

Use of Internet by Faculty Members of various Colleges of Mehsana City, Gujarat: A Study

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Abstract

Technological advancement has its impact on education as well. This study attempts to focus on the impact of internet on Academicians. The learning society demands fast, flexible and need based education with application of technology. With the increasing impact of information technology on higher education, College teachers are attempting to grasp how information technology could help in modernizing the process of teaching, research and learning. In this study, we describe how the College teachers access to a wealth of information on the web for the academic society to support their academic and research activities.

Introduction

The use of the internet is now an essential for all academicians. Generally in university or College level, where research work is done there should be must aware of recent or current research about their subject in the world. So it was great responsibility of faculties of universities post graduate department to aware with current trends, and it is only possible with the use of internet otherwise nothing to do them. They are the guided to student for research and what is requirement in current in world only known from internet.

The Internet provides vast amounts of information on every field and subject. There are hundreds of millions Web pages, bibliographical databases, and full-text databases available on the Internet. (Prasher, 2003). Use of the Internet is changing research, teaching, and learning. The expansion of available information brings increasing dependence on the source. Use of the Internet by research scholars is an important area of study in today's information environment. The Internet plays a pivotal role in meeting information and communication needs of academic institutions, since "it makes it possible to access a wide range of information, such as up-to-date research reports, from anywhere in the world. It also enables scholars and academic institutions to disseminate information to a wider audience around the globe through having web sites and a way to search them and organize the output."(Luambano and Nawe, 2004)

The Internet presents a challenge for Library and Information professionals in providing information services. The Internet has many resources that can be harnessed by academics for scholarly work. (Edwin and Markwell, 2005)



Objectives of the study

The purpose of this study is to explore the use and awareness of the Internet facilities and Resources by College Faculties of Mehsana City, North Gujarat.

- To determine if there are Internet facilities for the faculty members.
- To determine the level of accessibility of Internet facilities by faculty members.
- To study awareness of the Internet and its resources.
- To explore the extent of Internet usage by the faculty members in the changing environment of higher education.
- To solicit their purpose of seeking information on Internet.
- To find out their preferred place for Internet usage.
- To determine problems faced by faculty members in seeking information on Internet.
- To discover the satisfaction level with Internet-based resources of the facilities.
- To suggest improve the Internet-based resources in Colleges.

Scope of the Study

The Scope of study is limited to the Faculties of Colleges, Mehsana, Gujarat. The Study includes 10 (ten) Colleges of Mehsana City.

Methodology

The data for this study was based on questionnaires, interviews, observation, opinions, by faculty members at the Colleges of Mehsana City, Gujarat. A structured questionnaire was designed and used for collecting data. The survey covers all College faculty members of Mehsana. There are 10 Colleges in Mehsana. The questionnaire was distributed to all faculties of various Colleges and it was 150. A total number of 118 questionnaires were collected from faculty members of various Colleges of Mehsana. The overall response rate of the study was 78.66 %.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Demographics of respondents: The responses received from 118 faculty members. The population consisted of 105 Lecturer, 5 Principles, 2 visiting Lecturer, 2 Part time Lecturer and 4 Adhoc Lecturer. The data shows that 118 faculty members hold Masters Degree, 17 of them possess M.Phil, and 33 have got the Doctorate, and 6 Net/Slet passed. The list of the Colleges included in the study is as follows: Shri V. R. Patel College of Commerce, Municipal Arts And Urban Bank Science College, Swami Vivekanand Sarvoday Bank Education College, Shree S. M. Shah Law College, The New Progressive College of Teachers Education, The New Progressive College of Computer Studies, Smt. A. J. Savala Homeopathic College, Smt. A. S. Chaudhari Mahila Arts And Home Science College, Shri Sarvajanik Pharmacy College and Shri Sarvajanik Education College.

