Internet usage by faculty and students of TITS, Bhiwani, Haryana

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Abstract

The present paper is an output of a study conducted to know the use of internet by faculty and students of Technological Institute of Textile and Sciences (TITS), Bhiwani, Haryana. The data was collected through a structured questionnaire. One hundred seventy one useable questionnaires were received. The data is subjected to Chi-square test. The findings indicate that two-third of the respondents daily use internet and little less than one-third respondents use it twice or thrice a week. About a majority of respondents spent one to five hours a week on internet searching. Most of the respondents use internet in the institute either in the library or in the computer section or in the department. A majority of respondents are often motivated for keeping themselves abreast of latest information. Two-third of the respondents mentioned that they browse the required information on internet through the search engines.

Introduction

The mode of information has been changing since the time immemorial. With the advancement in the Information and Communication Technology it has taken a digital shape. Nowadays, internet is considered as the prime source of every kind of information. Although it is an issue of debate, but still it is true to some extent. Internet comes to the mind of anyone who requires some information at the first instance.

The information may be about some book, journal, Air or train fair and bookings, hotel reservations, biographical detail of a great personality, an image of great personality, geographical information about a place, map of any place, etc. This shows that the intense use of internet in every sphere of life has taken place. The area of Research and Teaching is not an exception to it. The students, researchers and faculty in every discipline nowadays use internet for academic and social purposes. They now search the OPACs available on internet of even foreign libraries like Library of Congress.

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The use of internet in study, research and teaching plays a vital role in the changed environment. The faculty and students of Engineering are also using internet for various purposes. The present study is an attempt to know the use of internet by faculty and students of Technological Institute of Textile and Sciences (TITS), Bhiwani, Haryana.

Objectives

The major objectives of the study are:

To know the degree of internet use by faculty and students of TITS, Bhiwani.

To identify the time devoted for Internet searching.

To study their purpose of using the Internet.

To determine the motivational factors.

To know whether they are able to locate the desired information on Internet.

To assess internet facilities provided by TITS.

To study problems faced by them in using Internet.

Related Literature

Biradar and others (2008)[1] indicated that majority of students used internet twice in a week and 31.25% faculties use it every day. The majority of students as well as faculties use internet for study/ teaching purpose. The

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findings reveal that only yahoo and google are the most popular and widely used search engines. **Asemi (2005)**[2] shows that all the respondents were using the Internet frequently because all faculties were provided connection to the Internet. It was revealed that the researchers of the university were getting quality information through the Internet. Fifty-five percent of the respondents searched for scientific information through the Internet because the university library had provided access to various databases and online journals for all the students and staff. **Mishra, Yadav and Bisht (2005)**[3] revealed that a majority of the students (85.7%) used the Internet. Out of the Internet users 67.7% were male students and 32.3% female students. The findings of the study also showed that 61.5% of the males and 51.6% of the females used Internet for preparing assignments. A majority of the respondents i.e. 83.1% male and 61.3% female respondents indicated that they faced the problem of slow functioning of Internet connection.

Robinson (2005)[4] found that most of the African-American college students (76%) had used the Internet for more than three years. The use of the Internet for most African-American college students occurred at school or at the work place with 49% of the responses at home. 47% of the responses indicated that they spent an average of two hours per day on-line. A small percentage of the students spent 5-6 hours per day on the Internet. 43% of the students used the Internet primarily to learn and find school resources. **Rajeev Kumar and Amritpal Kaur (2004)**[5] indicated that 46.7% teachers and 36.7% students daily use the internet. About 90% respondents use internet at their college. Yahoo is found as the favorite search engine. Only 31.7% respondents were fully satisfied, whereas 36.7% were partially satisfied with internet facilities.

Methodology

To obtain the data from the selected sample, a structured questionnaire was designed. The sample selected for the study included the faculty and students of Technological Institute of Textile and Sciences(TITS), Bhiwani. The questionnaires were distributed among 225 faculty members and students. Out of which as many as 171 filled in useable questionnaires were received back. The data so obtained was coded and analyzed with the help of SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences).

