

AWARENESS ABOUT SUBJECT GATEWAY AMONG THE LIBRARY USERS OF H.M.PATEL INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH TRAINING AND RESEARCH – A SURVEY

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Abstract :

This paper describes the awareness about subject gateways among the library users of H.M.Patel Institute of English Training & Research, Vallabh Vidyanagar. In this digital era, the usages of e-journals and e-books have been increased rapidly. This study focused on the user's interest in hard or soft materials of information, use of internet with the purpose, awareness of search tools like search engines, subject gateways, websites of ELT and the same. Moreover, the study evaluates the awareness, usefulness, satisfaction and benefits of the subject gateway among the library users of the above mentioned institute.

Keywords : User Awareness, Subject Gateway, Internet.

Introduction :

Conventionally, the library act as a centre for cultural and social activities of the local community, to preserve the materials of local or regional cultural heritage, to serve as a medium of informal self education and provide free and direct access tools of information. The library is useful to the students, teachers, researchers, writers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, children, senior citizens and even general

public. All the users have their individual information usage based on the specific requirement. The revolution of information technology resulted in modifications in the way of library and library services including their users and users' demands. To satisfy their information needs, library has various documents like textbooks, reference books, newspapers, dictionaries, encyclopedias, yearbooks, atlas, biographies, magazines, journals and so forth. Today, library is not only considered as a collection of printed materials but also a collection of resources of information and knowledge in digital format. Due to this transformation, we can be share and communicate these digitized materials among the people of all over the world through Internet. Nowadays, there are many ways to search information on the Internet by using different types of search tools. Generally, most of the people use search engine to search information on the Internet. However some people use subject related websites, online abstracting & indexing, subject gateway to accomplish the information need. From the mentioned ways, subject gateways play an important role in directing Internet users to their specific and quality information.

About Subject Gateway :

With dramatic changes in technology, physical libraries moving into the virtual library, large amount of scholarly literature for instance journals, books, reports and the rest have been published in the digital medium. Among the various search tools available on internet, subject gateways play vital role to assist users to search for specific information from this digital ocean. The subject gateways emerged in response to the challenge of 'resource discovery' in a rapidly developing Internet environment in the early and mid-nineties. The term 'Subject gateway' was popularized in the UK Electronic Libraries Programme (eLib). A subject gateway is an online service and site that provides searchable and browsable catalogues of internet resources focused on a specific subject for specific target users. Furthermore, it is quality controlled information service that has descriptive metadata built by subject experts. The central idea of the subject gateway is to satisfy researchers, academicians and other professionals by providing the specific data.

Objectives of the Study :

This study was conducted to find out the awareness and utilization of subject gateways by the library users of H.M.Patel Institute of English Training & Research, Vallabh Vidyanagar. The objectives of the proposed study are as follow:

1. To find out the frequency of access to internet
2. To observe various search tools used by the users
3. To notice the problems faced by the users while accessing the resources
4. To find out the awareness of subject gateways among the library users

5. To discover the purpose of utilization of subject gateways
6. To explore the impact of subject gateways
7. To introduce ways of using the subject gateway

Scope of the Study :

The present study is conducted to know the awareness of Subject Gateways among the library users of H.M.Patel Institute of English Training and Research, Vallbh Vidyanagar Nagar. So, it is limited to the students, researchers, professors, assistant professors and outsider members of this institutional library only.

Methodology :

In the present study the researcher used survey method to collect data about the awareness of Subject Gateway. The sample selected for the proposed study was the library users of H.M.Patel Institute of English Training & Research, Vallabh Vidyanagar from the various institutes of Anand district. The survey was conducted on various library users of the same institute such as students, researchers, lectures, professors, assistant professors and outsider members. Data mainly collected by using a pre-structured questionnaire and observation techniques. 82 questionnaires were distributed from which 64 filled questionnaires have been submitted to the researcher. The data collected through the research have been presented in tabulated and other visual modes, such as graphs.

