
USE AND AWARENESS OF INTERNET AT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BANGALORE: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

States that Internet plays a vital and viable role to cater to the needs of information seekers in the process of advancement of society in present environment. This paper Studies about the Use and Awareness of Internet at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. The objective of this study is to demonstrates and elaborates the different factors such as of Internet usage, awareness about Internet services, favorite search engines, constraints faced by the users in surfing the Internet, various purpose for using Internet, and satisfaction of adequate infrastructure facilities provided to use the Internet.

KEYWORDS: Internet, Internet use, User Study, Agricultural Library

Introduction

There have been tremendous developments in the area of ICT. Developments in ICT have brought revolutionary changes in the modes and methods of information storage, retrieval and transmission. It is obvious that internet technology have already had considerable impact. The Internet provides vast amounts of information on every field and subject. The prime function of any organizations, institutions and their library is to provide efficient services to its users. Virtually all universities and their libraries, at least in the most developed countries, are new members of networks that greatly facilitated the location of sources of information and gaining of access to them.

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore at a Glance

The University of Agricultural sciences, Bangalore came into existence on August 21, 1964. After bifurcation of the University during 1986, the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore was entrusted with territorial jurisdiction of 17 southern districts of Karnataka. The University is strongly committed to absorb newer paradigms in the field of agricultural sciences, develop innovative technology and competent and skilled human resources and ensure their dissemination to serve the farming community of the State. The University is offering seven Undergraduate degree programmes, Master's Degree Programmes in 26 disciplines and Ph.D degree programmes in 14 disciplines. The University has twelve Krishi Vignan Kendras and three Extension units and 20 research stations spread over in six out of ten agro climatic zones of southern Karnataka to carry out the need based and zone –specific research activities. The University has a strong research base that has been catering to the needs of the Development Departments and farming community of the State, it also has collaboration with many National and international Institutions. The main objective of the University is teaching, research and extension. It also aims to establish a dynamic system of agricultural education to train highly skilled and competent manpower to address the challenging tasks with new emerging areas of research, extension and industry.

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore Library

The University Library came into existence during the year 1966-67. From its initial collection of 26,000 volumes of books and bound periodicals, it has now grown to 1,41,980 volumes. The University Library moved into its own functional building at GKVK in the year 1976. In order to provide latest scientific information to the teachers, scientists and students of the University in the field of Agriculture and related subjects. University Library has made every effort to procure print and non–print materials. The library is getting 348 periodicals (Print) including 91 foreign periodicals, apart from that E-information sources like on line journals, Cambridge University press online journals, online and offline databases, E-books, digitalized theses abstracts, Indiastat.com, Emerald Extra Online Management 150 Journals, and CD ROM/DVD Databases. It also provides access Consortia of Electronic Resources of Agriculture (CeRA), it covers 2905 Journals from different Publishers. The University Library is kept open for 12 hours on working days and for limited hours on Saturday and Sundays.

Internet Center

The first University Internet Center was established in 1999. The service is availed by the faculty, researchers and students with effect from 1999. So far more than 75,000 users have availed the facility and there is a steady increase in number of users. Physical connectivity through optical fiber cable to the entire department by increasing the number of servers of higher end, better speed and operational capabilities are envisaged.

Aims and Objectives of the Study

It is specifically focused on the users, use and awareness of Internet at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

The following are the allied objectives of this study:

- ? To know the frequency of Internet use by the Faculty and students in University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
- ? To find out the different purposes for which the Internet is used by the users.
- ? To study the impact of Internet on their learning and research.
- ? To know the favorite search engines used by users.
- ? To identify the constraints faced by the faculty and students while using Internet.
- ? To ascertain the level of satisfaction of the users regarding the Internet infrastructure facilities, and location.
- ? To discover user satisfaction with the Internet services provided.

