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USE OF INTERNET AS A SOURCE: A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN COLLEGE OF DELHI UNIVERSITY

Use of Internet as a Source: A Case Study of Women College of Delhi University

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Abstract: *Delhi is famous for its Universities, Colleges and Study. Delhi has lots of academic colleges. There are some independent women colleges also and those are working for women empowerment. This study is restricted for 18 women colleges, which provide education in different disciplines. Most of these are high profile. Some are very old and adopted by Indian heritage. Some are famous for their infrastructure. In this changing scenario education is shifting from print media to electronic media, which is in the form of Internet. It is difficult to define Internet comprehensively. Now-a-days Internet has become an effective tool for teaching and learning. Internet is a platform for providing and sharing information. When two computers are connected over the Internet they can send and receive all kinds of information such as text, graphics, voice, video and all computer program. Internet is a pool of information contributed by more than 100 countries and it is a powerful dissemination tool. It helps us to keep up-to-date with current development and overcomes the problems of delay in publication of paper media and limited clientele. Internet is means of faster communication through e-mail, teleconferencing, e-journals, search engines, employment searches and discussion forums etc. The term of Internet denotes network of several computer networks. It is a grouping of mission of computer networks inter-connected with each other's, reaching billions of people around the globe. It was originally designed for US Defense Commission Network 'ARPANET'. Today Internet has become – one of the most important modes of communication. People in every walk of life, such as education, management, business, medicine, defense, banking etc. are using Internet. Within the last ten years, Internet has become global and ubiquitous. It reaches in hundreds of countries and is featured daily in the all walks of life. The Internet provides instant access to billions of information sources such as books, journals, indexes, abstracts, video recordings, sound recordings etc. Unlike single book sources, Internet information is accessible to multiple users at the same time. There are reportedly three new pages added to the Internet every second of the day. There are a lot of material. Internet is considered as a great information source to the academic and research community of the colleges of Delhi University. Internet is changing the process of knowledge creation and dissemination. in information technology is fastest communication tool for generation, gathering, and dissemination of Information. Information revolution not only supplies the technological horsepower that drives the web, but fuels an unprecedented demand for storing, organizing, disseminating, and accessing information. Information is being shared by many areas through the use of Internet. Today large numbers of information sources are available on the Internet. Technology has changed to Xeroxing, Fax, Reprography, CD-ROM, PEN drive and other electronic material from print material. It has become difficult to say, what is not available on the Internet. It will not be surprising in the near future the Internet connectivity becomes a necessity of life just like connection to water tap, electricity and telephone in all the countries irrespective of their social-economic status. Govt. of India is working for various projects where they are encouraging people to more and more Internet use. Delhi University is providing Internet connectivity to its students free of cost through Delhi University Library Science Network (DULS), which is restricted to Delhi University only by specific and unique ID. India is always famous for its study. Earlier time it was known for its Gurukul and Guru-Shishya parampara, which has been shifted to Internet Yug now.*

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Any study have been done by the various scholar in the past to strengthen the present study. To understand these studies literature search is useful from many angles. A literature review is actually an attempt to identify, locate and synthesize completed research reports, articles, books and other materials relevant to the specific problems of a research topic. A review of literature is necessary to locate the areas for investigation and build up the thesis for which the research work is undertaken. Review of literature is undertaken also to establish the rationale and logical basis of choosing a particular topic for research.

Another approach to Internet resource evaluation is the use of reviews. Fortunately, consistent, authoritative reviews of Internet information resources are becoming widely available. Some publications, which have a tradition of reviewing printed reference resources, have started reviewing Internet sites. Literature review appears to be the most important part of research, which demonstrates the frontiers of one's field and the quantum of work done in the specific areas of research and their results. A researcher needs review of related literature to avoid duplication of work and to know the methods, procedures and instruments that have proved useful. A detail research through related topics enable the researcher to identify the type, area, qualify and quantify of work done.

By using Internet, one can browse worldwide sources to obtain the literature for review in a speedy manner. Some of the studies mentioned here which are proving 'the use of Internet as a source of information' by their literature. Ruthven, et al...[1] (2003) looked at the purpose of Internet use and they found that the teachers used Internet primarily to gather information for themselves and for communication. Gilbson, & Oberg [2] (2004) in their study presents that since users are conditioned to accept all printed material as valid information, the pitfalls of Internet-generated research become more accurate. Another study by Asemi [3] (2005) regarding the purpose of the Internet use, the researchers indicated that the services provided by the Internet are useful for their research works and more number of users used Internet for getting e-journals. Mishra, et al...[4] (2005) study shows that 61.5% of the males and 51.6% of the females used the Internet for preparing assignments. Robinson [5] (2005) and Rajeew Kumar & Amritpal Kaur [6] (2006) explained in their study that majority of users accessed the Internet at home. Significant numbers of users also used it other places such as cyber café, friend/colleague's home etc. Preeti Mahajan [7] (2006) looked at the use of the Internet by the researcher.