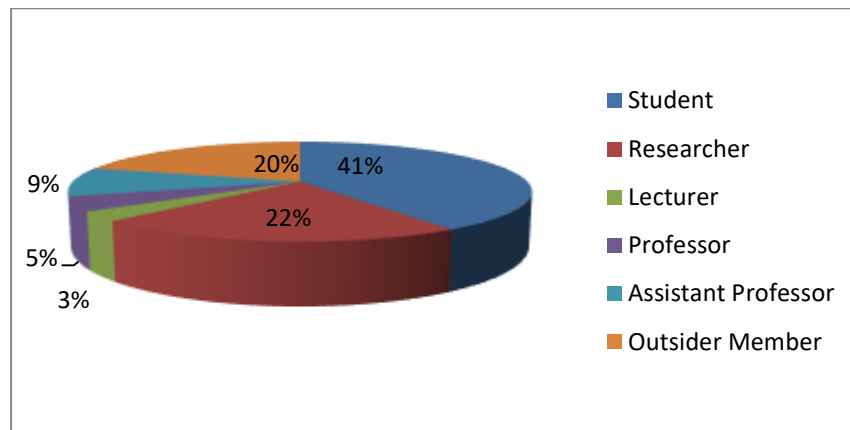
Data Analysis And Interpretation :

Data analysis and interpretation are the constructive aspects of the research. It is process of the collected information and determining the conclusions, significance, and implications of the findings. Through interpretation, the researcher can expose the relations and processes of the findings.

In the present study the researcher has distributed questionnaire among the various library users of mentioned institute. Following are the data for all the questions.

Table 1 : Number of respondents (categories wise)

Sr. No.	Categories	Response received	Percentage
1	Student	26	41%
2	Researcher	14	22%
3	Lecturer	02	3%
4	Professor	03	5%
5	Assistant Professor	06	9%
6	Outsider Member	13	20%
	Total	64	100%

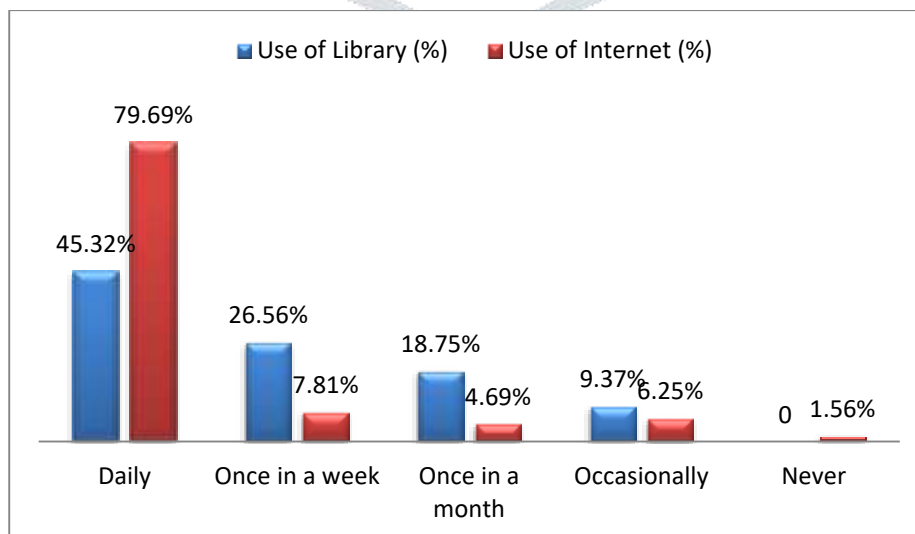


Graph 1 : Various Categories of User

Graph no. 1 indicates that 26 (41%) of users are students and 14 (22%) are researchers whereas only 02 (3%) are lecturers, 03 (5%) are Professors and 06 (9%) are Assistant Professors. There are 13 (20.31%) outsider members of the library.

Table 2 : Frequency of using Library and Internet

Frequency	Use of Library (%)	Use of Internet (%)
Daily	34.38%	79.69%
Once in a week	29.69%	7.81%
Once in a month	26.56%	4.69%
Occasionally	9.37%	6.25%
Never	00	1.56%