Review of Literature

Mahajan (2006) conducted a study of Internet use by researchers in Punjab University, Chandigarh, It was stated that the Internet is considered to be the most valuable of all computer technologies. Mulla and Chandrashekara (2006) made a study on Internet users of University of Mysore. The study includes faculty, students, and researchers in different science subjects. Their study revealed that a majority of users used the Internet and were satisfied with the information available on Internet. Mallikarjun N Mulimani and Suresh B Gudimani (2008) made a survey on usage of Internet by students and research scholars of Karnatak University Library. They found that majority of the respondents use Internet to keep abreast with the research and academic purpose. Most of the respondents first preferred to use Google search engine followed by Yahoo and Alta vista.

Devendra Kumar (2010) conducted a study on Faculty Use of Internet Services at a University of Agriculture and Technology. He mentioned that a large majority of users were satisfied with the use of Internet and the information available there. But they were not satisfied with the infrastructure facilities available in the library. Facilities such as number of terminals, multimedia facilities, and printers were inadequate for the fulfillment of needs of the users.

Methodology of the Study

Methodology in research is a way to solve the problem, to unfold the probable answer. As there are many roads leading to a city, likewise there are many methods to solve the problems of research. In this paper the questionnaire survey method is used. Keeping in view the objectives of the study a well structured questionnaire was designed and used to collect the relevant data for the present study from the faculty and students. 100 questionnaires was prepared and distributed among the internet users at library and at the department. They were asked to go through each set of questions and the users were expected to answer each and every question and in these for some questions users are asked to tick all the answers that apply to them.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

In this paper, an attempt has been made to analyze and interpret the data collected on the use and awareness of Internet at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Out of the total 100 users, 81 responded and returned the duly completed questionnaire. The collected data is presented in the form of tables and analyzed by using a simple method of calculation and percentages.

Table 1 : Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents

Sl. No.	Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Male	52	64.20
2	Female	29	35.80
Total		81	100

Table 1 indicates that most of the respondents 52 (64.20%) were male and 29 (35.80%) were female.

Table 2 : Time Duration of Knowing Internet

Sl. No.	Time Duration	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	6 months -1 year	14	17.28
2	1 year to 2 year	22	27.17
3	Two to 4 year	18	22.22
4	More than 4 year	27	33.33
Total		81	100

Table 2 shows that maximum number of respondents 27 (33.33%) said that they are aware of Internet for more than 4 Year. Table 3 indicates that among 81 respondents, daily 37% users are using the internet and minimum of 1.24 % fortnightly. 29.63% are using two or three times in a week, 19.76% once in a week, 4.95% use on monthly basis and 7.42% seldom used.

Table 3 : Time Frequency of Using Internet

Sl. No.	Time Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	30	37
2	Two or three times in a week	24	29.63
3	Once in week	16	19.76
4	Fortnightly	1	1.24
5	Monthly	4	4.95
6	Hardly ever	6	7.42
Total		81	100

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The highest number of respondents 46 (56.79 %) access Internet at University Library and 45 (55.55 %) users access at their department. In addition to this, 22 (27.16 %) of respondents access Internet at ARIS Center, 15 (18.51%) at their home and only 10 (12.35%) at Internet Cafes. Among all 81 respondents 54 (66.57%) respondents use Internet for less than one hour a week and 32.1% 2 to 4 hours a week, followed by these 19 (23.45%) respondents using 5 to 6 hours a week, and more than 10 to 20 hours a week by 8(9.87%) users.

Table 4 : Time Duration of Browsing the Internet

Sl. No.	Time Duration	No. of Respondents	Per
1	Less than 1 hour a Week	28	34.56
2	2-4 hours a Week	26	32.1
3	5-6 hours a Week	19	23.45
4	More than 10 -20 hours a Week	8	9.87
Total		81	100

Majority of the respondents 70 (86.41%) are using for education purposes; 45 (55.55%) respondents indicated that they have used discipline-based search for research purpose, remaining 32 (39.50%) respondents are using for communication and 7 (8.64%) are for entertainment respectively.

Table 5 : Internet Information Resources

Sl. No.	Resources	No. of Respondents	%
1	E-journals	47	58.02
2	Reference document	41	50.61
3	Technical reports	37	45.67
4	Databases	34	41.97
5	E-books	23	28.39
6	Conference proceedings	13	16.04
7	OPAC	5	6.17
8	Others	15	18.51

Most of the respondents says that 47 (58.02%) use internet for E-journals, 41 (50.61%) uses for getting reference documents, 37 (45.67%) respondents using for technical reports, 34 (41.97%) for databases, and minimum usage of internet for OPAC search.