Review of the literature is important because without it no one will acquire an understanding of any topic of what has already been done on it, how it has been researched and what the key issues are. The review of literature indicates that there are many studies have been done on the use of Internet.

IMPACT

In the Internet era, academic institutions are being confronted with new opportunities and new threats. The Internet therefore, is a vast electronic library made up of millions of pages of information stored in hundreds and thousands of linked computers in the globe. The web has brought to the desk top, not only metadata sources like bibliographic databases and table of contexts, but also full text of journals, preprints, technical reports, patents, courseware, etc. The impact of Internet on Library & Information service is more profound than on any discipline. This study is about the role of Internet on Library and Information Centre in the context of changing environment. It provides an overview how the use of Internet has changed the lifestyle of users. The traditional librarian's role of evaluation, selecting and organizing print information, is being expended to the online environment. Almost anyone can put information on the Internet and hence, the quality of information sources varies tremendously.

Internet has now become a much talked about subject for librarians. It has opened a great opportunities for Library & Information Science professionals. According to Gryez, "with the expansion of Internet a new class of electronic document has emerged, it was at once promising and attractive for its obvious advantage of speed, transmissibility, profound elusive

and confounding to the library community because of its intangibility and malleability".

Internet resources are stereo type valued for their currency. Print resources take time in printing process. Even a newspaper takes twenty-four hours to print the day's news. The Internet on the other hand, can potentially update news as it is made. Given the ease in both entering and accessing information, there are increasing number of publications, proceedings, transcripts and data that are available only on the Internet. Conference proceedings, government documents, state job listings and application forms, news blogs and even professional communications can found exclusively on the Internet.

Internet can also be used in the vital area of library. Number of libraries is having their catalogue available online (OPAC) like Library of Congress, British Council Library etc. even the circulation section has found an impact of Internet on provision of its services. Users can search OPAC at home or in the department and if user finds any document of his/her interest user can reserves it from his/her desktop and can get it issued by visiting the library at any other convenient time. Large numbers of primary and secondary information sources are also available on the Internet, which can be used in proving information to the users. Recently, the new concept of Library Consortium has emerged in LIS field. Library Consortium is a group of two or more libraries established with a view to share information among themselves. Now-a-days the major emphasis of libraries is to share online resources. These resources are very expansive if subscribed by the library individually. With the help of Internet it is easier to use the e-journals, which are available only on the Internet. Electronic journal provides recent information with a short period of time, as it is easier to update the issue of a journal on the Internet as soon as it is published. E-books are gaining more importance with the emergence of Internet. With the enormous capacity, electronic book can revolutionize the publishing industry as well as provide excellent opportunities to authors to publish their books directly on the web. E-mail is becoming more useful way of communication. This service can be used to send and receive messages easily and speedily. Use of Internet has made the Inter Library Loan (ILL) more easier and quicker.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research is an intellectual activity that manifests itself in creative scholarship. The fundamental idea behind any research is further development of the existing knowledge. The research is a systematic and scholarly application of scientific method to find out the solution of a problem. Actually, it is an intellectual process to arrive at a dependable solution to the problem, through planned and systematic collection and interpretation of data. As research is concerned with development, it has

different aspects such as sociological, technological, medicinal, educational, organizational, resource management and so on. Thus, today's research is multi-disciplinary because any change in the existing knowledge affects another related field. Precisely, research is a systematic investigation, of particular problem, which usually discovers new information in addition to the existing knowledge. It originates from a problem and ends with a judicious conclusion. The entire process is based upon the approval or rejection of the hypothesis and conclusion is based on the interpretation of data.

Research builds knowledge. It also generates knowledge and extends the knowledge as the basis of research findings. Research is always carried a purpose. Thus, research is an intensive and purposeful search for knowledge and understanding of social and physical phenomena. It is not merely an accumulation of knowledge but a critical and scientific analysis of social facts and formulation of generalizations as a basis for action and foresight.

Research brings rapid change and involves greater investment of time, energy and matter. Research also brings new information on the prevailing situations through collecting data and interpretation of data. The research discovers new facts and decisions can be taken for further development. A research problem has high value to the society and the researcher must be able to identify those problems that need an urgent solution. The present study uses survey method to study "The Use of Internet as a Source of Information: A Case Study of Delhi University". There are various methods for conducting the survey. Goode and Hart have enumerated four methods of investigation i.e. observation, questionnaire, interview and documentary evidence. Whereas Wilkinson and Bhandarkar subscribed to additional methods such as case-study methods, and socio-metry in addition to interview and observation. Best and Kahn are of the opinion that the survey is an important type of study. It involves a clearly defined problem and definite objectives. It requires expert and imaginative planning, careful analysis and interpretation of the data gathered and logical and skillful reporting of the finding.

