

Internet and Electronic Resources Usage at Sri Siddhartha Medical College

Library, Tumkur: A Survey

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Abstract

The present study is of descriptive in nature using normative survey. This is an assessment study that describes the extent of status of the parameters prevailed in the study environment. The researcher has chosen data collection methods thorough structured questionnaire survey and observation. A pilot study was made and the findings were used to modify and refine the data collection tool. In this study an attempt is being made to highlight the access to Internet-based information services in the Sri Siddhartha Medical College Library, Tumkur.

Keywords: Search Engine usage, internet access, E resources

Introduction:

E-resources is very much evident right from the day of existence of libraries, that libraries are providing abandoned and varied information on different areas of subjects on and all who visit it. The internet has undergone rapid development, with significant impact on social life and on modes of communication. In recent years, the rapid development of technologies led to the emergence of an array of new forms of sources, such as online communities, social sites and social networking sites, where consumers share information and personal stories and construct knowledge.

Since past few years' information have begun to appear on the internet. As a result Librarian and information specialists from all over the world have started to evaluate electronic information

resources of data applying standards tools both different and the same as those used for print data. The main intension is to achieve the highest quality of access and information throughout the World Wide Web virtual library unfortunately; ultimate standards have yet to be agreed, even though some criteria do already exist.

It has not been possible to adapt traditional evaluation criteria because the very newness itself of electronic resources demands new standards. The internet carries both non-professional and professional information. There is distinct difference between a site and a database. An internet site can be any URL in the internet, which contains a document, a collection of data or just an index to some sources gathered by some good-hearted persons. The concept of electronic resources is regarded as the mines of information that are explored through modern ICT devices, refined and redesigned and more often stored in the cyber space in the most concrete and compact form and can be accessed simultaneously from infinite points by a grate number of audience.

About the Sri Siddhartha Education Society

Sri Siddhartha Education Society (S S E S) was founded by late Sri H M Gangadhariah also the founder secretary of the society, with the blessings of saint and seer, the father of “Bhoodan movement” Sri Vinobha Bhave in 1959, has made a leap in the field of education. The Society which started as a residential school in a village near tumkur then established several nursery, primary and high schools including Pali schools in the later years. It further expanded its domain to Technical, Medical and Dental Education. Today the total number of institutions runs by the Society crosses 85 with a total students strength of more than 16000 and staff strength 1800. The main objective of the society is to “REACH THE UNREACHED” in the field of Education.

Sri Siddhartha has grown to be the hub of higher education with excellent teaching facilities and highly qualified and experienced teaching faculty. With diversified professional courses, the range of subjects is wide giving a good choice to the students seeking admission here.

Leadership always plays a vital role in this process and was carefully nurtured. The Society is fortunate enough to have two illustrious sons of the founder who are equally zealous and committed to the founder’s goals. Dr. G. Shivaprasad, an eminent Ophthalmologist, is the Secretary and Dr.G.Parameshwara a reputed agriculture Scientist is the Joint Secretary of the Society.

About Medical College

Sree Siddhartha Medical College (SSMC) was started in the year 1988 by Sree Siddhartha Educational Society (SSES). The Medical College and hospital is located in the outskirts of Tumkur city – 6 km from the city amidst green field in a vast campus of 220 acres of the side of Bangalore – Honnavar national highway and it is just 76 Km from Bangalore city connected by road and railway.

The climate is similar to Bangalore. There are 21 buildings with built-in area of about 73,875 sq. mt at the cost of about Rs. 20 crores, which include furnished quarters for staffs. There are separate buildings for pre and para-clinical departments, library and information center and SSMC Hospital.

SSMC Library:

The central library has a separate building with a built in area of 12600 Sq.Ft. It has grown along with the institution. It has a ground floor and 1st floor and can accommodate 200 students at a time. Student's friendly chief librarian and his team are always there to help the students. In Library both Indian and foreign journals and thousands of reference books are available. A new digital library is incorporated which is connected to Rajiv Gandhi university of Health Science library. Through this staff and students of SSMC can access all the facilities of digital library of Health University. Internet Connection has been provided and through which the students and staffs can access the websites of all the premier institutions, journals and this has changed the method of teaching and learning.

Objective of the study:

- To examine information seeking behavior of post graduate in the dentistry in the IT environment in SSMC.
- To determine the types of information used by them.
- To understand and analyze the use of information technology in information seeking
- To explore the students' awareness regarding IT based resources and services in the library.

Research Methodology

The survey method was selected for data collection through questionnaire. The survey collected information on the PG students' knowledge of computer, use of online databases and library e-resources. The author designed a questionnaire to determine both the knowledge and use of e-resources among PG students.

Data Analysis:

Questionnaires distributed	Responses received	Percentage.
40	33	91.25

Totally 40 questionnaires distributed and 33 were received back and the response rate is 91.25%.

The preference towards channels of information seeking: there are many possible delivery channels that can be used for seeking information. To study the different channels of information such as internet, library, friends, conferences, librarian etc., respondents were asked to mention their preferred channels for information and is represented in the following table.