Table 1 : Academic degree of faculty members

Degree	P.G.	M.Phil	Ph.D.	NET/SLET	Other
No. of faculty	118	17	33	6	14
percentage	100	14.40	27.96	05.08	11.86

The data shows that 118 faculty members hold Masters Degree, 17 of them possess M.Phil, and 33 have got the Doctorate, and 6 NET/SLET passed. 14 Faculty members hold other degree like B.E., P.G.D.C.A. The results in table show that all have which degree and the majority is Postgraduate faculty.

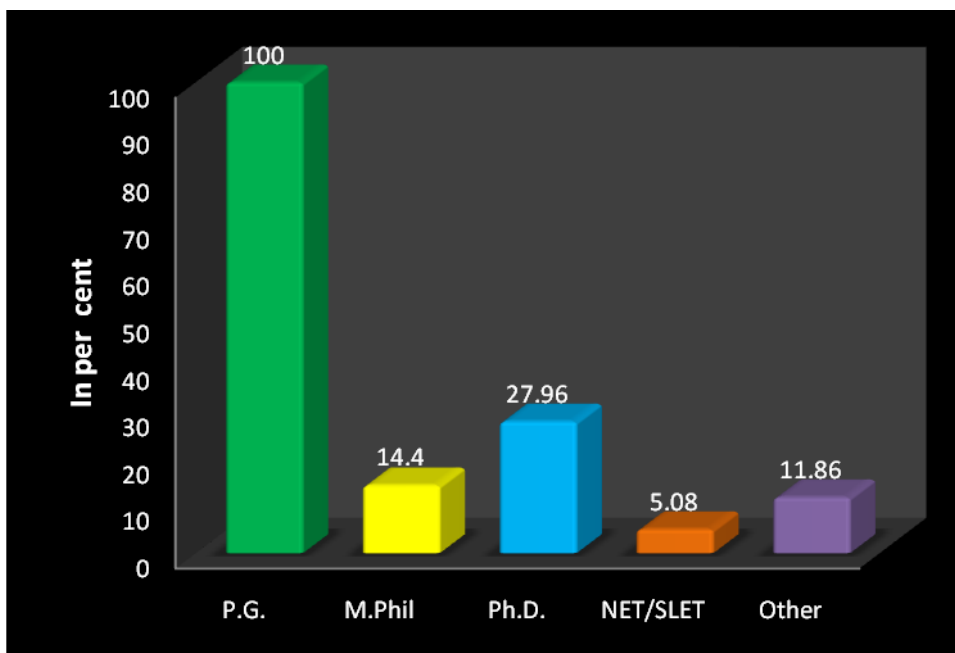
Figure 1. Academic degree of faculty members

Table 2 : Academic experience of faculty members

Year of experience	No. of Respondents	Percentage
0-5	30	25.42
6-10	20	16.95
11-15	21	17.80
16-20	28	23.73
21-up	19	16.10

The majority of respondents had 0-5 and 16-20 years experience in academic field.

Table 3 : Use of internet service

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	107	90.68
No	11	09.32

The majority of respondents had 107(90.68%) use of internet service and 11(9.32%) respondents had not used internet.

Table 4 : Location of Internet use

Location	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Work Place	68	63.55
College Library	24	22.43
Home	54	50.47
Other (Internet cafe, Comp. lab. etc...)	07	06.54

A majority of respondents 68(63.55%) reported that they accessed the Internet through the Work Place, 54(50.47%) respondents accessed the internet at home and 24(22.43%) respondents accessed the internet University library.