The process of data collection is the basic need and a backbone of a study. A study without this is just like a building without a foundation. Methods used for data collection should be such that the information gathered is true and trust worthy. The validity and reliability of qualitative data depends to the great extent on the methodological skill, sensitivity and integrity of the researcher. Skillful interviewing involves much more than just asking the question. Generating useful and credible qualitative findings through observation, interview and content analysis requires knowledge, training, practice, creativity and hard work.

For the study questionnaires were distributed among the 18 women colleges of Delhi University.

Researcher distributed 50 questionnaires in each college. Thus as a result of 900 questionnaires were distributed to collect the data from the respondents. After a gap of a couple of week as a result during the first visit researcher collected data from the colleges are 198 (22%). In the second visit there was a good response; data collected from these colleges are 340 (37.6%). In the final visit researcher collected more data that is about 80 (9%). Of course it was a good response for research. A survey method has been used for study and a structured questionnaire has been circulated among all the colleges and as a result 618 (68.67%) filled questionnaires has been received during the course of study. The huge data has been interpreted and analyzed which present that data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the collected data.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data collection is the systematic recording of information; data analysis involves working to uncover patterns and trends in data sets; data interpretation involves explaining those patterns and trends. After analyzing the data it was noticed that all the colleges have Internet facility in their libraries and as a result most of the lecturers using Internet for their academic work. 'Use of Internet' is widely accepted in our daily life. Daulat Ram College has maximum 45 (90%) users among the all 18 women colleges. Miranda House accessed 43 (86%), whereas Indraprastha College has as many as 42 (84%) users. If talk about the 'Frequency of Using Internet', it differ from person to person, 15.04% user used Internet daily, whereas 25.08% used it twice a week, 40.45% accessed it weekly, therefore, 11.32% users used it fortnightly, 5.68% faculty members used it monthly and 2.67% users used Internet occasionally.

Now come to the 'Purpose of Using Internet', researchers use the Internet for different purposes, like 'To Update Knowledge', 'Research Paper', 'Recent Trend in Subject', 'E-Mailing', 'General Information', and for 'Entertainment'. Users marked their choice through preferences, like user marked Research Trend in Subject at highest place with 61.48% for 1st preference, whereas General Information selected for first place in 2nd preference with 42.88%, Entertainment has been secured the 48.54% for first place in 3rd preference. There are some 'Advantages of Using Internet' also and it is also marked by preferences. 'Time Saving' has been secured 57.44% for 1st preference, 'Time Consuming' has accessed 41.26% for 3rd preference, 'More Informative' has been received highest 48.54% for 1st preference, 42.88% is the biggest rank for 'Less Informative' which is 3rd preference, 45.30% is the 1st preference for 'More Useful', whereas, 'Less Useful' has been marked 44.49% at the first place in 3rd preference.

There are lots of Favorite Search Engines like 'Yahoo', 'Google', 'Alta Vista', 'Lycos', 'Excite', and 'Hot Bol' search engines. Users are asked to use their preferences for various search engines. Through the survey it is found that Google has accessed 67.15% and has secured first place in 1st preference, Yahoo search engine has received the second place in 1st preference with 57.44%, whereas, Wikipedia has secured 41.26% for the third place in 1st preference. 'User Satisfaction' level come after the preferences in search engines, and through the survey it is found that 61.48% users are 'Fully Satisfied', whereas 25.88% users are 'Partially Satisfied', however, 9.71% users are 'Least Satisfied' and only 2.91% users give 'No Comment'. Finally, researcher interpret database on their background knowledge and experience, thus different researcher interpret the same data in different ways.

FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

Nowadays some kind of education is compulsory to all people in most countries. Due to population growth and the proliferation of compulsory education, UNESCO has calculated that in the next 30 years more people will receive formal education than.

The result of the study offer significant information on the every level of awareness and use of Internet in academic institution. The last ten years there is phenomenal increase in the use of Internet and the correlation between the availability and awareness is found among teaching and research users. There are some serious gaps also; sometime the using of Internet is not the right resource. Given the powerful belief that all information is available on the Internet, much time can be wasted in looking for information that can be found for more efficiently through other formats, is the waste of time. The presence of historical material on the Internet is limited. Even databases usually do not go far back into archival material so that journal articles prior to the 1980s are hard to find out on the Internet.

The study reveals that Internet is very useful for all, it may be lecturers of Delhi University or a common man. There is no doubt that Internet is fully loaded with latest information and knowledge. Thus, it is recommended that use of Internet should be spread and being more useful among the 18 Women Colleges of Delhi University.

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