# USE OF INTERNET TECHNOLOGY BY ENGINEERING AND MEDICAL COLLEGE TEACHING FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN BIJAPUR: A STUDY

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper highlights the perceptions of Internet use among academic community in Engineering and Medical colleges in Bijapur and determines the various information resources and services of internet used by the teaching faculty and students of Engineering and Medical Colleges. Results are reported and discussed the various issues of the Internet as an information source.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Internet, Medical College Libraries, User study*

## INTRODUCTION

As we are moving towards the new millennium, Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) has emerged as the most prominent technology to have a revolutionary effect on the lives of people across the world, becoming the engines of human and economic development. During this period, Indian engineers and scientists have earned a high degree of esteem around the world for their highly professional and innovative contribution to the technological advancements in this field.

The internet has been viewed as a valuable source of information that can assist students in the pursuance of knowledge, learning, research and increasing their capacity for social interaction. Internet is seen to promote inquiry and creativity through interaction of various forms of knowledge such as text, multimedia, graphics, photos, music, video, sound animation etc. (Karisiddappa, 2002) in this context, it is rightly said – The sun can only shine on half of the globe at a time, while Internet delivered education can cover entire globe and around the clock with knowledge (Kostopoulos, 1998).

The Internet is the world's largest network of information, communication, and services. The library and information science research community has carried out a substantial body of work examining health professional's information needs, information seeking and use (Gorman, 1995), among health professionals, Physicians seek health information for various reasons: the need to obtain answers to patient-specific questions and to keep abreast of developments in clinical medicine and however, with the increase in the pace of health care research.

Internet telecommunication network serves as a source of medical information. It details the medical resources available outlining databases, bulletin boards, discussion groups, electronic newsletters software archives, and online public access catalogues on the web and describes how to gain access to the network and interfaces that can help

navigation throughout it (Kleeberg, 1993). A research study was conducted at the Drug Use Policy and Medical Information Service of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Pennsylvania, of Industry and academic based drug information centers to examine the use of Internet-based resources, A total of 464 surveys were sent, with a response rate or 29 per cent. Medical information specialists in industry and academic based drug information centers use the Internet daily. Most have access to electronic mail and the WWW, less than 25 per cent provided a homepage and Internet usage in many centers has increased from the precious year (Johnson and Wordell, 1998).

The majority of German Medical professionals used electronic mail, the World Wide Web, and Internet sources based in the USA and respondents claimed advantages from Internet use. There was a clearly expressed need for Internet courses as well as evaluation and presentation of internet sources. A majority of respondents wanted the librarians to provide Internet-related services. A follow-up survey in 1996 suggested a trend towards a more re realistic view among medical Internet users that incorporated expected benefits and advantages from the internet (Obst 1998). The Internet provides access to bibliographic information sources and allows electronic mail between individuals or special interest groups. The following factors within the institution must be considered when a library becomes involved in promoting the Internet: the computing environment, existing and potential use and awareness-raising and training (Kitagawa, 1994).

The use of electronic information services at Indian Institute of Technology Library, Delhi, found that 77.87 per cent of respondents are well aware of Internet service extended in the library and majority of them are using for communication – E-mail, Chat (35.35%) and study/research purpose (36.37%). Similarly, 71.72 per cent of respondents is satisfied with the Internet service extended by the library and 3.03 per cent are not satisfied, while 25.25 per cent of respondents remained silent (Ali and Hassan, 2003). Majority of users at Chennai were engineers belonging to the age group of 21 – 40 years the most popular Internet services uses were e-mail and WWW. The female group of users uses it more than the male group and almost all of them use the Internet for sending e-mails(100%), getting required information (93%) and obtaining news and publishing information (Rameshbabu and Gopal Krishnan, 1998).

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To examine the level of internet literacy among teaching faculty and students of Engineering and Medical Colleges,

- To understand the opinion of teaching faculty and students of Engineering and Medical colleges about Internet technology in pursuance of their academic and research endeavor,

- To identify the usefulness of Internet among teaching faculty and students of Engineering and Medical colleges in carrying out their educational and research activities,

- To determine the various information resources and services of internet used by the teaching faculty and students of Engineering and Medical colleges,

- To identify the awareness and use of e-resources available under national consortia by the teaching faculty and students of Engineering and Medical colleges,

- To understand the methods adopted by the teaching faculty and students in searching information on the Internet and their level of satisfaction,

- To elicit the opinion of the teaching faculty and students towards the role of library staff in extending support and training in utilizing the Internet service and

- To highlight the problems/complexities faced by the teaching faculty and students of Engineering and Medical colleges in using the Internet.