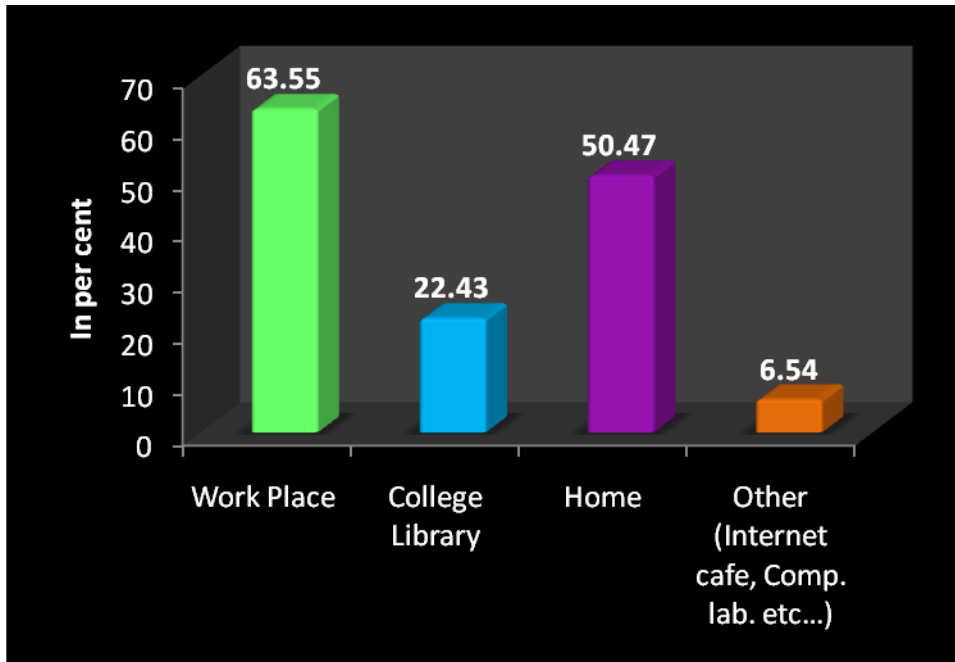


Figure 4. Location of Internet use

Table 5 : Frequency of Internet use

Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	37	34.58
Weekly	17	15.89
Monthly	04	03.74
By need	49	45.79

49(45.79%) respondents use the Internet as per required and 37(34.58%) respondents use internet daily.

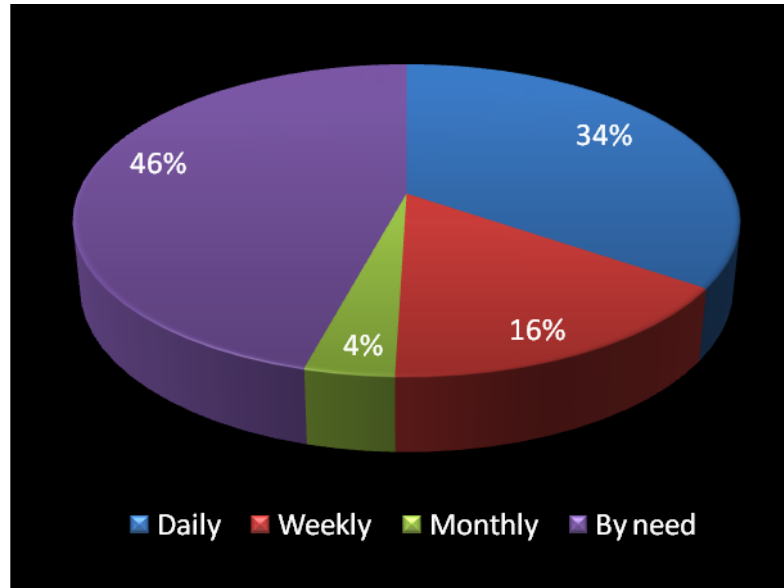


Figure 5. Frequency of Internet use

Table 6 : Use of Internet browser

Browser	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Internet explorer	95	88.78
Netscape navigator	01	00.93
Mozilla	14	13.08
Linux explorer	01	00.93
Other	04	03.74

Internet explorer used frequently, while Netscape navigator, Mozilla, Linux explorer and Other are rarely used.

