



A Review of the Research on Internet use in Different Universities

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Abstract—*The purpose of this paper to explore the use of internet in different educational universities by students or faculty members. The popularity of internet usage in educational field has been increased continuously from last few years. This paper reviews the survey of different universities and the methods used for this research. It contains four major sections. First section reviews the introduction of this field. Second section introduces the literature survey and the methods used for this research are described in third section. Last, fourth section includes the conclusion of this research.*

Keywords— *Internet, Universities, Education, Students, Questionnaires*

I. INTRODUCTION

The internet has become the most popular electronic information resource and service in educational field. In all over the world, both students and faculty members like to use internet to support their teaching, learning and research. The internet use is enhanced due to its widespread accessibility within academic institutions, universal. The internet has become important part of student life. Now days, the education has become more easy and interesting with use of internet. From time to time, different surveys have been carried out to find the popularity of internet amongst educational field [6]. Internet is basically an electronic information resource that provides the information regarding every field within seconds. Moreover, many universities provide the facilities of online lectures for the students who are unable to attend regular classes. A research has proven its benefits in educational field. Among the ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies), the internet has been a single major force of change in higher education. Since 1991, and especially with the use of the www browser in 1993, the internet has gradually become the main vehicle of scholarly communication. However, the intensity of internet use varies from individual to individual, institution to institution, and from country to country. At present times most of the students and professionals are educated with the help of interne or media. Generally it is the understandable and usual way to get familiar with new things in daily life. It is well known that internet plays vital role in a person life. Hence we it is necessary to collect a lot of essential knowledge about internet or its associations with other variables particularly in learning context which is important for young generations. Husain Al-Ansari (2003), using several studies, identifies five categories of internet use by faculty members and students as [7]:

- (1) Informational internet use;
- (2) Supplemental internet use;
- (3) Essential internet use;
- (4) Communal internet use; and
- (5) Immersive internet use.

II. INTERNET RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

The most effective communication resources, computers and the Internet, are part of our daily life and have become one of the important tools in the education. The Internet helps transfer information between different points therefore this satiation makes the Internet a very powerful information system. People in different age groups and jobs, students and academicians who do scientific research and prepare projects prefer using the Internet because it is the easiest, fastest, and cheapest ways of accessing necessary information (Cloud, 1989). Even though the Internet is a very important and indispensable source for students, the issue of whether the referenced source is trustworthy and/or credible, has been raised[8]. This is because there is no control on any particular piece of information published through the Web, in opposition to the scientific and professional journals published by the scientific institutions, business world and the organizations known to the public. Additionally, other journals and books issued by commercial organizations do not have a control unit including editors and referees. Many of the sites on the Internet enable anybody to submit any kind of information without being controlled, and many of the sites known as reliable are restricted to open access for commercial purposes or security requirements (IP restriction, membership). This limits the accessibility for students and deprives them of these sites. Figure 1 explains the different resources and their accessibility for the students through the Internet [9].