Results

The data pertaining to the various aspects of Internet usage received from the respondents is being analysed under various headings.

Frequency of Internet Use

Use of internet becomes the routine of life now-a-days. The students are expected to use internet frequently. Almost two-third of the respondents daily use internet, little less than on-third use internet twice or thrice a week, only 8 respondents use internet once a week and seven

Table 1. Gender X Frequency of Internet Use

		Daily	2-3 Times a week	Once a week	Once a month	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table value
	Male	75	26	2	3	106	12.326	3	7.81
	Female	30	25	6	4	65			
Total		105	51	8	7	171			

once a month. The calculated value (12.326) of chi-square of Gender X frequency of internet use is higher than the table value (7.81) at 5% probability level for 3 degree of freedom. Hence there is a significant difference among the respondents on the basis of their gender regarding frequency of internet use. .

Time Spent on Internet

About a majority of respondents spent one to five hours a week on internet searching, twenty five respondents spent less than one hour a week, thirty two respondents spent six to ten hours a week, fourteen respondents spent eleven to fifteen hours a week. Only sixteen respondents

spent more than fifteen hours a week on internet searching. The calculated value (8.761) of chi-square of Gender X Weekly time Spent on internet is less than the table value (11.07) at 5% probability level for 5 degree of freedom. Hence null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant difference among the respondents on the basis of their gender regarding time spent on internet.

Table 2. Gender X Weekly Time Spent on Internet

	< 1 hour	1-5 Hrs	6-10 Hrs	11-15 Hrs	16-20 Hrs	> 20 Hrs	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table value
Male	13	49	20	11	4	9	106	8.761	5	11.07
Female	12	35	12	3	3		65			
Total	25	84	32	14	7	9	171			

Purpose of Using Internet

There can be different purposes of internet use for different kind of persons. Some may use internet for chatting, others may use it for e-mails and some others may use it for academic purpose, etc. The use of internet by faculty and students of Technological Institute of Textile and Sciences, Bhiwani is mainly for academic purpose. Sixty one (35.67%) respondents use internet for academic purpose, twenty two (12.87%) for receiving and sending e-mail and eighty seven (50.88%) respondents for all three. Only one respondent use internet for chatting purpose. The calculated value (7.172) of chi-square of Gender X Purpose of internet use is less than the table value (7.81) at 5% probability level for 3 degree of freedom. Hence null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant difference among the respondents on the basis of their gender regarding purpose of internet use.

Table 3. Gender X Purpose of Internet Use

	E-mail	Chatting	Academic	All three	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table value
Male	10		35	61	106	7.172	3	7.81
Female	12	1	26	26	65			
Total	22	1	61	87	171			

Place of Internet Use

In TITS there are various places where faculty and students can use internet facilities. Most of the respondents use internet in the institute either in the library or in the computer section or in the department. The use of internet at cyber café is negligible. Only sixteen respondents use internet at their home. The calculated value (8.708) of chi-square of Gender X Place of internet Use is less than the table value (9.49) at 5% probability level for 4 degree of freedom. Hence null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant difference among the respondents on the basis of their gender regarding place of internet use.

Table 4. Gender X Place of Internet Use

	Library	Computer Section	Deptt.	Home	Cyber cafe	Total	Calculated Value	DF	Table Value
Male	25	55	17	7	2	106	8.708	4	9.49
Female	9	27	16	9	4	65			
Total	34	82	33	16	6	171			

Staff Assessment

The staff in the internet sections of TITS is found cooperative, well informed, well trained and up-to-date. However, less than one fourth respondents think that the staff needs to be further trained.

Table 5. Gender X Staff Assessment

		Well Trained	Well Informed	Up-to-date	Need further training	Total	Calculated Value	DF	Table Value
	Male	29	25	19	33	106	10.080	3	7.81
	Female	20	24	14	7	65			
Total		49	49	33	40	171			

The calculated value (10.08) of chi-square of Gender X Staff Assessment is higher than the table value (7.81) at 5% probability level for 3 degree of freedom. Hence null hypothesis is rejected and there is significant difference among the respondents on the basis of their gender regarding staff assessment. It may be noted that more male respondents as compared to the females feel that the staff needs further training.

