

# ATTITUDE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS TOWARDS ONLINE SEARCHING AND ITS IMPACT ON LIBRARY USAGE

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## Abstract

The library plays a significant role in learning, teaching and gathering information. Library is a treasure of information. It has an indispensable role in one's life. With the advent of Internet and availability of Wi-Fi at any point of time, library usage pattern has been affected. Students find it comparatively easier to get all the information needed over the internet. The usage pattern and information gathering behavior has seen a major transformation after the introduction of Wi-Fi. This research paper helps to find out the attitude of college students towards gathering information through internet and also helps to identify its impact on library utilization. It is based on the assumption that students prefer to use internet more than the library.

Keywords: Internet, Library, Students, Information, Knowledge

## Introduction

Knowledge and Information has been an imperative component for any student. Academic institution students, on a daily basis search for new information and knowledge which inspires us as faculties to conduct research. Though for decades, library has been the main source of information for the students and teachers, now with the advent of internet, there has been a paradigm shift in the focus from library to internet usage. Search engines provide accessibility of information in all subjects just with a click. It provides a deep insight on student's attitude who easily distinguishes whether it is the right information they need by simply clicking and scrolling down each website, rather than going through books. On the other hand library being a reliable source of information still holds its glory as reliability is an important aspect for students in completing their assignments since the academic works that they yield should be original and accurately correct simultaneously. There is a need of integration of internet with the overall services being offered by the library to have even better results. As sources of information for students, libraries and internet have many similar and also different aspects on various parameters as time, reliability and accessibility. The study has also focused on this particular area.

## Review Of Literature

**Ranganathan (2013)** in his article "Use of Electronic Databases by Library users of Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli: an Analysis has studied that the electronic databases have enabled the library patrons to access the information remotely and enhance their academic excellence. The study reveals that a majority of the library users feel that electronic database is easy to use and have more up to-date information than the conventional documents. Some of the users still face problems in finding the required information,

online. In order to make these more beneficial, the library staff should provide more training session for the library users to make sure that the users are familiar with the databases, and are able to obtain right information at the right time.

**Das and Mohapatra (2012)** in their paper “Collection Management of E-Resources and Services of Engineering College Libraries of Bhubaneswar City: VSRD-A Survey” discussed that electronic Resources have made revolutionary changes in the library scenario. Many librarians believe that these resources have changed the principles of selection radically; some believe that they will virtually eliminate selection. Although it is true that the art of selection is undergoing profound change, the selection of material is still crucial for libraries. The four basic criteria for selection- quality, library relevancy, aesthetic and technical aspects, and cost remain the same in the electronic era of information. The development of new technology for the storage of Information, challenge of the future for libraries is not supporting a new electronic literacy, but supporting “The multi-literacy” that will be required in future year.

**Shuva and Akhter (2011)** have conducted a study on “Internet usage by the students of faculty of arts, university library of Dhaka (Bangladesh)”. It is found in their study that among the total number of 461 respondents from the faculty of arts, more than 98% of the respondents using the internet for communication while 67% of respondents for academic purpose. Towards the problems encounter using internet by the respondents found that slow internet access speed was the major problem with 95.23% and it was followed by virus problem. Regarding the opinion of the respondents on satisfaction with internet facilities showed that 50% of the respondents ‘somewhat satisfied’ and 7.59% ‘were not at all satisfied’ with internet facilities.

**Maharana, Sethi and Behera (2010)** in their paper “Use of internet and e-resources by the students of business management: A survey of PG students of business administration, Sambalpur University” have described that the internet and electronic resources have become most popular sources of information for the researchers, scholars, teachers, professionals and students. The study had been designed to find out the necessity and the usage of internet and e-resources by the students undertaking the master’s course in Business Administration, at Sambalpur University, Orissa, India. A questionnaire was monitored among 120 MBA students, out of which 91 responded to represent 75.83% The research result reveals that the majority of the students 1/3 of them have a long experience of using internet for 2-4 years and all are more or less aware of the applications of internet technology More than half of the students surveyed in the study strongly feel that management study will be severely affected without the use of internet and e-resources