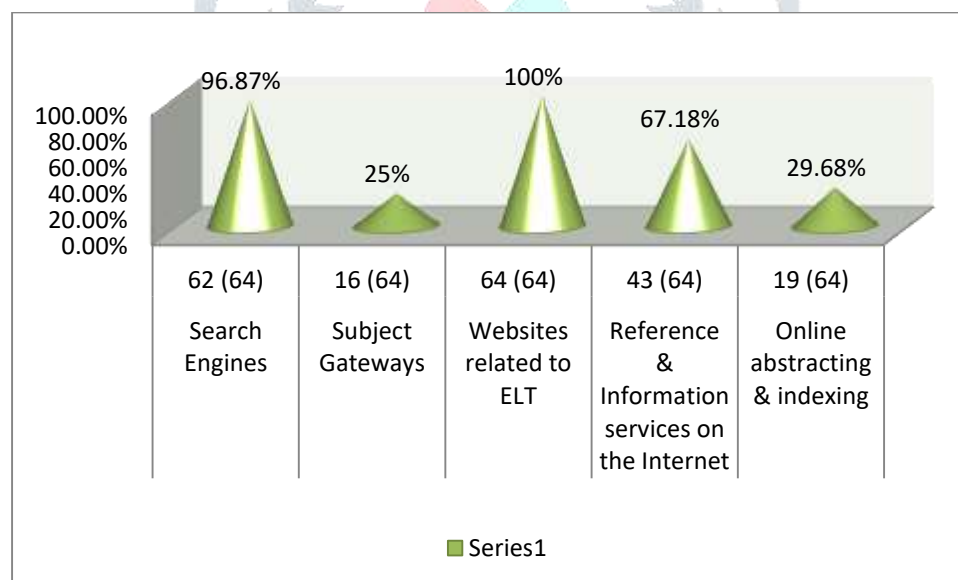


Graph 2 : Frequency of using Library and Internet

The above graph no. 2 analyzes that 45.32% of users use library daily whereas 79.69% use Internet daily. Moreover, 26.56% of users visit the library and 7.81% use Internet once in a week for educational matters however 18.75% users use library and 4.69% are use Internet once in a month. 9.37% people use the library whereas 6.25% use internet occasionally.

Table 3 : Most Preferable search tool / tools on Internet

Search Tools	No. of response	Percentage
Search Engines	62 (64)	96.87%
Subject Gateways	16 (64)	25%
Websites related to ELT	64 (64)	100%
Reference & Information services on the Internet	43 (64)	67.18%
Online abstracting & indexing	19 (64)	29.68%

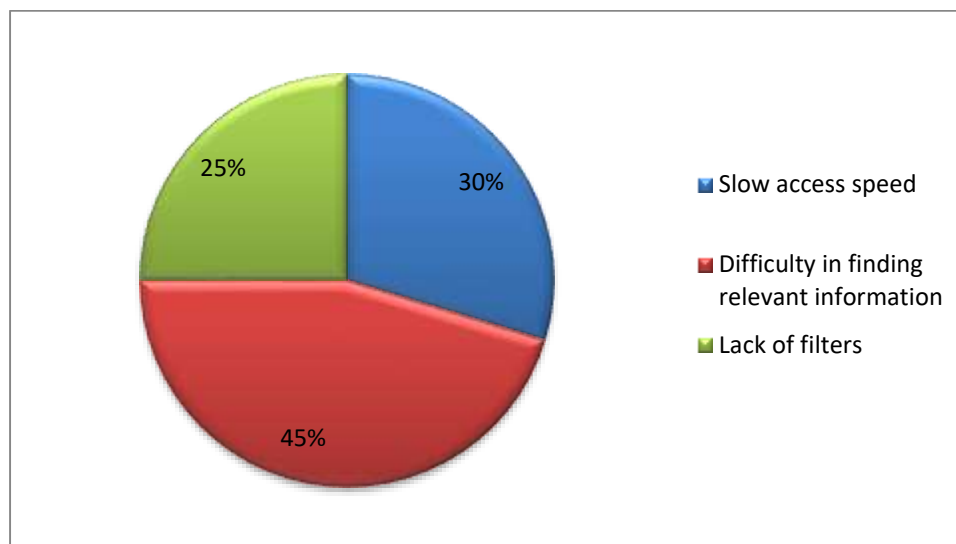


Graph 3 : Most Preferable Search Tools

Graph 3 indicates that 64 (100%) users use websites that is related to ELT, 62 (96.87%) users use search engines, 43 (67.18%) use reference & information services on the Internet, 19 (29.68%) users use online abstracting and indexing whereas only 16 (25%) user use the subject gateways to search information on the Internet.

Table 4 : Problems faced by users

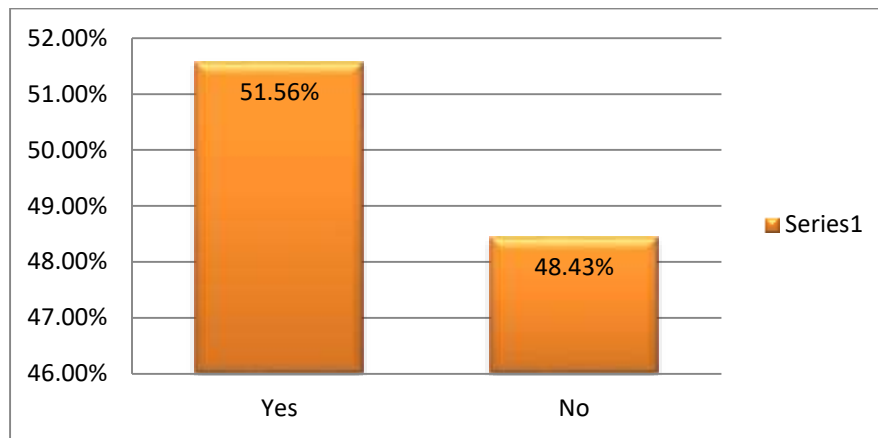
Types of problem	No. of response	Percentage
Slow access speed	19	30%
Difficulty in finding relevant information	29	45 %
Lack of filters	16	25%

