

ABSTRACT

This study describes web information retrieval among research scholars in Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous). The main purpose of the study is to identify the use of web information sources and services by research scholars of Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous). 53 questionnaires were distributed to the research scholars through google forms and 44 filled questionnaires were received back. The received questionnaires were analyzed and the results were tabulated with the help of tables. The analysis revealed that e-journals are considered the main web information resources for the research work.

Keywords: *Web information, Information retrieval, Search techniques*

Introduction

Researchers are depending on the World Wide Web to satisfy their information needs besides conventional or traditional information sources. According to John W. Best and James V. Kahn (1995), “research is a more systematic activity diverted towards the discovery and development of an organized body of knowledge”. Research is considered the most valuable tool to understand the complexities of a problem and to create knowledge that is reliable and authentic. A research scholar is a scholar who works under an advisor and works on projects in a specific field of study. So, research scholars are highly dependent on web information to become familiar with the latest developments in their specific field of study.

The emergence of various web resources has accelerated the process of research and development, allowing users to access a wide range of resources with a single mouse click. Research scholars depend largely on web information resources as their source of information and attain their research fulfillment. Researchers spend much of their time, money, and energy on computers than on traditional printed books to attain the required information expeditiously. The researchers must be well aware of the variety of web information sources and the various techniques used to retrieve relevant information. Information is highly needed by researchers to keep them updated in their field. The success of information retrieval on the web is heavily dependent on the search methods and techniques used by users. So, it is very important to understand or study the web information retrieval pattern among research

scholars and thereby provide some suggestions for improving the pattern of information search on the web.

Objectives

1. To identify the availability and use of web information sources by research scholars of Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous).
2. To know the availability and use of web information services by research scholars.
3. To examine the frequency of using web resources.

Methodology

Questionnaires were distributed to the research scholars of Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous) by using google forms. 53 questionnaires were distributed among the research scholars and 44 filled questionnaires were received back. The responses to each and every question were gathered and arranged in a systematic manner. Collected data were analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively to reach a conclusion.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Location of Access

Respondents was asked to indicate the location from

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where they accessed the web resources.

Table 1

Location of Access

| Sl. No. | Location of Access | No. of Respondents | Percentage of Respondents |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Library | 10 | 22.73% |
| 2 | Home | 11 | 25% |
| 3 | Cyber Café | 2 | 4.54% |
| 4 | Mobile Phone | 19 | 43.18% |
| 5 | Other | 2 | 4.54% |

Table 1 shows that 43.18% of respondents access web resources from their mobile phones, 25% access usually at home, 22.73% access from the library, and only 4.54% access them from cybercafé and others.

Frequency of using Web Resources

Respondents was asked to indicate the frequency of using web resources.

Table 2 Frequency of using Web Resources

| Sl. No. | Frequency of using Web | No. of Respondents | Percentage of Respondents |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Daily | 26 | 59.09% |
| 2 | Alternate Days | 4 | 9.09% |
| 3 | Once in a Week | 10 | 22.73% |
| 4 | Monthly | 4 | 9.09% |
| 5 | Never | 0 | 0 |

Table 2 shows that 59.09% use web resources daily and 22.73% use them once a week. Very few research scholars which are about 9.09% access on alternate days and monthly.

Time Spent on Web-Based Resources per Day

The question was asked to indicate the time spent on web-based resources per day.

Table 3

Time Spent on Web-Based Resources per Day

| Sl. No. | Time Spent on Web-Based Resources per Day | No. of Respondents | Percentage of Respondents |
|---------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Less than 1 hour | 7 | 15.91% |
| 2 | 1-2 hours | 23 | 52.27% |
| 3 | 2-3 hours | 5 | 11.36% |
| 4 | More than 3 hours | 9 | 20.45% |

Table 3 indicates that more than half of the research scholars 52.27%



spend daily between 1-2 hours, 20.45% spend more than 3 hours on the web, 15.91% spend less than 1 hour on the web and 11.36% spend 2-3 hours on the web.

Availability and Use of Web Information Sources in Library

Respondents were asked to indicate the availability and use of web information sources in the library.

