

# USE OF INTERNET BY FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS AT GB PANT LIBRARY DSB CAMPUS, KUMAUN UNIVERSITY, NAINITAL

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**Abstract** The article reveals about the use of the Internet in libraries by faculty members and research scholars at GB Pant Library, DSB Campus, Kumaun University Nainital. A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed, 40 to faculty and 110 to research scholars. A total of 140 valid questionnaires were collected from faculty members (34) and research scholars (106). The response rate was 86.67%. The study reveals that research scholars use internet daily and their favorite place for accessing it is GB Pant Library. Research and education are the top reasons for accessing internet. However open access journals are most preferred resources. But most respondents face downloading problem due to low speed.

**Keywords:** Internet, E-Theses, E-Journals Information Literacy, Search Engine

## INTRODUCTION

Internet has revolutionized the world of information. It is one of two technological innovations that have greatly influence the development of communication strategies and practices in both the general and the business communities of the world. The first was the invention of the printing press, Gutenberg's invention served to democratize the possession and transmission of texts, made the production of books much easier and cheaper than the manuscript method it replaced. The Internet provides new horizons for the researcher. A potentially vast population of all kinds of individuals and groups may be more easily reached than ever before, across geographical borders (D.B. Patil, 2011)<sup>1</sup>

## ABOUT PT. GOVIND BALLABH PANT LIBRARY DSB CAMPUS NAINITAL

The Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant library is an integral part of DSB campus, Kumaun University, Nainital. Which is situated in a separate building having two floors- ground floor contains book banks issue-return counter, technical section and staff rooms whereas in first floor reading room and a cybercafé is situated. Library provides its services with the help of 17 staff members. It has 1.2 lacs books including text books till 2010. It subscribed 46 journals, 5 magazines and 6 national news papers in print form. However library has not subscribed e-journals from any agency. We are making effort in this regard. In addition it has its own internet facility for faculty members and research scholars containing fifteen computers in reading room.

## OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to explore the use and awareness of the Internet facilities and resources by faculty members and research scholars at DSB Campus Nainital.

- to identify awareness of the Internet and its resources;
- to study the use of the Internet by the faculty members and research scholars;
- to find out the extent of use of the Internet;
- to identify the purposes for using the Internet;
- to discover problems faced by the faculties and researchers;
- to discover the satisfaction level with Internet-based resources and facilities;
- to suggest ways to improve the Internet-based resources in the library.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a lot of literature on the use and awareness of the Internet. The present study is an attempt to establish and exhibit the status of Internet resources, services, use, and awareness at DSB Campus, Kumaun University Nainital.

Jefferies and Hussein (1998)<sup>2</sup> reported that teaching faculty construct web pages to help structure students gather data and to provide access to other resources. Students, on the other hand, use email to communicate with their peers and with their tutors. The researchers emphasized the fact that students preferred to email their tutors rather than have face-to-face meetings.

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*Bavakutty and Salih (1999)*<sup>3</sup> conducted a survey at Calicut University, which showed that students, research scholars, and faculty members used the Internet on education and research purpose.

*Maheswarappa and Emmanuel (2003)*<sup>4</sup> conducted an exploratory study at Gulbarga city, showing a high rate of computer knowledge. *Asemi (2005)*<sup>5</sup> conducted a study in University of Isfahan, Iran. One hundred percent of users frequently used the Internet. A number of academic user studies have also reported that email is the most used Internet resource for staff and students.

*Mahajan (2006)*<sup>6</sup> conducted a study on Internet use by researchers in Punjab University, Chandigarh, which analyzed how the convergence of information and communication technologies, as embodied by the Internet, has transformed the present day society into a knowledge society.

*Madhusudhan (2007)*<sup>7</sup> conducted a survey on Internet use by research scholars at Delhi University, which revealed that most respondents used search engines more than subject gateways or web directories to locate information. Negative attitudes as well as conservatism act as barriers to effective Internet use. Internationally, there are a number of studies on Internet facilities.

## METHODOLOGY

Data was collected using a questionnaire. The survey covers research scholars and faculty members. There are 10 postgraduate departments in the campus, of which questionnaires were distributed to departments of computer sciences, commerce and management, social sciences, natural sciences, geology, etc. A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed, 40 to faculty and 110 to research scholars. A total of 140 valid questionnaires were collected from faculty members (34) and research scholars (106). The response rate was 86.67%.