Sl.No.	Channels/ Modes of Information seeking	Respondents	Percentage	Ranking
01	Search the internet	58	79.5	01
02	Browse the library	45	61.6	02
03	Consult teachers/friends	30	41	03
04	Attending conferences	25	34.2	04
05	Consult the Librarian	09	12.3	05
06	Others	02	2.7	06

1. From the above table it is established that this being the era information technology a majority(79.5%) of the respondents prefer the internet as their main channel for seeking information, since it provides the users advanced, updated information related to their filed of interest at a fast pace.
2. The traditional method seeking information through the library is not lagging behind since 61.6% respondents prefer their mode of information seeking thought the library.

Purpose of Information Seeking:

There may be different intentions for any user to look for information such as, for updating knowledge, for examination purpose, for research and for writing and presenting paper. Hence to study these respondents were asked their reasons for seeing information and the results are shown in the following table

Sl.No.	Purpose	Respondents	Percentage	Ranking
01	For updated medical information	56	77	1
02	For preparing exams	45	62	2
03	For conference	35	47.9	3
04	For doing research work	27	37	4

Computer and Internet Knowledge

The use of computers and internet by the people in all walks of life is increasing day by day. The internet plays a vital role in accessing information resources. This is reflected by the steady increase in the use of computers and the internet in teaching and learning. The evolving nature of dental knowledge and technology requires dental students to develop computer skills. To study the computer and internet literacy of the respondents, they were asked to judge whether they are computer literate or not, and the findings are given in the table.

Sl. No.	Conversant with computers	Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	67	91.7
2	No	6	8.2

Use of Internet

Internet is a global network connection millions of computers. The internet can provide opportunities for inquiry-based learning. Students and teachers can network, study, and work together with others around the world teaching strategies can be shared through communication with other educators and may be added across the curriculum. Hence the respondents were asked whether they use the internet for their information need and their responses are given in the table

Sl. No.	Use of Internet	Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	68	92.5
2	No	5	7.5

According to the above table vast majority of respondents use of internet (92.5%) and few respondents (7.5%) don't use the internet. This shows that most of the respondents are computer literates and they use internet to keep up to date with most recent developments in their field because information resources, such as medical product information, continuing education resources, online supply catalogs and reference information, have made the World Wide Web increasingly accepted in dentistry. Medical college and research community publish academic information primarily, while practicing Doctor's recommend patient education material and information about their practices. The author interviewed few of the respondents and made an attempt to know the reasons for not using the internet by 7.5% of the respondents. It was found that the main reasons are lack of interest and confidence, lack of computers, high cost of computers and software and also lack of computer education etc. therefore it is recommended that librarians should provide computer and internet facilities in their libraries.

Purpose of Internet Use

There may be different purposes for the use of internet such as education, communication, entertainment, research news, and sports.

Sl. no.	Purpose	Respondents	Percentage	Ranking
01	Education	59	80.8	1
02	Research	34	46.5	2
03	News/communication	30	41	3
04	Entertainment	28	38.3	4
05	Sports	8	10.9	5

The above table reveals that the student's main purpose to use the internet is mainly for education (80.8%)

Place of Availing the Facility of Internet:

As use of the internet becomes more interesting and more essential to dental students, an increasing number are using several locations to go online and significant numbers are moving beyond the tradition places of access-home and work. Hence to study the places such as home, library and internet café form where the respondents would like to use the internet, it was asked form where they would prefer to use the internet and their responses are mentioned in the following table

Sl. no.	Place	Respondents	Percentage	Ranking
01	Home/hostel	60	82.1	1
02	Library	17	23.2	2
03	Internet café	2	2.8	3
	Total	73	100%	

Form the above table of maximum users are using internet at their places (82.1).

The reason behind preferring to use internet at home hostel might be because students can access internet through their laptops even after college/ library hours since each student is issued a laptop during their admission time.

Summary and Findings

- It is found that majority of the respondents didn't have their email accounts and they are also not aware of the facility and services available on internet.
- More number (92%) of students using www.
- Nearly 65% of the population is accessing full text article.
- Fifty six percent of the population has experience of computer course.
- Majority of the population that 88% are using internet for the purpose of Education.
- Eighty two percent of the population used internet in their hostel/home.

Conclusion

Through the application of information technologies, have been created for cataloging, indexing, information retrieval, reference, and other purposes; however, relatively few of these systems have evolved into production systems that are used in the day-to-day operations of libraries. Fox reminds us that: "While IT research has been underway for more than three decades, it is only in the past six years that IT's impact has been measurable." To some degree, the lack of penetration of information technologies in libraries is due to the fact that appropriate tools and techniques have only been widely available for a relatively short time. However, there were other theoretical, technological, fiscal, and human resource barriers as well, and these significant problems are ongoing. This paper has outlined some of the major limitations of selected information technologies of particular interest to libraries and suggested some possible strategies for making progress in building intelligent library systems. It is critical that we seek the middle ground between the view that IT will revolutionize libraries in the foreseeable future and the view that it will have little or no effect. IT offers us a powerful set of tools, especially when they are combined with conventional and other innovative computing tools. However, it will not be an easy task to master those tools and employ them skillfully to build truly significant intelligent systems. Libraries and vendors who have ambitious system development goals are likely to need to invest substantial resources in achieving those ambitions.

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