Table 4

Availability and Use of Web Information Sources in Library

| Sl. No. | Web Information Sources in Library | Available | | Use | |
|---------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| 1 | E-Journals | 40 | 4 | 40 | 4 |
| | | 90.91% | 9.09% | 90.91% | 9.09% |
| 2 | E-Books | 39 | 5 | 41 | 3 |
| | | 88.64% | 11.36% | 93.18% | 6.82% |
| 3 | E-Magazines/ E-Newspaper | 38 | 6 | 32 | 12 |
| | | 86.36% | 13.64% | 72.73% | 27.27% |
| 4 | E-Research Papers | 36 | 8 | 33 | 11 |
| | | 81.82% | 18.18% | -75% | -25% |
| 5 | E-Thesis/ Dissertations | 37 | 7 | 29 | 15 |
| | | 84.09% | 15.91% | 65.91% | 34.09% |
| 6 | Online Databases | 39 | 5 | 38 | 6 |
| | | 88.64% | 11.36% | 86.36% | 13.64% |
| 7 | E-Conference Proceedings | 24 | 20 | 22 | 22 |
| | | 54.54% | 45.45% | 50% | 50% |
| 8 | E-Maps | 19 | 25 | 14 | 30 |
| | | 43.18% | 56.82% | 31.82% | 68.18% |
| 9 | E-Archives | 21 | 23 | 16 | 28 |
| | | 47.73% | 52.27% | 36.36% | 63.64% |
| 10 | Institution Repository | 23 | 21 | 20 | 24 |
| | | 52.27% | 47.73% | 45.45% | 54.54% |

Table 4 shows that 90.91% of research scholars opined that e-journals are the most available web information sources in the library followed by e-books and online databases (88.64%), e-magazines/ e-newspaper

(86.36%), e-thesis/ dissertations (84.09%), e-research papers (81.82%), e-conference proceedings (54.54%), institution repository (52.27%), e-archives (47.73%) and e-maps (43.18%).

93.18% of research scholars opined that the most useful web information sources are e-books followed by e-journals (90.91%), online databases (86.36%), e-research papers (75%), e-magazines/e-newspaper (72.73%), e-thesis/dissertations (65.91%), e-conference proceedings (50%), institution repository (45.45%), e-archives (36.36%) and e-maps (31.82%).

Availability and Use of Services in Library

Respondents were asked to indicate the availability and use of services in the library.

Table 5
Availability and Use of Services in Library

| Sl. No. | Library Services | Available | | Use | |
|---------|--|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| 1 | Current Awareness Service | 38 | 6 | 34 | 4 |
| | | 86.36% | 13.64% | 89.47% | 10.53% |
| 2 | Selective Dissemination of Information | 35 | 9 | 25 | 10 |
| | | 79.54% | 20.45% | 71.43% | 28.57% |
| 3 | Document Delivery Service | 35 | 9 | 26 | 9 |
| | | 79.54% | 20.45% | 74.28% | 25.71% |
| 4 | E Reference Service | 39 | 5 | 35 | 4 |
| | | 88.64% | 11.36% | 89.74% | 10.26% |
| 5 | CD-ROM Searching Service | 18 | 26 | 14 | 4 |
| | | 40.91% | 59.09% | 77.78% | 22.22% |
| 6 | E-mail Service | 38 | 6 | 29 | 9 |
| | | 86.36% | 13.64% | 76.31% | 23.68% |
| 7 | Inter Library Loan | 28 | 16 | 14 | 14 |
| | | 63.64% | 36.36% | 50% | 50% |
| 8 | Online Internet Search | 38 | 6 | 30 | 8 |
| | | 86.36% | 13.64% | 78.95% | 21.05% |

Table 5 shows that 88.64% of research scholars opined that e-reference service is the most available service in the library followed by online internet search service, current awareness service, and e-mail service (86.36%), selective dissemination of information and document delivery

service (79.54%), interlibrary loan (63.64%) and CD-ROM searching service (40.91%).

89.74% of research scholars opined that the most useful web information services are e-reference services followed by current awareness services (89.47%), online internet search services (78.95%), CD-ROM searching services (77.78%), e-mail services (76.31%), document delivery service (74.28%), selective dissemination of information (71.43%) and interlibrary loan (50%).

Major Findings

Respondents were asked about the location of accessing web information resources, as per the analysis majority of the research scholars access web information resources through their mobile phones. The analysis reveals that the majority of the research scholars frequently use web resources and more than half of the research scholars access them daily. The study further reveals that the majority of the research scholars spend on web resources daily between 1-2 hours. The study depicts that e-journals, e-books, online databases, e-magazines/e-newspaper, e-thesis/dissertations, and e-research papers are the most available web information resources in the library, and e-journals, e-books, online databases, and e-research papers are the most used web information resources in the library. Analysis shows that e-reference service, online internet search service, current awareness service, and email service are major available services in the library and the majority of the research scholars use the library services such as e-reference service, current awareness service, online internet search service, and CD-ROM searching service.

Conclusion

Analysis indicates that research scholars depend less on the library for accessing their required information. So, it is suggested to encourage research scholars to use the library regularly. The library has to provide periodic training and orientation about retrieving web information resources. In the light of analysis, it is suggested to provide more web information resources that are beneficial for research scholars.

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