Internet Use Among the Rural Girl Students: A Case Study

A.Duraisingam[1] , S.Nattar[2] and D. Alex[3]

[1]Librarian, Arul Anandar College, Karumathur. Tamil Nadu, India
[2]Librarian, Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu Memorial College, Sattur, Tamil Nadu, India
[3]Research Scholar, M.S.University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India
Email: duraisingam65@gmail.com, nattarwinsall@gmail.com, Antonyalex79@yahoo.com

Abstract - We are living in a knowledge society. The growth of information has been increasing exponentially. Information is available in a variety of formats viz Microforms CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, E-books, E-journals and Internet, etc. Now-a-days Internet play a vital role in providing large amount of information on various disciplines. The e-journals, e-books and e-database available in web are thus considered as the most important resources for information professionals. This study focuses on the use pattern of Internet by the rural girl students of Arul Anandar College, Karumathur, Madurai.

Keywords: Internet, e - book, Arul Anandar College, search engines, e-journals, rural girls.

I.INTRODUCTION

The emergence of internet and its WWW (World Wide Web) has given a new face-lift to the information systems and services. Some of the outstanding and valuable digital resources are freely available on internet. The popularity and ease in use of WWW has lured most of the reputed publishers to host their products on web which is now rapidly giving way to the global network information environment, exemplified today by the internet. Internet has brought about a new academic culture of outstanding and cooperation. It can be dovetailed to the library system to reap the benefits of information resources held by internet.

Internet has emerged as the most powerful medium for storage and retrieval of information. It works round the clock and connects every nook and corner of the globe. With an unprecedented growth in the quantum of knowledge worldwide and the easy accessibility, internet has become an unavoidable necessity for every institution on higher learning and research.

II.ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE RURAL GIRL STUDENTS

Arul Anandar College (Autonomous) is one of the constituent colleges under the jurisdiction of the Jesuit Madurai Province of the Society of Jesus. The Jesuit management has also opened the doors of this institution to girl students at U.G. level from 2001 onwards. The majority of the girl student's population comes from the rural and first educator of her family. So the management ensures optimum utilization of facilities, promoting IT based knowledge for the rural girl student's particularly for the weaker sections of the society in the MBC and the Scheduled Castes girls. The main purpose of this study is to identify the use of internet, internet knowledge, search knowledge and how to improve the IT knowledge to the rural girl students.

Features of Internet:

   a. Quick dissemination of information
   b. Greater efficiency in transmitting information
   c. Saving cost and time of users
   d. Access to variety of contents
   e. Remote and multiple accesses
   f. Sharing resources
   g. Internet – operability
   h. Accessibility e-journals and e- books
   i. Mail accessibility
   j. Quick communication transmitting
   k. Video, Photo's and other image files also available in the internet.

III.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study has the following aims and objectives

1. To Identity the usage of internet particularly by rural girl students.
2. To identify the various sources adopted for learning internet.
3. To ascertain the frequency of using internet.
4. To indicate the most frequently used search engines for browsing information through internet.
5. To find out the different categories of information access from internet.
6. To find out the level of satisfaction with the internet service.
7. To ascertain the problems normally encountered in using internet.
8. To indicate the basic purpose of using internet.
9. To ascertain the use of different browsers by the respondents
10. To study the effectiveness of internet service at Arul Anandar College.
11. To analysis the users satisfaction about the internet service

IV.PREVIOUS STUDIES

Margam Madhusudhan[1] studied the internet use by Research scholars in Delhi University found that

1. The internet facility has enabled the research scholars to enhance their academic excellence
2. Majority of the scholars use the internet daily for their academic purpose
3. Google is the most favorite search engine used
4. majority of the scholars use basic search with key word search

Luambano and Nave[2] analysed the internet use by the students of University of Dar Es Salaam and revealed that many students do not use internet due to the non availability of adequate computers with internet facility, internet skills and slow internet speed. Also it was found that most students did not use internet for academic purpose.

V.METHODOLOGY

In the present study, questionnaire method was adopted to collect information from the respondents. Keeping the well-defined objective of the present investigation, a well structured questionnaire was prepared and the same was distributed to the respondents in person followed by observation and interview with respondents as and when necessary. A total 100 questionnaires were distributed among the rural girl students of Arul Anandar College, Karumathur and 80 filled questionnaires were received back. Then, the filled questionnaires were analyzed.

VI.LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The number of respondents taken as sample is very limited.
2. The number of respondents had taken only rural girl students.
3. The sampling taken by only internet knowledge based rural girl students.

VII.ANALYSIS OF DATA

TABLE 1 EXPERIENCE OF INTERNET USE

S.No.	Period of Experience	No. of user	Percentage
1	Less than 6 Month	32	40
2	6 month – One year	18	22.5
3	1 – 2 year	22	27.5
4	2 – 4 year	8	10
		80	100

Among the respondents, majority (40%) are novices in the use of internet while 27.5 per cent have nearly 2 years experience. From the table 1 it can be found that the nearly two third of rural girl students of Arulanandar college have internet experience less than one year. This evidences the fact that Indians from rural areas have just started to enter into new information technology.

TABLE 2 FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE:

S.No.	Frequency of internet use	No. of user	Percentage
1	Daily	16	19
2	2- 3 times a week	30	36
3	2 -3 times as month	10	16
4	Once in a month	24	29
		80	100

Table 1 shows that the rural girl students have less experience in internet use and this is confirmed in Table 2 which shows that those using internet daily is only 19 per cent. There are 29 per cent of the respondents who use internet once in a month. Also 36 per cent of the respondents use internet 2-3 times a week. This shows their meager interest in using internet.

