e-Library Science Research Journal

INTERNET USAGE AT CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study is designed to investigate the patterns of Internet use by the Faculty, Scholars and PG students purpose for use, its impact on teaching and research, internet resources that they use, and the problems faced while accessing the internet. A questionnaire, export-reviewed and pilot-tested, was used to collect data from the faculty from 12 department. Central University of Karnataka has improved its IT infrastructure, providing remote access, and to provide formal training in the use of Internet resources. This is the first comprehensive study of the use of the Internet by the faculty, scholars and PG students. Its findings should help the University in its plans and programmes to relating to accessing e-resources and databases etc.

KEYWORDS: Internet, e-resources, e-learning, University Library and IT

1.INTRODUCTION:

With the advent of computer age, the IT is developing at a very fast and the information is being explored largely to the multi dimensional in the form of print media as well as in the electronic form. The IT infrastructure in the routines of the

library services and operations are to be modernized and updated to cater the present needs of the users.

The electronic journal is finally "coming of age" as a result of the explosion of Internet use, particularly World Wide Web technology. However, access to electronic journal information is still in its infancy and there are presently a variety of different models emerging in the marketplace which sometimes offers overlapping access to this type of full text information in different ways. The UGC has turned towards the Internet to cover the gap between the demand and supply by the way of electronic

based journals that can be subscribed online. Majority of the journals are now available in electronic form. UGC explored the possibilities of alliances with the publishers for adapting a consortia-based approach for e-subscription of journals. And these journals are available over UGC-infonet to all the Universities. New research publications are available on the net as free ware, there by making quality information available to a wider academic universities spread across the country at an affordable price.

Access to resources is now considered more important than collection building especially in the access is perpetual in nature. The consortium facilities the libraries to get benefit of wider access to electronic resources at a affordable cost and at the best terms of licenses. A consortium, with the collective strength of resources of various institutions available to it, is in a better position to address and resolve the problems of managing, organizing and archiving the electronic resources. Moreover, the technology has changed expectations of researchers, their patience, and their willingness to accept services that are available on demand. The Web-based electronic resource is an apt answer to the expectations of researchers. The need of e-journals usage at universities in India is basically for the following reasons.

✦ Indian Universities are finding it hard to maintain the subscriptions to even for core journals due to ever increasing cost of the journals subscription and also shrinking budget.
✦ The average number of subscription to International journals by Indian University is even less then 300 titles, where as the average number of journals subscribed by the written countries is much higher.
✦ Shrinking fiscal resources, price hike in scientific and technical journals and also social sciences.
✦ Academic and research users can now have access to their learned journal articles in electronic form.
✦ Qualitative resource sharing for effective documents delivery service.

2. NEED OF ELECTRONIC BASED INFORMATION SERVICES

Purpose of use for electronic information at the university libraries most resembled print journal usage, which was measured by a print questionnaire. Electronic information usage for sponsored research purposes was higher than print journal use related to sponsored research at all but one of the university libraries. At all of the libraries, a larger percentage of electronic information usage was related to sponsored research than the combined total for all library services, including both traditional and electronic collections and services.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
✦ To understand the brief usage of Internet services.
✦ To know the gender wise usage of internet
✦ To know the age wise distribution.
✦ To know the faculty, research scholars and P.G. students wise.
✦ To understand the awareness of e-resources.
✦ To study the downloading e-resources and format.
✦ To know the improved quality study/research/training using e-resources and;
✦ To understand the problems faced by the libraries in rendering the electronic based services to the users.

4. METHODOLOGY

The methodology chosen for the research work based on the case study survey, interview and observation method. Further, the information resources such as magazine, e-journals, research reports, books, reports, official publication will also be consulted to elicit the needed information. An attempt has been made in this chapter to analyze and incorporate the data collected from various Faculty, Research Scholars and P.G. Students of Central University of Karnataka, Kadaganchi.

5. DATA ANALYSIS

To meet the objectives of the data so collected, a total of 250 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 210 were duly filled accounting to 84%.

Table: 1.User's Survey Statistics

Sl.No.	Type of users	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire received	Percentage (%)
1	Faculty members	50	38	76.0
2	Research Scholars	100	75	75.0
3	P.G. Students	100	97	97.0
	Total	250	210	84.0

It is observed from the table that, the researcher has categorized users into faculty members (76%), Research Scholars (75%) and P.G. Students (97%). It shows that the response rate among PG Students is more than faculty and Research Scholars.

Table: 2. Gender wise Distribution of respondents

Sex	Faculty		Research Scholars		P.G. students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	38	100.0	53	70.7	64	66.0
Female	--	--	22	29.3	33	34.0

Further an attempt has been too made to categories the respondents into Male and Female. From the above table, male faculty members 38 (100%), there are no female respondents. Similarly in Research Scholar male respondents 53 (70.7%) female is about 22(29.3%). Among P.G. Students, male respondents 64 (66%) and female respondents 33(34%).

Table: 3. Age wise distribution of respondents

Age	Faculty		Research Scholars		P.G. students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
22-32	03	7.9	73	97.3	97	100.0
33-42	13	34.2	01	1.3	--	--
43-52	18	47.4	01	1.3	--	--
Above 52	04	10.5	--	--	--	--

The table-3 shows that age wise distribution of respondents. Among faculty, the respondents in the age group of 43-52 are more frequent users of library resources. Research Scholars age group 22-32 are more vibrant Research Scholars is about 97.3%, similarly P.G. Students between the age group of 22 to 32 are about 100%. It shows that scholars and students are taking more interest in terms of using information sources and services in electronic environment.

