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Internet utilization pattern of post graduate students

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Abstract

Every sphere of the mankind has been touched by internet technologies. The present research study was conducted at Post Graduate Institute Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri District Ahmednagar of Maharashtra, India with an objective to analyze the internet utilization pattern of students for academic work with a sample size of 160 post graduate students from M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees as a respondents. The data were collected stabilized, analyzed and results presented by using statistical tools with ex-post facto research design of social sciences. Majority of the post graduate students (90.00%) accessed Internet services at hostel among them, 84.37 per cent of the respondents preferred night time to access Internet services, more than half of the respondents used the Internet daily among them about 64.37 per cent of the respondents used Internet services more than one hour per day, all the respondents (100.00%) used Google and 63.75 per cent respondents used Google scholar search engines, All the respondents (100.00%) use internet for preparation of seminar and for online payment for academic work, about 79.37 per cent respondents used social media to share research related information, majority of the respondents used internet to prepare midterm/semester end examinations, nearly two third of the respondents (66.25%) were aware about ICAR website, ICAR Agricultural Education Portal, more than three fifth of the respondents (63.12%) used internet for discipline related exams, majority of the respondents (80.62%) used Krishikosh, e-thesis repositories for their research work, majority of the respondents (88.12%) used whatsapp as social media, more than half of the respondents (54.37%) rated Internet as an excellent source for various purposes.

Keywords: internet utilization pattern, post graduate students preference to internet

Introduction

The 21st century is witnessing a technological integration in the world of computers, communication and electronic gadgets in which information processing and transfer are done at incredible speeds with the potential of controlling them from desktops College students are heavy users of the Internet compared to the general population. Use of the Internet is a part of college students' daily routine, in part because they have grown up with computers. It is integrated into their daily communication habits and has become a technology as ordinary as the telephone or television. For most college students the Internet is a functional tool, one that has greatly changed the way they interact with others and with information as they go about their studies. Today's college student will be well prepared to work in a wired world. Virtually all of them will have experience with e-mail and the Web, and most will be familiar with a wide variety of software packages. Many will also be well versed in peer-to-peer file sharing and online collaboration. The Internet therefore has become in a short period of time the medium of the twenty first century in all aspects of life. Looking to the spectacular scope of Internet, the students and faculty of the Post Graduate Institute Mahatma Phule Agricultural University Rahuri have been providing Internet facility to perform triple functions of teaching, research and extension education in effective manner. This facility, for connecting students and faculties with each corner of world, reduces the time lag to a considerable extent. It helps academicians, research workers and students to get quick solutions of their questions and queries. This facility makes possible to keep a live contact among the scientists, academicians, research scholars and students of the university globally. The value and effectiveness of any communication system can be judged through the assessment of involvement of its real users in it. What are the opportunities and limitations of the internet as a tool for education and how can it make a real difference to the development of our great nation and how students are living in the future with today's technology provided the motivation and looking to this aspect, a research project entitled as "Internet Utilization Pattern of Post Graduate Students In Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri" was undertaken with an objective to analyze the internet utilization pattern of students for academic work.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in Post Graduate Institute Mahatma Phule Agricultural University Rahuri a premier institute in the field of agriculture with sample size of 160 Post Graduate Students from M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees as a respondents. The respondents were selected by applying stratified proportionate random sampling technique. An Ex-post facto design of social research was used for the present investigation. To measure the Internet utilization pattern of the Post Graduate students, a schedule was developed with nine indicators, viz. 1) Places of access to Internet; 2) Time of access to Internet 3) Frequency of Internet use; 4) Exposure of search-engines; 5) Purpose of Internet use; 6)Exposure of e-thesis repositories; 7) Exposure of social media; 8) Time of social media use 9)Frequency of social media use; 10) Rating of Internet sources. A well-structured interview schedule designed for study was used for collecting the data from respondents through personal interview method. The data collected were edited, tabulated and analyzed using statistical measures such as frequency, percentage, range, mean, standard deviation and coefficient of correlation.

Results and Discussions

The results depicted in Table 1 found that, majority (90.00%) of the Post Graduate Students from M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees accessed Internet services at hostel among them, 84.37 per cent of the respondents preferred night time to access Internet services), more than half of the respondents used the Internet daily, among them about 64.37 per cent of the respondents used Internet services more than one hour per day, all the respondents (100.00%) used Google and 63.75 per cent respondents used Google Scholar search engines, All the respondents (100.00%) use internet for preparation of seminar and for online payment for academic work, about 79.37 per cent respondents used social media to share research related information, majority of the respondents used internet to prepare midterm/semester end examinations, nearly two third of the respondents (66.25%) were aware about ICAR website, ICAR Agricultural Education Portal, more than three fifth of the respondents (63.12%) used internet for discipline related exams, majority of the respondents (80.62%) used Krishikosh e- thesis repositories for their research work, majority of the respondents (88.12%) used whatsapp as social media, more than half of the respondents (54.37%) rated Internet as an excellent source for various purposes.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their Internet utilization pattern.