TABLE 3 TIME SPENT ON INTERNET

S.No	Time spent on the internet	No. of user	Percentage
1	Less than One hour a week	40	50
2	2 – 4 hours a week	28	35
3	5 – 6 hours a week	8	10
4	7 – 9 hours a week	2	2.5
5	10–20 hours a week	2	2.5

Table 3 attests the message shown in table 2, That is the internet use is very less and more students use internet for less than a hour. Only a negligible per cent of the students use internet for more than 7 hours in a week.

TABLE 4 LOCATION OF INTERNET USE

S.No.	Location of internet use	No. of user	Percentage
1	College	52	65
2	Home	8	10
3	Other place	20	25

Though internet facility is available in the college, the students use internet from their home and other places like browsing centres also. But the use of internet in the college is more as accepted by 65 per cent of the respondents (Table 7).

TABLE 5 METHODS OF LEARNING INTERNET SKILLS

S.No.	Methods of learning	No. of user	Percentage
1	Trial and error method	20	25
2	Guidance from friends	44	55
3	Training from college	24	30
4	Self	22	27.5
5	External course	30	37.5
		20	25

Majority of the students learn internet skills by getting guidance from their friends (55%) and by doing courses outside the college(37.5%). Only 30 per cent of the students learn internet from the training given in the college(30%). This shows that the training programmes for internet conducted in Arulanandar college are not convenient for the girl students.

TABLE 6 PURPOSE OF USING INTERNET

Sl.No	Purpose of using Internet	No. of User	Percentage
1	Searching for information	72	90
2	Communication Purpose	34	42.5
3	Sending & Receiving the documents	40	50
4	Getting materials	28	35
5	Information regarding meeting & Conference	6	7.5
6	Reading news paper and Magazine	30	37.5
7	Downloading	14	17.5
8	Entertainmet	28	35
9	Shopping	16	20
10	Research	18	15

Though the internet usage is less among the rural girl students of Arulanandar college, their main purpose of using internet is for searching information(90%). The other purposes are sending and receiving documents(50%) and communication purpose(42.5%). Some students use internet for reading news papers and magazines(37.5%). Only a few use it for research.

TABLE 7 SEARCH ENGINES USED

Sl.No	Search Engines	No. of users	Percentage
1	Google	66	75
2	Yahoo	18	22.5
3	MSN	2	2.5
		80	100

Among the search engines used for locating information, the Google is the most preferred one as identified by 75 per cent of the rural girl students of Arulandar college.

TABLE 8 SEARCHING TECHNIQUES

S.No.	Search Techniques	No. of users	Percentage
1	Basic Search	80	100
2	Boolean search	8	10
3	Phrase search	8	10
4	Field search	6	7.5
5	Title search	4	5

Since all the rural girl students are novices in the use of internet, all of them use basic search for locating information on the internet. Only a few use Boolean search, phrase search and field search. This indicates that they should be well educated in using the internet.

TABLE 9 SATISFACTION WITH INTERNET FACILITIES

S.No.	Mode of satisfaction	No. of user	Percentage
1	Fully	62	77.5
2	Partially	10	12.5
3	Least Satisfied	6	7.5
4	No comments	2	2.5
		80	100

Majority of the students (77.5^) are fully satisfied with the facilities of the internet. Only a few are least satisfied (7.5%) with the Internet facilities.

VIII. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The study brought forth the following findings:
1. Nearly two third of rural girl students of Arulanandar college have internet experience less than one year. This evidences the fact that Indians from rural areas have just started to enter into new information technology.
2. Those students who use internet daily is only 19 per cent. This shows their meager interest in using internet.
3. The internet use is very less and more students use internet for less than a hour. Only a negligible per cent of the students use internet for more than 7 hours in a week.
4. The use of internet in the college is more than that of outside the campus.
5. Majority of the students learn internet skills by getting guidance from their friends
6. Though the internet usage is less among the rural girl students of Arulanandar college, their main purpose of using internet is for searching information. Only a few use it for research.
7. Google is the most preferred search engine for rural girl students of Arulandar college.
8. Since all the rural girl students are novices in the use of internet, all of them use basic search for locating information on the internet. Only a few use Boolean search, phrase search and field search.

This indicates that they should be well educated in using the internet.

The results of the study warrants for proper training in the use of internet to the students of Arulanandar college, Karumathur. Also, awareness programmes have to be conducted by the library to the students to create interest among the students in getting information from the Internet.

REFERENCES

[1] Margam Madhusudhan. Internet Use by Research Scholars in University of Delhi, India. LIBRARY HI TECH NEWS Number 8 2007, pp. 36-42.

[2] Luambano, Ireneus and Nave, Julita. Internet use by students of University of Dar Es Salaam. HI TECH NEWS Number 10 2004, pp. 13-17.

[3] Adika, G. (2003), ''Internet use among faculty members of universities in Ghana'', Library Review, Vol. 52 No. 1, pp. 29-37.

[4] Adomi, E.E., Omodeko, F.S. and Otolo, P.U. (2004), ''The use of cyber cafe at Delta State University, Nigeria'', Library Hi Tech, Vol. 22 No. 4, pp. 38-85.

[5] Mahajan, P. (2006), ''Internet use by researchers: a study of Punjab University, Chandigarh'', Library Philosophy and Practice, Vol. 8 No. 2, available at: www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/mahajan2.htm   (accessed 25 July 2007).