## LIMITATION

Data have taken on the basis of most prefer fact. This study is only on open access resources because GB Pant Library has not subscribe any e-resources especially e-journals.

## DATA ANALYSIS

### Gender wise Distribution Pertaining to Internet Access

Table1 shows that 66.43% male and 26.43% female respondents use internet access. However male faculty members (52.94%) & male research scholars (52.94%) have majority for accessing internet.

**Table1:** Gender wise Distribution Pertaining to Internet Access

| Academic Status  | Male       | Female     |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Faculty member   | 18(52.94%) | 6(17.65%)  |
| Research Scholar | 75(70.75%) | 31(29.25%) |
| Percentage       | 66.43      | 26.43      |

### Awareness About Internet Access

The result of Table1 shows that all faculty and research scholars are aware about accessing internet.

**Table 2:** Awareness About Internet Access

| Academic Status  | Frequency | Yes | No  |
|------------------|-----------|-----|-----|
| Faculty member   | 34        | 34  | Nil |
| Research Scholar | 106       | 106 | Nil |

**Table 3:** Experience of Using Internet with Respect to Year

| Academic Status  | 0-1 year | 1-2 years  | 2-4 years  | Above 4 years |
|------------------|----------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Faculty member   | Nil      | 4(11.76%)  | 12(35.29%) | 18(52.94%)    |
| Research Scholar | 6(5.66%) | 16(15.09%) | 28(26.42%) | 56 (52.83%)   |
| % age            | 4.29     | 14.29      | 28.57      | 52.86         |

**Table 4:** Frequency of Internet Use

| Academic Status  | Daily      | 2-3 times perweek | Once a week | Fortnightly | Monthly |
|------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Faculty member   | 14(41.12%) | 12(35.29%)        | 6(17.65%)   | 2(5.88%)    | Nil     |
| Research Scholar | 62(58.49%) | 29(27.36%)        | 15(14.15%)  | Nil         | Nil     |
| % age            | 54.29      | 29.29             | 15          | 1.43        | Nil     |

## Experience of Using Internet with Respect to Year

The result of table2 shows that mostly respondent i.e. 52.86% have more than four year experience of using internet in their studies. However there are only few research scholars who are new i.e. below one year.

## Frequency of Internet Use

The result of table3 shows that mostly respondents (54.29%) use daily internet. It also reveals that research scholars use internet at least once in a week. However, faculty use internet at least fortnightly

## Location of Internet use

The result of table4 shows that mostly respondents (60.71%) use internet from library. The reason behind is that there is no availability to access internet from their respective departments. It also reveals that 34.29% respondents use it from the home. Mostly faculty (58.82%) prefer to access internet at home.

**Table 5:** Location of Internet use

| Academic Status | Library    | Computer lab | Home       |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Faculty member  | 12(35.29%) | 2(5.88%)     | 20(58.82%) |

|                  |            |          |            |
|------------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Research Scholar | 73(68.87%) | 5(4.72%) | 28(26.42%) |
| % age            | 60.71      | 5.00     | 34.29      |

## PURPOSE FOR INTERNET USE

The result of table5 shows that more than half respondents use internet for their research work. 32.35% faculty uses it for education but they don't access entertainment sites. However, second preference of researcher scholar of using internet is for communication.

## Use of Internet resources

In DSB Campus library the subscribed database are not available. So research is conducted only those resources which are open access in public domain. Table6 reveals that mostly respondents use e-journals (37.86%) followed by e-theses (27.43%). However, 76.47% faculty use open access journals and research scholars prefer e-theses.

## Use of Search Engines

Table7 shows that 78.57% respondents use Google for searching. Which means Google is most preferred search engine for searching.