Table: 4. Faculty wise distribution of respondents

Faculty wise	Faculty		Research Scholars		P.G. Students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Science	18	47.4	35	46.6	38	39.2
Social Science	15	39.5	28	37.3	35	36.1
Art & Humanities	05	13.2	12	16.0	24	24.7

The table 4 clearly indicates that 47.4 % of respondents are science faculties, 39.5% are from social science discipline and the rest are from Art and humanities. It is followed by the science scholars (46.6%) comparing to social science (37.3%) and Art and humanities (16.0%). Similarly among P.G. students again science is dominating (39.2%) comparing in to social science (36.1%), art and humanities is just 24.7%.

Table: 5. Awareness of Electronic Information Services

Awareness EIS	Faculty		Research Scholars		P.G. Students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Good	22	57.8	52	69.3	55	56.7
Very good	11	28.9	20	26.7	11	11.3
Poor	04	10.5	02	2.7	24	24.7
Very poor	01	2.6	--	--	--	--
Uncertain	--	--	01	1.3	07	7.2

The table 5 depicts that awareness of electronic information services among Research Scholars has good awareness about 69.3% as compared to faculty members 57.8% and PG Students 56.7%. Very good again dominating from faculty members 28.9% as compared to Research Scholars 26.7% and 11.3% from PG Students.

Table: 6. Downloading of Electronic Information

Download	Faculty		Research Scholars		P.G. Students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Floppy	14	36.8	18	24.0	38	39.1
CD	20	52.6	45	60.0	36	37.1
Pen-drive	01	2.6	11	14.6	01	1.0
Print	02	5.2	--	--	11	11.3
If any	--	--	--	--	03	3.0

From the above table 6, investigator noticed that more users are downloading the records or copying the data on the CD, which includes Research Scholars (60%), faculty members (52.6%) and PG Students (37.1%). Similarly there is less percentage found in using the floppy, faculty 36.8%, scholars 24% and P.G. Students 39.1%. As compared to floppy disk, CDs have been quite fairly preferred for downloading the data.

Table: 7. File formats for downloading Information

File format	Faculty		Research Scholars		P.G. Students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
HTML	03	7.8	09	12.0	18	18.5
PDF	13	34.2	45	60.0	17	17.5
World file	11	28.9	19	25.3	55	56.7
Any other	--	--	--	--	02	2.0

It is very clear from the Table 7 that 60% of respondents i.e. Research Scholars download the information in PDF format, 56.7% of P.G. Students use MS-Word format and 34.2% faculty members are using PDF format. Over all it shows that users feel comfortable to download the records in PDF format as compared to other file formats.

Table-8. Improved quality of study/Research/Teaching by using electronic information services

Improved quality	Faculty		Research Scholars		P.G. Students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Agree	16	42.1	41	54.6	47	48.4
Strongly agree	18	47.3	23	30.6	19	19.5
Disagree	1	2.6	2	2.6	6	6.1
Strongly disagree	--	--	--	--	11	11.3
Un-certain	1	2.6	--	--	5	5.1

Table-8 shows the improvement of quality in study/Research/Teaching by using electronic information services among faculty members, Research Scholars and PG Students. 47.3% and 42.1% of faculty members strongly agree and agree that electronic information services would improve quality in study/Research/Teaching. 54.6% and 30.6% of Research Scholars agree and strongly agree that electronic information services would improve quality in study/Research/Teaching. Similarly 48.4%

and 19.5% of PG Students agree and strongly agree that electronic information services would improve quality in study/Research/Teaching.

Table-9 Increase in Research Publications by using electronic information services

Increase in Research Publications	Faculty		Research Scholars		P.G. Students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Agree	23	60.5	41	54.6	48	49.4
Strongly agree	9	23.6	13	17.3	23	23.7
Disagree	1	2.6	5	6.6	4	4.1
Strongly disagree	2	5.2	1	1.3	5	5.1
Un-certain	--	--	5	6.6	2	2.0

Table-9 shows the increase in Research Publications by using electronic information services among faculty members, Research Scholars and PG Students. 60.5% and 23.6% of faculty members agree and strongly agree that there is an increase in their research publications by using electronic information services. 54.6% and 17.3% of Research Scholars agree and strongly agree that there is an increase in their research publications by using electronic information services and so also 49.4% and 23.7% of PG Students agree and strongly agree that there is an increase in their research publications by using electronic information services.

6. CONCLUSION:

This study investigated the usage of Internet among the Faculty, Scholars and P.G. Students of Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi. This study identified internet usage and e-resources usage. E-Journals are bringing further added dimensions to the librarianship. The new service has a vast potential of providing a quality service. However, in the context of shrinking budgets, it is very essential to evaluate each e-resources and Internet, so that the expenditure is justified.

In addition, developing an e-learning course gives librarians the opportunity to redefine learning objectives in information literacy and to share with teachers the task of providing information courses to students. E-learning should certainly not be seen as the ultimate, miraculous means by which training in information literacy will become an entirely automated process. It seems, however, to offer a unique opportunity for librarians to collaborate with University teachers, to offer courses tailored to end-users, and to provide professional tutoring in information literacy.

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