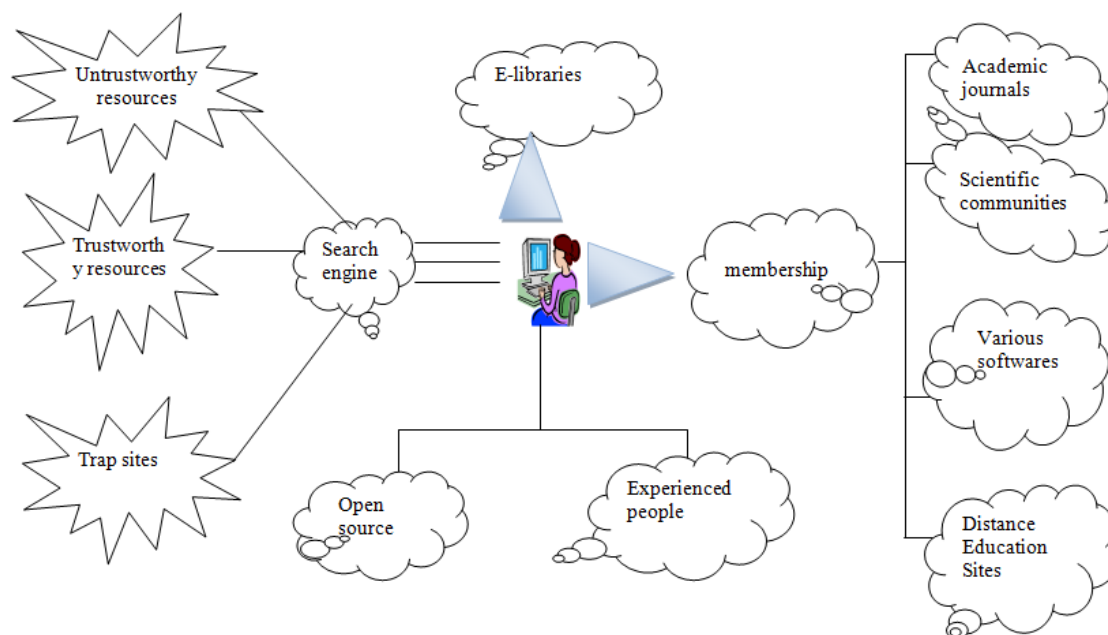


Figure 1. Resource accessibilities for student project

III. LITERATURE SURVEY

Sakina Bashir (2011) carried out a study on Internet Use between University Students of the Punjab, Lahore. The aim of the survey was to analyze the Internet use and behaviour of students while using internet. The results explain that most of the students use internet for course related work/reading and research needs. They use it at the University Digital Lab Unit as well as at their departments. A large number of users have learnt how to access the Internet tools by themselves or depending on aid from friends without attending any official training seminars. Simplicity of work and time reduction are the popular reasons of using Internet among university students. A review of literature explores that faculties and students are the regular users of the Internet. Both of them use the Internet mostly for educational purposes more willingly than for entertainment.

Ani (2010) suggested the amount and level of internet access and the use of electronic resources by students in three Nigerian Universities. Ani's results showed that undergraduate students use the Internet widely. However, usage of the Internet in the library, faculties/departments or university computer/ICT centres was grossly poor. The majority of the users were dependent on private, industrial Internet services/goods and cybercafés.

Ruzgar (2005) studied the reason of the internet usage and learning through internet. It was observed that internet has turn out to be an important part of college/school life and its usage is 100 percent popular amongst students. It was concluded that 36 percent of the students spent one to five hours per week on the Internet. In terms of online activities, sending/receiving e-mail and other data was at the top of the list, followed by reading news and e books or searching sports information, research for college course work, chat, research for goods and services, and downloading or uploading images. Because of their online activities, they give less preference to television and other outdoor activities.

Biradar and others (2006) examine a survey on internet usage by the Student and Teachers in Kuvempu University. The findings indicate that 42.1 % students use internet 2times a week and 31.25% Teachers use it every day. A large amount of students and faculties use Internet for learning/teaching purpose. The popular place for accessing Internet is library and commercial places. A majority of users are fully satisfied with Internet sources and services.

Amritpal Kaur and Rajeev Kumar (2004) conducted a study on the use of internet accessed by students and teachers in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Institute of Engineering and Technology, Ferozepur. They concluded that 46% teachers and 36% students daily use the internet. 90% of students used internet at their college. It is observed that Yahoo is the popular search engine used by them. Only 31.7% respondents were fully satisfied, but 36.7% were not satisfied with internet facilities.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The overall objective of this study was to investigate the patterns of internet use among faculty members and students at various Universities. This was done by different surveys which attempted to elicit answers to the following research questions:

- I. What are the patterns of internet use among academic staff and students?
- II. What are the main purposes for using internet resources?

- III. How does the internet affect research and teaching?
- IV. Which search engines and information resources on the internet are used by these respondents?
- V. What difficulties teachers and students faced when they use the internet?

A perusal of earlier studies on internet use indicates that the questionnaire-based survey has been the most popular method used. Some of these studies have included open-ended questions (Husain, 2001) and selective interviews (Fusayil, 2000) to obtain additional data. Most of the questionnaires used have been paper-based with a few that were web-based (Chu, 2002; Rehman and Ramzy, 2004). It was decided to use a paper-based questionnaire with the feeling that many respondents of this study will not have the capability to handle a web-based instrument. Several relevant studies and a few available questionnaires were used to develop a questionnaire with closed-ended questions. It was divided into two parts: Part I contained questions concerning the demographic characteristics of the respondents and Part II consisted of questions pertaining to frequency and purposes of internet EL 24,6 794 usage, internet facilities, search engines, effect of the internet, problems faced, and training needed. The demographic characteristics of the participants that are used in the questionnaires are given in table 1[10].

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of the Participants

| S. No. | Individual Variables |
|--------|--|
| 1 | <i>Gender Distribution</i> |
| | Male |
| | Female |
| 2 | <i>Age Distribution</i> |
| | 20-30 years |
| | Rest |
| 3 | <i>Students Class</i> |
| | Freshman |
| | Sophomore |
| | Juniors |
| | Seniors |
| 4 | <i>Internet Access Point</i> |
| | From Home |
| | From Dormitory |
| | Other points (School, Internet Cafe etc.) |
| 5 | <i>Internet Access Style</i> |
| | ADSL |
| | Wireless |
| | Cable |
| 6 | <i>University E-Library permission</i> |
| | No |
| | Yes |
| 7 | <i>Academic Resource Access Permission</i> |

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

The main concern of this study is to investigate the diversity, accessibility and reliability of the internet resources used by the inexperienced university students and staff. The overall study shows that internet has become the essential part of education. Using highly accessible internet sites may give fast results but the reliability of those results cannot be ensured. This does not mean that all of these sites give unreliable information, but that these should be carefully reviewed. In future, one of the data mining methods, called classification can be used to find the results of questionnaires. It will make research easy and fast.

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