Sr. No.	Components	Categories	Frequency (n=160)	Percentage
1	Places of access To Internet	Hostel	144	90.00
		Library	121	75.62
		Department	80	50.00
		Cyber Cafe	30	18.75
		Other	06	03.75
2	Time of access to Internet	Morning	26	16.25
		Afternoon	57	35.62
		Evening	23	14.37
		Night	135	84.37
3	Frequency of Internet Use	Daily	103	64.38
		1-2days	10	06.25
		2-3 days	13	08.13
		3-5 days	09	05.62
		>5days	25	15.62
4	Exposure to various Search-Engine	Google	160	100.00
		Yahoo	26	16.25
		Google Scholar	102	63.75
5	Purpose of Internet use	1. Specific website to access e-resources	107	66.87
		a) For surfing to collect research topic information	101	63.12
		b) For downloading research material (pdf, videos, images)	74	46.25
		c) For getting current information.	85	53.12
		2. Preparation of discipline related exams.	101	63.12
		a) For searching syllabus, exam pattern.	84	52.50
		b) For downloading previous question papers.	69	43.12
		c) For watching videos, pdf, related to subject.	23	14.37
		d) For general information)	49	30.62
		3. To submit online research papers.	12	07.50
		4. Registration for e-learning courses.	55	34.37
		a) To update knowledge	46	28.75
		b) Getting information about various concepts.	21	13.12
		5. Preparation for seminar.	160	100.00
		a) For searching research papers, articles related to seminar topic	87	54.37
		b) For downloading pdf, ppt, images, related to topic	69	43.12
		c) For current information regarding the topic.	109	68.12
		6. To Prepare poster/paper for the conference.	38	23.75
		7. MPKV website.	132	82.50
		a) About MPKV information	83	51.87
b) Different publications and new technologies	44	27.50		
c) For admission process.	59	36.87		
8. ICAR website	102	63.75		

		a) SRF, JRF exam information	86	53.75
		b) Ongoing activities.	54	33.75
		9. ICAR Agril. Education Portal	106	66.25
		a) For fellowship information.	71	44.37
		b) Academic related information.	75	46.87
		10. E-journal for research work.	93	58.12
		a) For searching research papers related to topic.	80	50.00
		b) For downloading articles related to topic.	49	30.62
		11. Digi-locker facility.	39	24.37
		a) For storage of e-documents.	28	17.50
		12. E-thesis repository.	160	100.00
		a) For searching of articles, research papers.	89	55.62
		b) For searching of previous thesis related to study.	129	80.62
		13. Online payment for academic work.	160	100.00
		a) For admission process.	160	100.00
		b) For paying of different exams fees.	101	66.87
		14. Maha-DBT portal for Scholarship	112	70.00
		15. Social media to share research related information.	127	79.37
		16. Preparation of mid-term/semester end examination.	117	73.12
		17. Preparation of assignment.	109	68.12
6	Use of e-Thesis repositories	Krishikosh	129	80.62
		Krishiprabha	19	11.87
		Shodhganga	42	26.25
		J-gate	101	63.12
7	Exposure to Social Media	Whatsapp	141	88.12
		Facebook	112	70.00
		Telegram	72	45.00
		Instagram	25	15.62
8	Time of Social Media Use	Morning	26	16.25
		Afternoon	57	35.62
		Evening	23	14.37
		Night	135	84.37
9	Frequency of Social Media use	Daily	104	65.00
		1-2days	19	11.87
		2-3 days	17	10.63
		3-5 days	7	4.38
		>5days	13	8.12
10	Rating to Internet sources	Excellent	87	54.37
		Good	56	35.00
		Poor	17	10.63
		Very Poor	0	0.00

These research findings are in line with the Anasi (2006) ^[1], Unnikrishnan *et al.* (2008) ^[4], Loan (2011) ^[2] and Mostofa (2011) ^[3].

Conclusions

From the research findings it is concluded that there is need to organize awareness programme for motivating the students for submission of online research papers and the updated technologies about latest educational and agricultural websites. It was revealed that majority of the students were using whatsapp and spending more than one hour daily. This social media can be used for academic improvement of students. Each department should prepare their own whatsapp group for sending subject wise assignments notices, group discussion, group research project and other departmental updates.

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