## Use of Internet Services

Table8 reveals that 40.71% respondents use internet for

**Table 6:** Purpose of Internet use

| Academic Status  | Research   | Education  | Entertainment | Communication |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Faculty member   | 19(55.88%) | 11(32.35%) | Nil           | 4(11.76%)     |
| Research Scholar | 56(52.83%) | 19(17.92%) | 9(8.49%)      | 22(20.75%)    |
| % age            | 53.57      | 21.43      | 6.43          | 18.57(16.04%) |

**Table 7:** Use of Internet Resources

| Academic Status  | E-Theses   | E-Journals | E-books  | E-Newspaper | E-Magazines | E-Bibliographic Databases |
|------------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Faculty member   | 2(5.88%)   | 26(76.47%) | Nil      | Nil         | Nil         | 6(17.65%)                 |
| Research Scholar | 36(33.96%) | 27(25.47%) | 8(7.55%) | 12(11.32%)  | 6(5.66%)    | 17(16.03%)                |
| % age            | 27.43      | 37.86      | 5.71     | 8.57        | 4.29        | 16.43                     |

**Table 8:** Use of Search Engines

| Academic Status  | Google     | Altavista | Yahoo      |
|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Faculty member   | 24(70.59%) | 2(5.88%)  | 8(23.53%)  |
| Research Scholar | 86(81.13%) | 6(5.66%)  | 14(13.21%) |
| % age            | 78.57      | 5.71      | 15.71      |

downloading documents. This is preferred service by them. Faculty member don't use social networking sites. Second preferred choice is Email (30.71%).

### Difficulties in accessing Internet

Table9 reveals that though respondents preferred internet service is downloading and they (46.46%) are facing problem in it. However 35.71% respondents especially researchers (42.45%) find difficulty in finding relevant information.

### Feedback about Internet Facility

Table10 reveals that 52.86% respondents satisfied by the internet service and 38.57% are partially satisfied.

## FINDINGS

- Male majority of accessing internet is two by third.
- All faculty members and research scholars are aware about accessing internet.
- Faculty members and research scholars are aware about accessing internet.
- Faculty members are using internet services more than four years.
- Most research scholars use internet daily.
- Internet is not free.

- Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant Library of DSB Campus is most preferred place for accessing internet.
- Research and education are the top reasons for accessing internet.
- Google is most favored search engine.
- Downloading of e-journals and e-theses are most preferred internet resources
- Users found difficulties in downloading and finding relevant information.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote female faculty members and research scholars for accessing internet in the library.
- Internet facility should be free so that more users can avail the facility.
- Library should subscribe e-journals through Infilbnet and other agency.
- Information Literacy programs must be conducted for using e-resources at least once in a year.
- There must be a regular basis workshop on technical writing and career guidance.

## CONCLUSION

Internet service is as important as other resources kept in the library. The students and faculty members can access

**Table 9:** Use of Internet Services

| Academic Status  | Email      | Search Engines | Downloading | Website  | Social Networking |
|------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| Faculty member   | 8(23.53%)  | 4(11.76%)      | 21(61.76%)  | 1(2.94%) | Nil               |
| Research Scholar | 35(33.02%) | 14(13.21%)     | 36(33.96%)  | 2(1.89%) | 19(17.92%)        |
| % age            | 30.71      | 15.71          | 40.71       | 2.14     | 13.57             |

**Table 10:** Difficulties in Accessing Internet

| Academic Status  | Slow speed | Finding relevant Information | Downloading problem | Lack of Training |
|------------------|------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Faculty member   | 6(17.65%)  | 4(11.76%)                    | 24(70.59%)          | Nil              |
| Research Scholar | 20(18.87%) | 45(42.45%)                   | 32(30.19%)          | 9(8.49%)         |
| % age            | 18.57      | 35.71                        | 46.43               | 6.43             |

**Table 11:** Feedback about Internet Facility

| Academic Status  | Fully Satisfied | Partially Satisfied | Least satisfied |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Faculty member   | 18(52.94%)      | 16(47.06%)          | Nil             |
| Research Scholar | 56(52.83%)      | 38(35.85%)          | 12(11.32%)      |
| % age            | 52.86           | 38.57               | 8.57            |

e-journals, e-theses, etc. from it. But information literacy programs are most important tool to popularize the library resources. Pt. GB Pant library has taken initiative in this regard very soon we are organizing a workshop pertaining to technical writing and career guidance especially for the students. We are planning to subscribe UGC Infonet consortium that is available in our central library. Our authorities are positive in this regard and this facility will be available in our resource centre.

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