Usage of Internet at Michael Job Memorial Arts and Science College, Library, Coimbatore,Tamil Nadu: A Study

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Abstract - **Library in the digital age has shadowed the traditional concept of restoring materials for use. The exploration in technologies has emphasized the methods of accessing the resources. This paper discusses about the Web-technologies and the usage of internet among the Arts and science students with special reference to Michael Job Memorial Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The Library with Internet facility gives the opportunity to students in gathering information from different sources which is now available in the digital formats, where the public and students could avail the information in any format, at any place and at any time.**

Keywords : **Usage of Internet, Art and Science Colleges**

I. INTRODUCTION

The present trend of Web technology has enabled the users around the globe to feel a face-to-face touch through voice and video communication tools. The Internet enables efficient and effective communication in the modern technical era. These communication tools allow us to share ideas, collaborate on projects, and ask questions and request information from experts, researchers, professionals and enthusiasts in a wide variety of fields. Despite its technological nature, the Internet is a place where people communicate on Marketing, public relations, research & education, information retrieval, personal growth and entertainment.

II. INTERNET BASED LIBRARY SERVICES

Libraries all over the works are undergoing change. The change is mainly driven by the developments in information technology, which includes the technologies of computers, telecommunications, reprography and related disciplines. As a further support to the computerization in libraries, online networks came in a big way providing increasingly large bandwidth for instant transfer of large volumes of information. The library professionals were quick to make use of these technologies soon after their arrival into the market.

The library professionals can make very effective use of Internet not only for quickly providing information needed by users, but also to enhance the efficiency of their other routine activities like acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, reference service, etc.

The developments have led to drastic changes in the way libraries are organized and managed and the way the library professionals function. These changes and activities touched upon under the new heading "Internet Based Library and Information Services". So the library professionals must acquire new skills use of IT and re-orient their activities and services.

III. PROFILE OF STUDY AREA

Michael Job Memorial Arts and Science College is located at Sulur, Coimbatore at Tamil Nadu State of India. The College was established in 2005 to depart education in the field of Arts and Science in the streams including computers, commerce, english, science and so on to the women of the society.

The library being the heart of the college it has a total collection of around 6,500 books, which includes reference books, Text Books, Ready Reference Books, Assignment papers; previous years project reports, Question papers etc. and 28 journals with 15 magazines including National and International. The services rendered by the library are, Book Circulation, Reference Service, Reprography Service and Current Awareness Service. The Library has been computerized and the entire house keeping Operations like acquisition, cataloguing, serial control etc; are automated. The digital Library is setup with 10 computers with Internet connections to access and download Information's. 200 CD-ROM collections, e-journals and Info net consortium India, are added to its features.

IV. Objectives of The Study

1. To find the number of users in different categories among the respondents;

2. To find the frequency of visit to the library by the users;

3. To find the time spent on Internet by the users;

4. To find the number of users responding for 'Internet useful for Education;

5. To find out the type of information accessed in Internet;

6. To find the type of Search Engine used by the users in browsing Internet;

7. To find the type of storage method used by the users to download information from the internet;

8. To find the type of Search used on WEBOPAC.

V. Methodology

The Student, faculty and staff members were identified as the samples for the study. The data was processed in MS Worksheet and simple tabulation, percentage analysis was used to analyze the data.

The study is limited to Michael Job Memorial Arts & Science College Library, Coimbatore and its users. The study is restricted to 103 samples from whom the data was received among the 125 users to whom the questionnaire was distributed.

VI. Analysis and Interpretation

The study was analyzed and interpreted from the data received from the samples. The below tables and charts describes each study as follows.

TABLE I Different Categories of Users

S. No.	Categories	No. of users	Percentage
1	Lecturers	31	30.1
2	Asst. Professors	8	8
3	Professors	2	2
4	I st year students	25	24.3
5	II nd year students	24	23.6
6	III rd year students	8	8
7	Non teaching staff	5	4
	Total	103	100

The Table I describes the different categories of users of library of Michael Job Memorial Arts & Science College. The library is mostly used by the Lecturers scoring 30.1% of the total users. The 1st year and 2nd year students respectively score 2nd and 3rd with 24.3% and 23.6%. The least users of library are the Professors with only 2%.

The Lecturers being the entrants to their job and teaching being their core objective they are in a trend to use the library more than other categories. Similarly the 1st year and 2nd year students being new to their subject they are also added to the large number of users.

TABLE II Frequency of Library Visit

Sl. No.	Users	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Every day	67	65
2	Once in week	11	10.70
3	More than once in week	15	14.60
4	Once in fortnight	3	2.90
5	Once in a month	7	6.80
	Total	103	100

The above table and chart shows how often the users visit the library. The study shows 65% of the users visit the library every day. The visitors who visit the library once in a week and more than once in a week respectively score 10.7% and 14.6%. The study also reveals that only 2.90% of users visit the library once in a fortnight.

Being an Arts and Science college the users are in large number every day at the library. This is a successful note on the library. The study shows only a least number of users visit the library rarely. Hence the study shows that the library is enriched with information to provide knowledge to the users.

TABLE III Time Spent in Internet

S. No.	Users	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	More than 20 hours per week	2	1.9
2	16 to 20 hours per week	3	2.8
3	11 to 15 hours per week	7	5.7
4	7 to 10 hours per week	10	9.4
5	4 to 6 hours per week	42	41.5
6	Less than 4 hours per week	39	38.7
	Total	103	100

The Table III of the study have found that 41.5% of users spent only 4 to 6 hours of a week in internet and 38.7% of users spend less than four hours in a week in internet. The least percent i.e. 1.9% of users alone spent more than 20 hours of a week in internet.