**Graph 4 : Problems faced by users**

The above graph no. 4 displays that 30% users faced the problems regarding slow speed of internet while accessing the resources, 45% face difficulties in finding relevant information and 25% users face lack of filters while searching information on the Internet.

Table 5 : Knowledge about Subject Gateway

Status	No. of response	Percentage
Yes	33	51.56%
No	31	48.43%

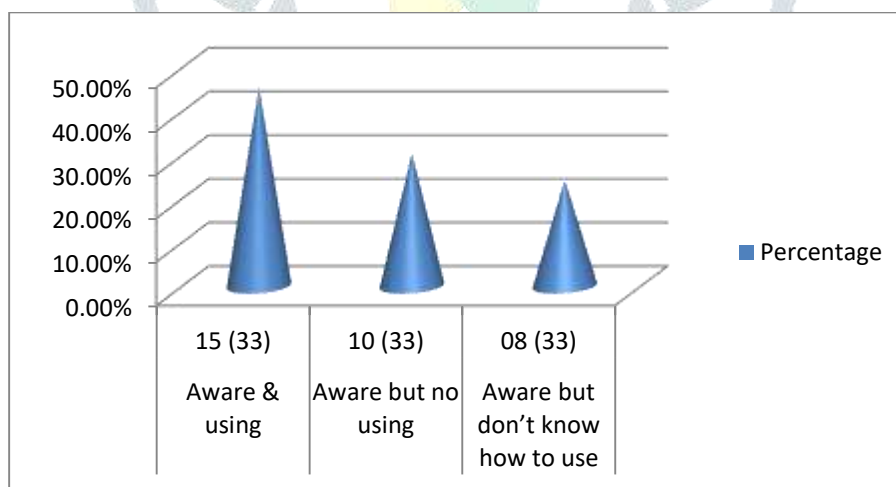


Graph 5 : Knowledge about Subject Gateway

Graph no. 5 gives idea that 33 (51.56%) users have knowledge about subject gateway and 31 (48.43%) do not have knowledge about it. Therefore the remaining data in the research have been collected from 33 users only.

Table 6 : Awareness about Subject Gateway

Status	No. of response	Percentage
Aware & using	15 (33)	45.46%
Aware but no using	10 (33)	30.30%
Aware but don't know how to use	08 (33)	24.24%

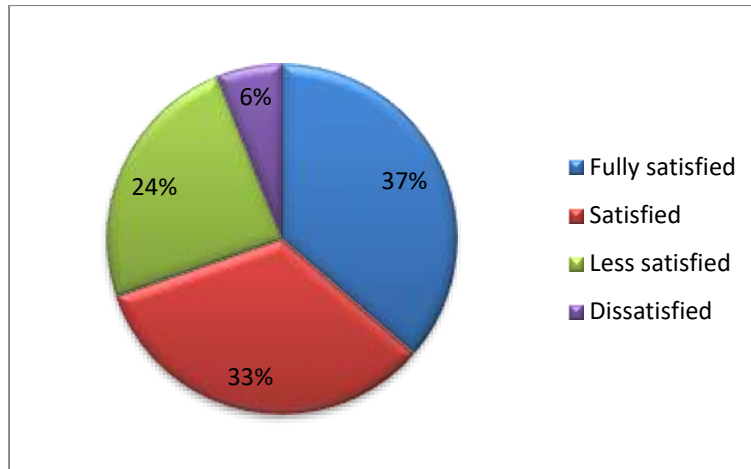


Graph 6 : Awareness about Subject Gateway

Graph no. 6 indicates that 45.46% users are aware and use the subject gateway while 30.30% are aware but not use it however 24.24% users do not know how to use it.