Motivational factors

Among the various motivational factors of the internet use the important ones are: To keep abreast of latest information, to develop and maintain contacts, time saving, faster communication, obtaining reprints and sending papers to the conferences/ seminars and journals, etc. A majority of respondents are often motivated for keeping themselves abreast of latest information, eighty one respondents are often motivated for faster communication, seventy six respondents are often motivated for developing and maintaining contacts, and fifty eight are often motivated for time saving. Around one third respondents are moderately motivated for developing and maintaining contacts, time saving, and faster communication. One hundred twenty six respondents are least motivated to use internet for sending the papers, one hundred and seven respondents are least motivated for obtaining the reprints, fifty two respondents are least motivated for time saving and around thirty respondents are least motivated for keeping abreast, developing and maintaining contacts, and faster communication. The calculated value of Gender X Motivational factors is less than the table value at 5% of probability for 2 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant difference among the respondents on the basis of their gender regarding motivational factors.

Table 6. Gender X Motivational Factors

	Least	Moderately	Often	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table Value
Keep abreast	33	43	95	171	.577	2	5.99
Develop/ maintain contacts	34	61	76		1.362		
Time Saving	52	61	58		.616		
Faster communication	30	60	81		.581		
Obtain reprints	107	44	20		4.674		
Send papers	126	32	13		1.364		

47 Internet as Source of Information

Most of the respondents assess the Internet as a Source of information as Excellent and good. Only eleven assess it as satisfactory and two as unsatisfactory. The calculated value (1.62) of Gender X Internet as a Source of Information is less than the table value (7.81) at 5% of probability for 2 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and there is no

significant difference among the respondents on the basis of their gender regarding assessment of internet as a source of information.

Table 7. Gender X Internet as a Source of Information

	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table Value
Male	2	6	22	76	106	1.62	3	7.81
Female		5	15	45	65			
Total	2	11	37	121	171			

Methods of Browsing

Search engines are the programs which search the information available on the web. A number of search engines are available on internet like: rediff, google, yahoo, altavista, etc. If an internet user know the web address of the site which he wishes to visit then he can directly type the address in the address bar. If anyone do not know the address, still no need to worry, search engines are there to help. Two-third of the respondents mentioned that they browse the required information on internet through the search engines, forty-three respondents mentioned that they type the address directly in the address bar. There are only few respondents who use subscription databases, advertisements, catalogues, TV and Radio, etc. Again the calculated value (4.106) of Gender X Methods of Browsing is less than the table value (9.49) at 5% of probability for 4 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant difference.

Table 8. Gender X Methods of Browsing

	Typing address directly	Using subscription databases	Using search engines	Using advt, catalogues, etc	Multimedia means like TV, Radio, etc.	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table Value
Male	30	5	66	4	1	106	4.106	4	9.49
Female	13	1	49	1	1	65			
Total	43	6	115	5	2	171			

Frequently used search Engines

Internet users become habitual of using the same search engine. It depends upon the individual requirements and likeness. The facilities provided by these search engines are more or less same with some technical differences. Three search engines are found frequently being used by faculty and students of TITS, Bhiwani. The most frequently used search engine is google. Almost ninety percent of the respondents frequently use google. Seventeen respondents frequently use yahoo and only one respondent frequently uses rediff. Hence we can say that google is a very popular search engine among the respondents. The calculated value (3.515) of Gender X Frequently used search engines is less than the table value (5.99) at 5% of probability for 2 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant difference.