**Bashir, Mahmood and Shafique (2008)** explored the “Internet use behaviour of students of the undergraduate, graduate and post graduate students of the University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.” The results indicate that most of the students use this technology for course related reading and research needs and they use it at the university library’s digital lab unit as well as their departments and homes A large number of them have learnt to use the internet tools by themselves, relying on assistance from friends without attending any formal training programs

**Mulimani and Gudimam (2008)** in their study on “Usage of internet by students and research scholars of Karnatak university library: A Survey” stated that the impact of information technology on academic libraries and information centers have radically changed the earlier scenario. The higher education institutions have started subscribing to the electronic resources to meet the user requirements and expectations in academic environment. The aim of the survey was to understand the usage and experience with internet and computer technology and their aptitudes and expectation about technological resources to identify the areas for improvement of sources and services.

## Objective of the Study

1. To study the impact of web search engines on library utilization.
2. To analyze the changing attitude of professional students towards web search rather than library utilization.

## Sampling

Sample size: The sample constitutes 100 Professional students of B-school in Banagalore.

Sampling Technique: Judgment Sampling

## Tools for data collection

A structured questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. All questions in the questionnaire are designed to elicit the relevant information that is needed for the study.

## Sources of data collection

Primary Data: The primary data was collected by administering a standard structured questionnaire.

Secondary Data: The secondary data was collected from journals, text books, newspapers and websites.

## Limitation of the Study

1. There are chances of being bias by the students.
2. The study was confined to only management students so it cannot be generalized to all professional students..

## Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Student's opinion regarding impact level of web engine on library utilization with respect to time saving parameter

Level of Impact	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Very High	40	40
High	31	31
Neutral	19	19
Low	4	4
Very Low	6	6
Total	100	100

Table 2: Student's opinion regarding impact level of web engine on library utilization with respect to cost effective parameter

Level of Impact	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Very High	24	24
High	30	30
Neutral	19	19
Low	23	23
Very Low	4	4
Total	100	100

Table 3: Student's opinion regarding impact level of web engine on library utilization with respect to avoid travelling parameter

Level of Impact	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Very High	41	41
High	30	30
Neutral	8	8
Low	11	11
Very Low	10	10
Total	100	100

Table 4: Student's opinion regarding impact level of web engine on library utilization with respect to 24/7 search parameter

Level of Impact	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Very High	49	49
High	22	22
Neutral	16	16
Low	10	10
Very Low	3	3
Total	100	100

Table 5: Student's opinion regarding impact level of web engine on library utilization with respect to download and save parameter

Level of Impact	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Very High	37	37%
High	45	45%
Neutral	8	8%
Low	6	6%
Very Low	4	4%
Total	100	100

Table 6: Student's opinion regarding impact level of web engine on library utilization with respect to amount of related information parameter

Level of Impact	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Very High	39	39%
High	30	30%
Neutral	25	25%
Low	6	6%
Very Low	0	0%
Total	100	100

Table 7: Student's opinion regarding impact level of web engine on library utilization with respect to availability of assistance parameter

Level of Impact	No of Respondents	% of Respondents
Very High	13	13

High	22	22
Neutral	10	10
Low	38	38
Very Low	17	17
Total	100	100

### Major Findings:

- Almost 58% of the students prefer web search over library, faculty notes and text books.
- 87% of the students prefer Google as their search engine
- 37% users are frequent library user while others rarely visit.
- 64% students consider health issue as a cause for not using internet so frequently.
- Maximum number of students consider web search to be time saving
- 54% of the total students consider web search to be cost effective.
- 71% students prefer web search over library in terms of 24/7 availability and avoid travelling.
- Maximum number of students prefer web search over library because it can be downloaded and saved.
- In terms of amount of related information, web search is preferred by 94% students.
- 55% students consider library to be better source only in terms of availability of assistance.

### Suggestions

1. Library should not lose its importance hence teachers should make library a necessary tool by introducing library based assignment and presentation.
2. The librarian should give orientation at the beginning of the semester regarding resources available in the library and best way of its utilization.

### Conclusion

From the study we can conclude that students give more emphasis to internet usage than the library. The Internet is an inseparable part of today's educational system. The students increasingly depend on the Internet for search of information related to education. It is now the duty of the teaching fraternity to enhance the usage of library so that it does not lose its importance in the coming ages. Encouraging the use of internet as well as library for information seeking should be a part of the education system on a regular basis.

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