Utilization of digital resources by the postgraduate students of Zoology in VHNSN College, Virudhunagar, India

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Abstract

The main objective of this present study is to determine the usage of digital resources by postgraduate students of Zoology at VHNSN College, Virudhunagar, Tamilnadu, India. Data was generated using questionnaire to find out level of exposure and extent of use of digital resources. This study investigated the time used up, purpose, use of various e-resources, preferred search engine and benefit of e-resources.

Keywords: Digital resources, Postgraduate students, search engines.

Introduction

In the 21st century, information technology had brought quick changes in teaching World. The education is gradually moving towards digital. Digital resources have a lot of rewards over traditional resources. A lot of developments are witnessed in the recent years in online publishing. Scholars are paying attention to have easy access to full text publications and reference linking in a complex information space.

In the computer era, academic libraries and study centers have totally changed the information environment. Education institutions started subscribing to digital resources to meet the user's requirement and expectations (Mallikarjun N. Mulimani and Suresh B.Gudimani, 2008).

Internet is referred to as ocean of information and knowledge. It provides information on various fields such as government, education, business, etc. It is one of the facilities through which information and knowledge can be stored, arranged and transmitted back to its users quickly, timely and accurately (Adegbija and Daramola, 2007).

Search engines serve as a source of information to researchers and lectures in higher institutions of learning. It also provide easy access to some government documents, and legislative materials like gazettes, journals, magazines and newspapers. Search engines also provide easy access (Daniel *et al*., 2015).

Objectives

The main objectives of the study are:

- To evaluate the time spent on digital resources
- To find out the place of access to e-resources
- To assess the purpose of using digital media
- To evaluate the preferred search engine
- To assess the satisfaction with digital resources

Methodology

The study was conducted in VHNSN College, Virudhunagar, Tamilnadu, India. The participants were 32 Postgraduate students of Zoology department. The collected data was scrutinized through the questionnaires, classified and tabulated.

Result and Discussion

Students were asked to time spent on digital resources. Time is important factor in the utilization of the e-resources. It is clear from Table 1 illustrates the maximum number of students used the e-resources more than 5 hours per day. According to Rahul J. Jadhav, *et al*., (2011) students spend an average of almost 4 hours a day online. Table 2 shows that place of e-resources access by students. 23 students used digital resources in their residence. Maximum number of students prefers to access e-resources from residence and hence they need bother to go to browsing center or library.

Table 3 provides the purpose of students to use e-resources. Majority of students, use e-resources for updating knowledge and entertainment. It is clear from Table 4 that 30 student's use Google search. Rahul J. Jadhav, *et al*., (2011) noted that the major search engine for information is Google. Google helps to get fast access. Joe (2011) conducted a survey and found out that 97% respondents used Google daily. From the findings, it showed that many users made more use of Google than other search engines.

Students were satisfied about the e-resources by various approaches is given in the Table 5. The results reveal that the II M.Sc students are satisfied with e-resources. 70% of the students get satisfied when they got information from e-resources (Arumugam Balasubramanian and Sabarish, 2016).

Table 1: Time spent on digital resources

Time Spent	I M.Sc students	II M.Sc students	Total
< 1 hour	10	1	11
1-3 hours	1	2	3
3-5 hours	1	2	3
> 5 hours	9	6	15
Not respond	0	0	0

Table 2: Place of access to digital resources

Place	I M.Sc students	II M.Sc students	Total
College Library	2	1	3
Wifi			
➢ Department	0	0	0
➢ Bus	1	0	1
➢ Railway station	1	0	1
➢ Others	0	0	0
Residence	15	8	23
Browsing center	2	2	4

Table 3: Purpose of using digital resources

Purpose	I M.Sc students	II M.Sc students	Total
Notes collection	21	11	32
Online course	0	0	0
Research			
➢ Reprint collection	3	1	4
➢ Paper Publication	0	0	0
Up to date information	3	1	4
Entertainment			
➢ Music & Videos	21	11	32
➢ Games	16	1	17
➢ Social media	18	0	18

Note: Multiple answers were permitted

Table 4: Preferred search engine

Search engine	I M.Sc students	II M.Sc students	Total
Google	21	7	28
Yahoo	0	2	2
MSN	0	1	1
Bing	0	1	1
Galaxy	0	0	0
Hotbot	0	0	0
Lycos	0	0	0
Infoseek	0	0	0
Excite	0	0	0
Altavista	0	0	0
Rediff	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0

Table 5: Extent of satisfaction with digital resources

Level	I M.Sc students	II M.Sc students	Total
Satisfied	16	11	28
Dissatisfied	5	0	5

Conclusion

Today all type of education information is available in electronic formats. The main focus of this article was to assess the availability and utilization of internet resources by postgraduate students of Zoology in VHNSN College, Virudhunagar. It is considered the importance of the internet to academic and research activities. The majority of student community state that e-resources are more informative and useful. This research also revealed that a good number of the students search for information on Google. It is interesting to note that a large number of students are aware of the e-resources.

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