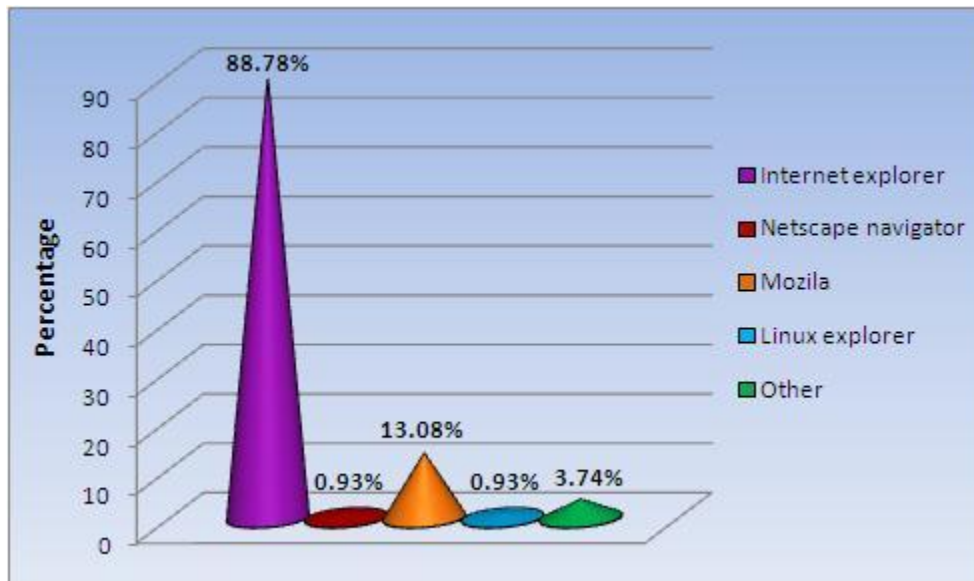


Figure 6. Use of Internet browser

Table 7: Purpose of internet use:

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Seeking information of your subject	93	86.92
Seeking current information of your subject	84	78.50
For research	79	73.86
Teaching, Learning	77	71.96
Seeking information or knowledge from other knower	40	37.38
Seeking information of your interesting subject	64	59.81
For email	68	63.55
For chatting	09	08.41
For entertainment	22	20.57

Other like railway booking, banking etc	34	31.71
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Virtually all respondents used the Internet for seeking information of their subjects and seeking current information of their subject, and a large number also use it for Research, for Teaching, learning. Half say they use it seeking information of his interesting subject and email while 34(31.71%) says they use it for other like railway booking, banking etc.