Table 7 : Satisfaction on using Subject Gateway

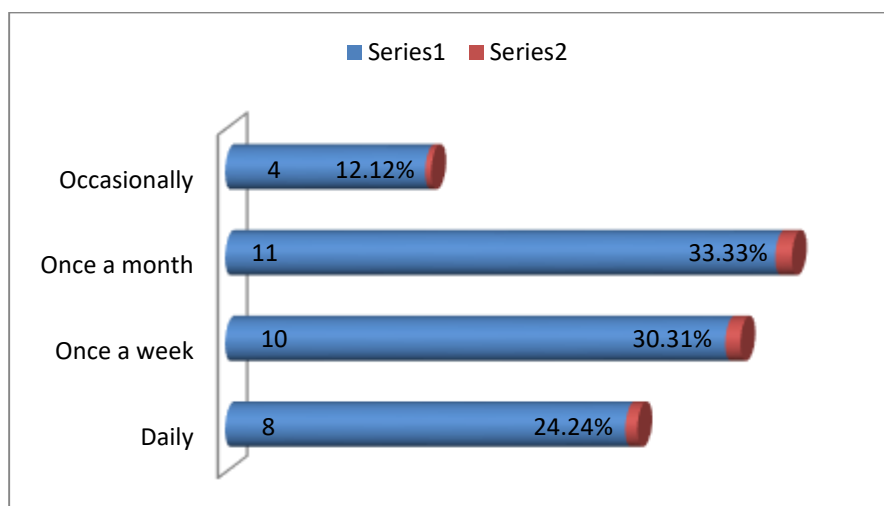
Frequency	No. of response	Percentage
Fully satisfied	12	37%
Satisfied	11	33%
Less satisfied	08	24%
Dissatisfied	02	06%

**Graph 7 : Satisfaction on using Subject Gateway**

The above graph no. 7 shows that 37% users are fully satisfied, 33% are satisfied, 24% are less satisfied and only 6% users are dissatisfied while using subject gateways.

Table 8 : Frequency of use of Subject Gateway

Frequency	No. of response	Percentage
Daily	08	24.24%
Once a week	10	30.31%
Once a month	11	33.33%
Occasionally	04	12.12%



Graph 8 : Frequency of use of Subject Gateway

The above graph no. 8 indicates that 08 (24.24%) users use subject gateway daily, 10(30.31%) use once a week, 11 (33.33%) use once a month and 04 (12.12%) users use it occasionally.

There is one open ended question in the questionnaire which was about the benefits of subject gateway. Researcher found the benefits from the users such as it brings useful resources together. In addition to this, one can have research, learning, and enrichment together. It is a tool for indexing and cataloguing as well as management and maintenance of information on servers. It helps and leads the users by providing relevant information for specific areas. Additionally it provides the standard and appropriate information by saving our time.

Findings and Suggestions:

Researcher has taken keen interest in completing this study. Based on this study, various findings and suggestions are there for the library users of the institute and researchers of the same field.

Findings :

- In today's digital environment, it is found that the use of physical library is very less than internet. 79.69% users surf the internet daily to access information related to their work, study or other recreational things.
- All the users used ELT related websites available on internet whereas majority of them used search engines as well. A few users used subject gateways to search information on the internet.
- Most of the users faced difficulties while finding relevant information on the internet. Some of them have the problems of slow internet access and lack of filters on it.
- In the aspect of awareness about subject gateway, it is found that 33 users have knowledge of it. Out of them only 15 users are aware and use the subject gateway whereas 10 users are aware but not use it however 08 users do not know how to use it.

- It is found that users who use the subject gateways are fully satisfied whereas only 2 users are dissatisfied while using the subject gateway.
- As mention above subject gateway is beneficial to all the users.

Suggestions :

In the ICT age, society is overloaded with the information when it is challenging for anyone to search appropriate information on the internet. For that purpose, the top qualitative websites should be short listed by the field experts to save the time of users and to provide authentic resource materials in particular subject area. From the above findings it is clear that majority of (except 33 users) users need to learn about subject gateways. In this context it is necessary to enlighten them with available subject gateway in the field of ELT and to instruct the users with the effective use of subject gateway.

Conclusion :

In the present era, it is clear to all that Internet is known as an ocean of information. Users can find resources regarding any topic that is in existence in the world. In the arena of English language, students, teachers and all other academicians, now-a-days, prefer to have internet as the medium of teaching or learning the language. In the current study, researcher has found that the users of the mentioned institute mostly preferred ELT websites to find information. Contradictory, a huge number of users do not have any knowledge of subject gateway. Therefore, at the end, researcher has given certain suggestions that can be taken care of by library users of the institute and other researchers.

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