Table 6 : Locating the Required Information on the Internet

Sl. No.	Locating Information	No. of Respondents	%
1	Website	63	77.77
4	Search engines	34	41.97
3	Internet gateways	17	20.98
2	Use subscription databases	7	8.64

The Table 6 reveals that 63 (77.77%) users are locating the required information on Internet through website, 34 (41.97%) are from search engines, 17 (20.98%) are locating through Internet gateways and 7 (8.64%) are using subscription data bases.

Table 7 : Favorite Search Engine

Sl. No.	Search Engine	Respondents	%
1	Google	80	98.76
3	Yahoo	37	45.67
4	MSN	10	12.34
2	AltaVista	1	1.23
5	Others	11	13.58

Google is the most preferred search engine by (98.76%) of the uses, followed by Yahoo and MSN with 37 (45.67%) and 10 (12.34%) respondent, respectively.

Table 8 : Awareness about Internet Services

Sl. No.	Awareness about Internet Services	Respondents	Percentage
1	E-mail and Chatting	77	95.06
2	WWW	53	65.43
3	Search engine	30	37.03
4	Discussion group	13	16.04
5	FAQs	11	13.58
6	FTP	4	4.93

Among the mentioned Internet services, 77 (95.06 %) responded that they are aware about the E-mail and Chatting followed by WWW with 53 (65.43 %) search engine 30 (37.03%), Discussion group with 13 (16.04%), FAQ 11 (13.58%) and FTP 4 (4.93%).

Table 9 : Difficulties/Problems Faced by Users

Sl. No.	Problem	Respondents	Percentage
1	Slow speed	69	85.18
2	Downloading problem	39	48.14
3	Lack of training	19	23.45
4	Finding relevant information	14	17.28
5	Information overload	13	16.04
6	Irrelevant information	9	11.11

The above Table 9 depicts the problems faced by the users in surfing the Internet: 69 (85.18%) of the respondents indicated the slow speed, 39 (48.14%) of the respondents indicated that they faced the problem of downloading the relevant information from the Internet, 19 (23.45%) of the respondents mentioned the lack of training, 14 (17.28%) finding relevant information, 13 (16.04 %) face the problem of information overload and 9 (11.11%) facing to get irrelevant information.

Table 10 : Users Satisfaction with Internet Facilities

Sl. No.	Satisfaction	Respondents	%
1	Partially	46	56.80
2	Least satisfied	12	14.81
3	No comments	12	14.81
4	Fully	11	13.58

Only 11 (13.58%) of the respondents were fully satisfied with the services, 46 (56.80%) of the respondents were partially satisfied with the services 12 (14.81%) were the least satisfied, and 12 (14.81%) did not express any view regarding the satisfaction.

Findings of the Study

The following important findings can be noted:

- 1 It is very interesting to note that a majority of respondents are very much aware about the Internet, it is clear from the analysis that most of them use Internet service daily.
- 2 A majority of users use Internet for education and research and for E-journals and to get reference documents and least number of users used for entertainment.
- 3 The analysis of the data indicates that University of Agricultural Sciences Library and departments have well equipped Internet facility. Therefore the majority of respondents access Internet in the university library and at departments.
- 4 It is clear from analysis of data that Google and Yahoo is the most used search engines to search information and E-mail and chatting is most used Internet service.

- 5 A large number of Internet users were locating the required information on the Internet by website/URL and through search engines.
- 6 A large majority of users were partially satisfied with the use of Internet at library and department and they have problem with slow speed and with downloading.

Conclusion

Internet has revolutionized the entire society. The growth of Internet has been global and continuous and it is growing at a rapid pace. The impact of Internet can be seen in every field and without use of Internet the users will not be in a position to get any access to latest information in the field of subject. The library/Information centre is considered to be the backbone of any research organization as it provides its user the literature and information through electronic sources and services in order to carry out their academic activity.

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