The usage of internet is not that effective when compared to the frequency of visit of the users to the library. By the above chart and Table III it reveals that the users visit library more to access print materials than e-materials. Hence the usage of internet is low showing the majority of users using less than 6 hours a week.

TABLE IV INTERNET USEFUL FOR EDUCATION

Sl. No.	Users	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	103	100

The above Table reveals that 100% of users believe that the internet is useful for education.

Even though the 100% of users accept that the internet is useful for education, the user's spending time on internet is very low which reveals that the information available on internet and its accessing permits are not satisfactory. Hence the usage of internet is very low which is shown in the table.

The Table V in the study indicate that 22.10% of users browse internet for Reviews. 16.90% of users search for Educational Information and 16.10% of users search for journals. Technical information seekers and users using Web OPAC on internet score equally with 2.90%.

TABLE V TYPE OF INFORMATION ACCESSED

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Books	5	5.10
2	Journals	17	16.10
3	Reviews	23	22.10
4	Experimental literature	6	5.60
5	Technical information	3	2.90
6	Educational information	17	16.90
7	Information about current developments	11	11
8	Scientific and technical news	9	8.50
9	Career information	5	5.10
10	Information about Government news	4	3.80
11	Web OPAC	3	2.90
	Total	103	100

Reviews are the most trusted authenticity the people believe to access information from any websites. Hence the study shows that 22.10% of users browse for reviews. Similarly being a college the users mostly browse journals and educational information on the internet which is shown in the above study.

TABLE VI TYPE OF SEARCH ENGINES USED IN INTERNET

Sl. No.	Search Engines	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Google.com	41	38.80
2	Yahoo.com	31	30.60
3	Altavista.com	4	4.40
4	Hotbot.com	-	-
5	Direct hit.com	-	-
6	Pub. med	3	2.50
7	Any other	24	23.79
	Total	103	100

From the above table it is clear that the users mostly prefer Google and Yahoo for their information search scoring 38.80% and 30.60% respectively. Other websites are least used as search engines according to the study.

The study has showed that the Google and Yahoo are the most reliable and fast information fetching search engines. This is common among all the internet users in the world and same has been proved in the study.

TABLE VII TYPE OF INFORMATION STORAGE METHOD

Sl. No.	Download materials	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	External Storage Device	55	53.60
2	Floppy	7	6.40
3	CD-Rom	6	5.72
4	Print out	21	20
5	E-Mail attachment	6	6
6	Any others	8	7.92
	Total	103	100

Storage of information being the highly important factor a study on the device used to store the information has been taken and found that the External Storage Device like Pen drive, Externals Hard Disks etc; are the highly used devices to store information while downloading from the internet. It scores 53.60% as majority of users pick the particular attribute.

The external storage devices like Pen drive, External hard disks, and Memory cards are the latest storage device among the users as these devices are having a tendency of fast downloading, quick accessible, easy installable and user friendly. The other devices are less used in the modern technical era.

TABLE VIII TYPE OF SEARCH USED ON WEB OPAC

SI. No.	Description	Types of search	Percentage
1	Author search	14	13.59
2	Title	15	14.56
3	Sub title	2	1.94
4	Subject	10	9.74
5	Year wise	5	4.85
6	ISBN /ISSN	6	5.82
7	Abstract	4	3.88
8	Publication	9	8.74
9	Call number search	6	5.82
10	Key word search	31	30.09
11	Bibliography	1	0.97
	TOTAL	103	100

The table above describes the types search made in the Web OPAC. Keyword search being the most effective type of search has scored 30.09%. Title and Author search being common search among all, 14.56% and 13.59% users go with Title and Author type search respectively.

OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) is one of the commonly used and latest search technology used in libraries today. It is a search engine to search the materials available inside the library to locate it easily. It is a bibliographic database of the available materials catalogued and provided in a Machine readable form to the users. Now-a-days, the libraries are in a trend to make it available on the web for the users to access it anytime. This Web OPAC is searched by using the above attributes like title, author, subject, etc;

The study has shown that most used attribute in the Web OPAC is the keyword search to find the required material in the library. The second most used attributes are by the title and authors.

VII. CONCLUSION

From the study it is perceived that the library has not attracted the higher cadre of faculties and students like professors and final year students. This may be due to lack of modern communication tools.

The study of the users on the frequency of library visit and the time spent on internet are on a different trend which, shows that the information available on internet is much less than the print materials available in the library. Even though the user perceives that the information available on internet is useful for education, they have not found information on the internet quantitatively for their needs. Hence the above aspects have a different trend in analysis.

The information like reviews, journals, educational information is some of the information accessed more by the internet users. The search engine mostly used by the users is the Google and Yahoo websites to find the above information in the internet. It is suggested that the library may provide a classified portal for the users to access any information in a single click rather make them browse a lot and waste time by using search engines. The storage method and Web OPAC search are common and similar among all users which is observed in the study.

It is concluded with a suggestion to increase a classified collection of e-materials on the internet for the users by implementing modern ICT trends for easy access of information by the users. This may attract more number of users and can create a qualitative library environment to the institute and user society.

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