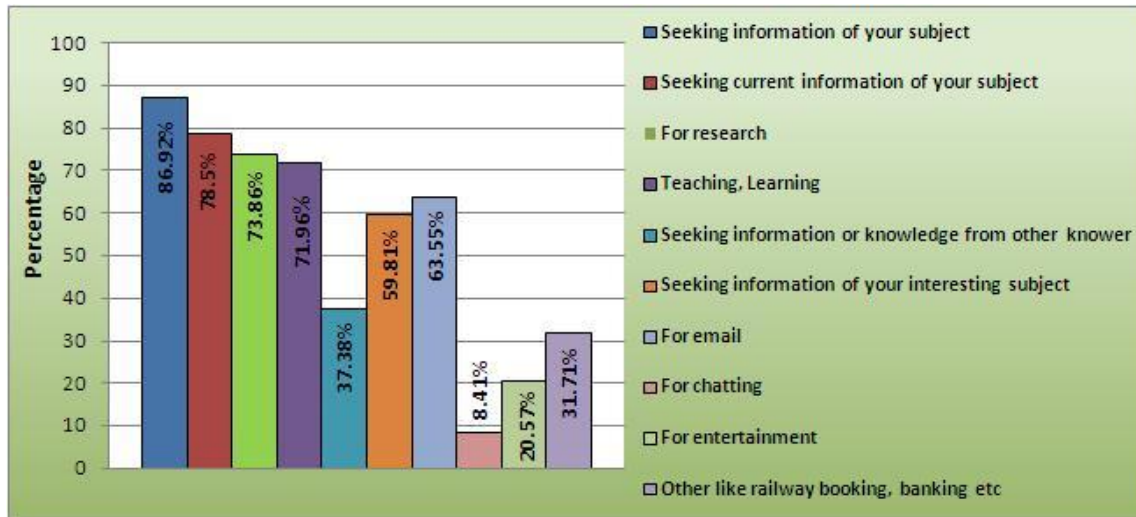


Figure 7. Purpose of internet use

Table 8 : Use of Search engine:

Search engine	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Google.com	101	93.39
Yahoo.com	50	46.73
Msn.com	5	04.67
Altavista.com	3	02.80
Other	3	02.80

Search engines are the main tool for locating information. Google is by far the most preferred search engine with a 101(93.39%) response. 50(46.73%) respondents use yahoo while 3(02.80%) respondents use other search engine like rediff.

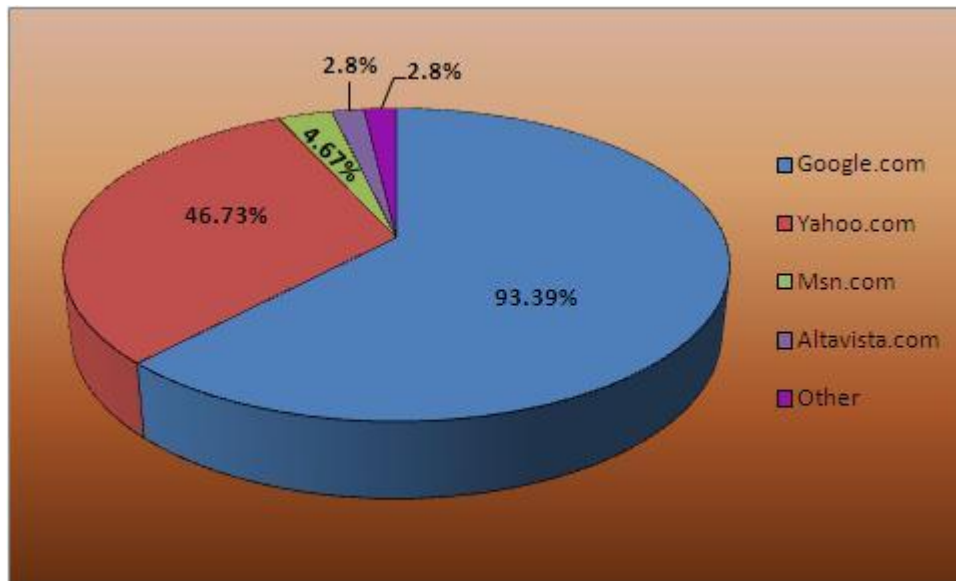


Figure 8. Use of Search engine

Table 9: Use of internet for E-Books, E-Journal, Online database

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	45	42.06
No	62	57.94

E-books, E-Journal and Online Databases are used by 45 (42.06%) respondents.

Table 10 : Problem of copyright act

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	41	38.32
No	66	61.68

66(61.68%) respondents find that they have not faced the problem of copy right act, while 41(38.32%) respondents indicated that they faced the problem of copy right act.

Table 11 : Satisfaction with Internet facilities

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage
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Strongly satisfied	86	80.37
Satisfied	11	10.28
Partially Satisfied	05	04.67
Not satisfied	03	02.80
Neutral	02	01.87

86(80.37%) respondents were fully satisfied with internet facility While 03(02.80%) respondents were not satisfy with internet facility.