Table 9. Gender X Frequently Used Search Engines

	Google	Rediff	Yahoo	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table Value
Male	98		8	106	3.515	2	5.99
Female	55	1	9	65			
Total	153	1	17	171			

Locating the Desired Information

The material available on the internet is like a huge sea and searching is a tedious job. Moreover the relevancy of material retrieved is a big issue. However, the users can increase the relevancy by applying certain internet search techniques. Still a vast literature appears when you search even a small topic. Majority of respondents frequently able to locate the desired information on internet, about one third respondents are sometime able to locate the desired information and only eight respondents are rarely able to locate the desired information on internet. The reason for inability of locating the required information may be the complicacy of internet or the lack of expertise of respondents. Interestingly, the calculated value (6.073) of Gender X Ability of Locating the desired Information is higher than the table value (5.99) at 5% of probability for 2 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and there is statistically significant difference among the respondents.

Table 10. Gender X Ability to Locate Desired Information

	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table Value
Male	69	31	6	106	6.073	2	5.99
Female	32	31	2	65			
Total	101	62	8	171			

Working Conditions of Systems

The computer systems and other peripherals installed for internet surfing are amenable to wear and tear. Hence these can sometimes be down or not working. Majority of respondents very frequently and frequently found the systems down.

Table 11. Gender X Functioning of Systems

	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table Value
Male	14	42	33	17	106	.683	3	7.81
Female	6	28	20	11	65			
Total	20	70	53	28	171			

Fifty three respondents mentioned that they occasionally found the systems down and twenty eight respondents rarely found the systems down. In this way we can say that the system maintenance of TITS, Bhiwani have a scope for improvement. The calculated value (.683) of Gender X Functioning of Systems is less than the table value (7.81) at 5% of probability for 3 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant difference.

Speed of Internet

The speed of internet depends upon the bandwidth of the internet service provider and the RAM size of the computer on which internet is being used. However the load on a particular site may also slow down the speed. Speed is an important factor while assessing the services for internet surfing. The faculty and students of TITS, Bhiwani are not satisfied over the speed of internet. Sixty nine respondents assess the speed as medium, fifty four assess it as slow and twenty nine respondents assess the same as very slow. Only nineteen respondents have assessed the speed as fast. Hence there is need for the improvement of speed. It may be noted that the calculated value (11.990) of Gender X Speed of Internet is higher than the table value (7.81) at 5% of probability for 3 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and there is statistically significant difference among the respondents.

Table 12. Gender X Speed of Internet

	Fast	Medium	Slow	Very slow	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table Value
Male	8	38	35	25	106	11.990	3	7.81
Female	11	31	19	4	65			
Total	19	69	54	29	171			

Overall Satisfaction

Majority of respondents are partially satisfied with the overall functioning of internet services, fifty three respondents are least satisfied and only twenty respondents are fully satisfied. The results indicate that there is a need for improvement in the internet services provided by TITS, Bhiwani. As internet is such a powerful source of information in this era of Information Technology, so steps should be taken to improve the services at the earliest. The calculated value (.808) of Gender X Overall Satisfaction is less than the table value (5.99) at 5% of probability for 2 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant difference.

Table 13. Gender X Overall Satisfaction

	Fully	Partially	Least	Total	Calculated value	DF	Table Value
Male	11	60	35	106	.808	2	5.99
Female	9	38	18	65			
Total	20	98	53	171			

Conclusion

Keeping in view the data analysis, we can say that the faculty and students of TITS, Bhiwani frequently use Internet. They spend little time on Internet. The purpose of using Internet is mainly academic. They use Internet in the institute and the use of Internet at home is very low. The staff of Internet sections is cooperative, Well trained, well informed and up-to-date. The main motivational factors for Internet use are keeping abreast of latest information and faster communication. They think that the Internet is an excellent source of information. Most of them browse Internet by using the search engines. Google is the most used search engine. Most of the respondents are able to locate the desired information on Internet. The working condition of the systems is not good and this should be improved immediately. Speed of the Internet also needs to be enhanced. The respondents are not fully satisfied with the overall Internet facilities of TITS, Bhiwani. Hence we can say that with the advancement in the information technology, the institutes of higher learning are required to keep the pace with these advancements. Now-a-days the speed of Internet is no problem and the authorities of TITS have to explore the various options for faster speed.

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