## METHODOLOGY

The type of research work has enabled to adopt Survey method for eliciting the information directly from the teaching faculty and students of Engineering and Medical colleges of Bijapur city. Questionnaires were used to collect research data from the target group, while interview method was also employed to collect research data, especially from the senior teaching faculty members due to their busy schedule. It is clear from the table that, a total of 267 questionnaires were distributed to the students and teaching faculty members of two engineering and medical colleges, out of which 225 questionnaires were duly filled and received with a response rate of 84.2%

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Table 1: Designation-Wise Distribution of the Respondents**

| Designation | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valid | Student | 129 | 57.3 | 57.3 |
| | Teaching Faculty | 96 | 42.7 | 42.7 |
| | **Total** | **225** | **100.0** | **100.0** |

It is found that in the table, more than half (58.3%) of the respondents covered in the study are students, while 42.7% of the respond ants are teaching faculty from engineering and medical colleges in Bijapur. Thus the majority of the respondents covered in the study are students.

**Table 2: Age-Wise Distribution of the Respondents**

| | Age | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valid | Below 30 Years | 141 | 62.7 | 62.7 | 62.7 |
| | 31-40 Years | 34 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 77.8 |
| | 41-50 Years | 22 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 87.6 |
| | 51 Years and above | 28 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 100.0 |
| | **Total** | **225** | **100.0** | **100.0** | |

It is observed in the table that, 62.7% of the respondents are under the age group of below – 30years, where 15.1% of the respondents are in the age group of between 31 to 40 years, 9.8% of the respondents are under the age of 41 to 50 years, and 12.4% of the respondents are under the age of 51 and above. Thus the majority of the respondents are under the age of below 30 years.

**Table 3: Frequency of using the Internet**

| Frequency of use of Internet | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valid | Daily | 97 | 43.1 | 43.1 | 43.1 |
| | Weekly | 94 | 41.8 | 41.8 | 84.9 |
| | Fortnightly | 4 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 86.7 |
| | Sometimes | 30 | 13.3 | 13.3 | 100.0 |
| | **Total** | **225** | **100.0** | **100.0** | |

As seen from the table 3, 43.1% and 41.8% of the respondents are using Internet daily and weekly respectively, However, just 1.8% and 13.3% of the respondents are using Internet fortnightly and sometimes for their academic and research endeavor.

**Table 4: Purpose of using the Internet**

| Purpose of Using Internet | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Accessing academic/ Research information | 161 | 71.6 |
| To support Lesson Plans/course materials | 140 | 62.2 |
| Research/Project | 116 | 51.6 |
| For Communication | 128 | 56.9 |
| Accessing e-journals Under Consortia | 67 | 29.8 |
| Accessing online Databases | 79 | 35.1 |

As seen from the Table 4, the main purpose of using Internet are accessing academic/ research information (71.6%), to support Less Plans/ course material (62.2%), Research/Project (51.6%), for communication (56.9%), accessing e-journals under Consortia (29.8%) and accessing online database (35.1%).

**Table 5: Preferred Publishers of E-Journal/Databases Accessed under Helnet/INDEST Consortia**

| E-Journals/Databases | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Ovid Biomedical Collection | 80 | 35.5 |
| Lippincott, Williams And Wilkins | 78 | 34.6 |
| Science Direct | 94 | 41.7 |
| Annual Reviews in Medical Sciences | 88 | 39.1 |
| JCCC – J Gate | 44 | 19.5 |
| MEDLINE | 77 | 34.2 |
| TEL Online | 80 | 35.5 |
| Springer's Link | 91 | 40.4 |
| ASTP(UMI) | 71 | 31.5 |
| ACM Digital Library | 89 | 39.5 |

The preferred publishers of e- journal / databases accessed under HELNET/INDEST Consortia are Ovid Biomedical Collection (35.5%), Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins (34.6%), Science Direct (41.7%), Annual Reviews in

Medical Sciences (39.1%), JCCC – J Gate (19.5%), MEDLINE (34.2%), TEL online (35.5%), Springer's Link (40.4%), ASTP (UMI) (31.5%) and ACM Digital Library (39.5%).

## CONCLUSIONS

The ultimate aim of the Library in extending Internet service is to provide public access to the Internet to fulfill its mission to preserve and promote universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, experience, information and ideas to support their academic and research endeavor. Developing an Internet Use policy approved by the Board and posting the policy online and in library branches; developing consistent booking guidelines for Internet computers to facilitate equity of access for customers; providing training to staff on managing Internet services; restriction the use of e-mail and chat to specific workstations. A library is to provide the Internet service in a responsible and balanced manner and ha to b diligent in developing training and content which recognizes the particular importance of helping users in accessing important information resource appropriately. In order to ensure that this approach is continued, the library staff should be more competent to technically to manage the network and avoid dependency on others; and also to impart user education for optimum utilization of Internet by means of users training including library staff training and also to develop Internet Use Policy. More importantly, the Library has to create an atmosphere and impression that, the Internet is an integral part of Library service and none else in the university environment, with their commitment, dedication, technical skill, and personalized service.

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