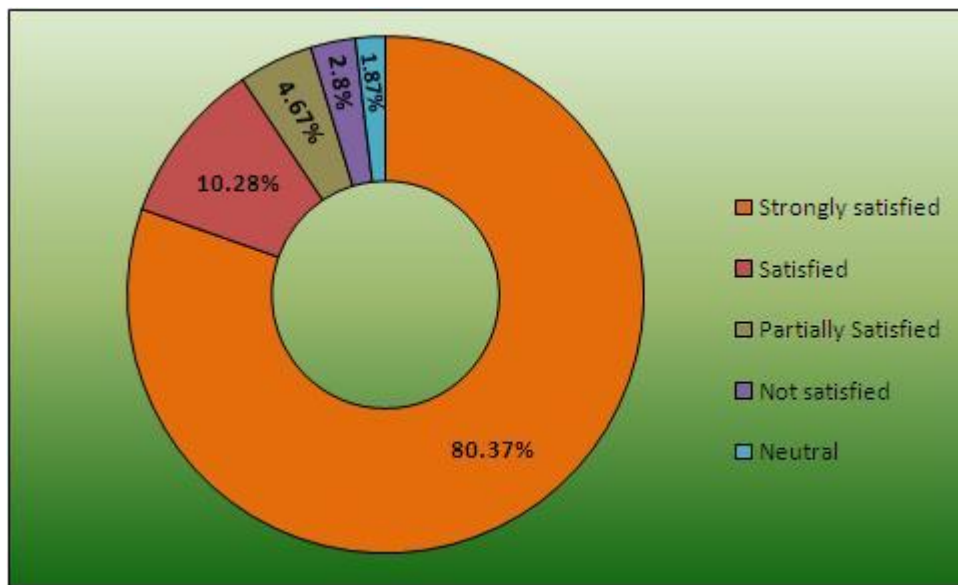


Figure 11. Satisfaction with Internet facilities

Findings: The following important findings can be noted:

- 118 faculty members hold masters degree.
 - 17 have M.Phil degree whereas 33 have got their doctorate degree. 6 NET/SLET pass faculties are also there.
- Three faculty members hold B.E., P.G.D.C.A. or other professional degree. Thus majority of the teaching members hold postgraduate degree and higher degrees.
- 30 (25.42%) have 0-5 years and 28(23.73%) have 16-20 years academic experience whereas 19 (16.10%) members have more than 21 years academic experience.
- 107 faculties are using internet services.
 - According to them Work Place/department is the most comfortable place for accessing the internet.
- Of these 107 faculty members 49(45.79%) uses internet as per required whereas 37 (34.58%) uses internet daily.

- 95(88.78%) faculty members use Internet Explorer as their web browser.
 - 93(86.92%) faculty members uses internet for seeking information of their subjects.
 - 84(78.50%) for seeking current information of their subjects.
 - 79(73.86%) faculty members uses internet for their research purpose.
 - 77(71.96%) for teaching-learning
 - 68(63.55%) for email
 - 64(59.81%) for interesting subjects
 - 34(31.71%) for other purpose like railway booking, banking etc. and
 - 22(20.57%) use internet for entertainment.
- A majority of respondents 101(93.39%) use Google as search engine.
- E-books, E-journals and online Databases are used by 45(42.06%) respondents.
- 66(61.68%) respondents did not find any problems related to copy right act.
- 26 respondents have encountered copy right act problems.
- 86(80.37%) respondents were fully satisfied with internet facilities provided by Colleges.
- 3(2.80%) respondents were not satisfied with internet facility provided by Colleges.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The present study indicates that a majority of faculty members were used the Internet as one of their sources of information. Most of faculties are used Internet daily for seeking information of their subject, research and development purposes and to access information quickly in their subject. The study also indicates that most of faculties were satisfied with the Internet facility. The study advices to Colleges, To organize user awareness programmed on Internet, Provide Internet facility for Maximum hours in their Colleges, To organize a workshop/Seminar for usefulness of internet in teaching-learning, learning internet tool kit, member of various discussion forum, membership of different library networks, organize short term course on Internet and how its use, explain about search strategy and create a environment for maximum use of e-resources on internet and its use in their academic work.

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