05%) respondents use E-books followed by internet 65(57.02%) use E-journals, 14(12.28%) use E-databases & 11(9.65%) use E-Thesis/Dissertations.

Table 6: Use of internet based information services

S. No.	internet based information services	No. of respondents	%
1	E-mail	46	40.35
2	WWW	66	57.89
3	Chatting	2	1.76
4	Remote login (Telnet)	0	0
5	FTP	0	0
6	Discussion Group	0	0
7	BBS	0	0

Table 6 shows the use of internet based information services. 46(40.35%) of the respondents use E-mail followed by 66(57.89%) for browsing i.e. www, 2(1.76%) for chatting.

Table 7: Format preferred to read information

S. No.	Format preferred	No. of respondents	%
1	PDF	92	80.70
2	HTML	0	0
3	SGML	0	0
4	MS Word	22	19.30
5	Any other (Pl. specify)	0	0

Table 7 shows the format preferred by the respondents to read the information. 92(80.70%) of the respondents prefer to read the information in PDF format followed by 22(19.30%) prefer to read in MS word format.

Table 8: Difficulties faced in searching the internet

S. No.	Difficulties faced	No.of respondents	%
1	Lack of knowledge of important sites in the subject field	62	54.39
2	Difficult in finding the relevant information	16	14.04
3	Time is insufficient	36	31.57
4	Any other	0	0

Table 8 shows the difficulties faced by the scholars in the use of internet. 62(54.39%) of the respondents lack knowledge of important sites in the subject field, 16(14.04%) of the scholars it is difficult in finding the relevant information and for 36(31.57%) scholars time is not sufficient in browsing the internet.

Table 9: Problems encountered while using search engines

S. No.	Problems encountered	No. of respondents	%
1	Limited number of computers	70	61.40
2	Server down	13	11.40
3	Internet speed is very less	16	14.04
4	Time lag	8	7.02
5	Interruptions in the power supply	7	6.14

Table9 reveals the problems encountered by the respondents while using search engines. 70(61.40%) of the respondents expressed that there are limited number of computers, 13(11.40%) encountered problem of server down, 16(14.04%) of the respondents faced the problem with the speed of the internet, 8(7.02%) respondents with time lag and 7(6.14%) respondents faced interruptions in the power supply.

Table 10: Problems faced in use of internet resources

S. No.	Problems faced	No. of respondents	%
1	Required material is not available	8	7.02
2	Information is scattered in too many sources	19	16.67
3	Latest information sources are not available	15	13.16
4	Information explosion or too much information	6	5.26
5	Lack of time for searching	32	28.07
6	Non availability of electronic resource (e-journals & databases)	9	7.89
7	Lack of training in electronic resources/products	16	14.04
8	Language	9	7.89

Table 10 shows the problems faced in the use of internet resources. 8(7.02%) of the scholars stated that required material is not available, 19(16.67%) information is scattered in too many sources, 15(13.16%) latest information sources are not available, 6(5.26%) of the respondents faced the problem of information explosion, 32(28.07%) have problem with the time i.e. lack of time in searching for the information, 9(7.89%) Non-availability of electronic resources like e-journals and databases, 16(14.04%) respondents lack training in the use of internet resources and 9(7.89%) of the respondents have problem with the language.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

On the basis of the responses received from the research scholars of ICSSR-SRC library the following findings have been summarized;
- Most of the research scholars visit the library daily.
- Large numbers of respondents prefer to use internet in the ICSSR-SRC library.
- Majority of the scholars are spending more than four hours in the elibrary.
- Majority of the scholars are using internet for the purpose of research.
- Most of the scholars use internet/online resources like ejournals, ebooks, databases and etheses & dissertations.
- Majority of the respondents use internet for browsing (www) and email.
- It was revealed that pdf is the most preferred format to read the information followed by MS word.
- Most of the scholars are facing difficulties in finding the relevant information, lack of knowledge of important sites in the subject field and insufficient time.
- Majority of the respondents have stated that, there are limited number of computers, server down, low internet speed, time lag & interruptions in power supply.
- Some of the scholars are facing problems in the use of internet resources.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the responses received the following suggestions are made;
- The present number of computers available in the e-library are insufficient, so new computers have to be installed.
- High speed internet has to be provided.
- Elibrary should be provided 24X7.
- Training programmes in the use of internet/online resources have to be provided for the optimum utilization of the resources available in the elibrary.

- A generator may be provided for uninterrupted power supply.

CONCLUSION

The Internet is a globally interconnected set of computers through which information could be quickly accessed. Internet has become an invaluable tool for learning, teaching and research. Internet could be regarded as technology evolved in furtherance of the concept of paperless society. It is a super high wave invention, which is already advancing the cause of humanity of the greatest height especially in this millennium. This study revealed that majority of the research scholars visit the library daily and prefer to use internet in the ICSSR-SRC elibrary for more than four hours per day for the purpose of research. It is an indication that the internet is extensively used by the research scholars of the ICSSR-SRC library. It is advised that the number of computers and the internet speed need to be increased so that scholars will not face any problems while accessing the internet/online resources.

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