Use of Internet by the Teaching Faculty of Bacha Khan University Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan

Saeed Ullah Jan
Department of Library and Information Science, Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar PAKISTAN

Abstract

Internet is the network of networks that have converted the whole world in to a global village and even into a drawing room. This important technological product has completely changed the style of communication, correspondence, business, research, learning and teaching. It has reduced the obstacles of length, time and wall. We can do a lot of activities with a single click with the help of this amazing technology. It has dramatically changed the life style of human beings of this modern world. The main focus of this paper is on the frequency, purpose of internet, satisfaction level of the users and barriers to the smooth operation of internet by the teacher community of Bacha Khan University (BAKU) Charsadda, Pakistan. How these barriers can be eradicated? is also an area of interest of this paper. Proper motivation on the use of internet, searching techniques, provision of Un-Interrupted Power Supply to the computers and installation of latest work stations is the need of the day.

Introduction

Technically, internet is a technology used for linking Local Area Networks (LANs) into a huge network. It was first envisioned by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) scientist J.C.R Licklider in August 1962. Licklider was the head of the first computer research program at the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA), as it was then known, a unit of U.S. Department of Defense. Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET) connected four computers located in California and Utah and went online in September 1969. By 1981, ARPANET connected 213 computers. By 1987, this figure rose to 10,000. The latest figure in 2011 is 2095, 006, 005 which are 30.2 % of the total population of the world. The internet is widely used to save money and time, stay in touch with the world, job search, update your self and enjoy hobbies and interest.

Indeed internet is an amazing addition in our lives. With the help of internet, we can interact with each other through e-mail, net meetings and teleconferencing. It can also be used for e-banking and shopping. This technology has also some demerits like theft of personal information, spamming, virus threat and pornography.

Objectives of the study: The main objectives of this study are as under: i. To pinpoint the purpose and aim of internet use by the teaching Faculty, ii. To examine the Rating of internet for academic pursuit by the teaching faculty. iii. To find out the satisfaction level with the Internet based resources, iv. To explore the various barriers to the smooth usage of internet by the teachers community of the university.

Research Methodology

Survey method has been adopted to accomplish the objectives of the study. A group of 136 University teachers from Bacha Khan University Charsadda were questioned regarding the use of internet for the fulfillment of their information needs. Information on frequency, purpose, barriers to the smooth operation of internet and other relevant parameters related to the filed of study was addressed in the data collection instrument. As population of the study is not too large, so no sampling was made. Emails, telephone calls, Short Message Services (SMS) and physical meetings with the respondents were used as follow up tools. The response rate was 100%. The data collected were processed; analyzed and interpreted using SPSS software. The inferences were drawn on the basis of findings obtained from the analysis of data.

Literature Review: Literature review in research is a gold standard against which the literary value and importance of a work is measured. According to Taylor, a literature review should be organized and directly related to the topic on which the research is being conducted. Secondly it should describe a brief summary of what is known as well as unknown to the readers so far. Thirdly it should point out the areas of controversy and arise questions that need further research. S. Thanuskodi and S. Ravi[1] discussed that internet is a pre-requisite for improving and maintaining standard in education and research. This study also stressed on the user education program, provision of high internet speed and availability of up-to-date modern websites.

Bhullar[2], Uzunboylu and Ozdamli[3] wrote that internet has provided a new avenue for faculty members for acquiring their required information with an effective and cost effective ways. Sang, Valcke, van Braak and Tondeur[4] and Huang and Liaw[5] were of the opinion that will and attitude of the teachers towards the use of computers in learning process is need of this modern era.

Faizul Nisha Naushad Ali[6] suggested that the library should develop a new web and intranet development planning process. Trained personnel help to achieve the objectives of the library of a better way. Training of personnel is essential because effectiveness of the library depends on the performance of the staff. There should be a special training to the users of the library to teach them how to use intranet. Haroon Idress[7] concluded that there is a dire need of trainings on the use of internet to enhance research productivity and learning processes.

Rubina Bhatti[8] described that lack of computer terminals, low speed, lack of time, lack of accessibility from home are the major barriers to the proper use of internet in universities. Gifty Adika[9] highlighted that the expertise of librarians, information professionals and computer scientists needs to be tapped to provide training and refresher sessions for faculty to keep up to date on harnessing the immense potential of the Internet as a source of information for teaching and research. Alshankity, Z., and Alshawi, A.[10] reported that there is no significant gender difference in the internet use by the Faculty members of universities. Amara malik and Khalid Mehmood[11] discuss web search approach of the users. It is reflected that users prefer search engines like Google and Yahoo for their required information. Perrotta[12] examined the benefits of emerging technologies and internet in classroom, teaching style and school system. The use of these modern trends will make learners smarter in learning process.

Results and Discussion

Analysis of Data and Findings of the study: Data collected through structured questionnaire were analyzed using tabulated frequency count and percentage. The findings were presented with each table

Table-1
Gender

Gender	N	Percentage
Male	132	92
Female	12	08
Total	144	100

Table 1 reflects that there is male dominancy in Bacha Khan University Charsadda in connection with number of faculty members.

Use of internet: In present era of emerging trends, university teachers mainly rely on internet for their information needs and are a major source for job search and learning work[11].

Purpose of internet use: Internet is a dynamic tool used for multi purposes. The researcher and general user of internet use it for communication, information, entertainment and career development. However, the respondents were asked to report about the following main purposes of internet for which they use it. Table-3 elucidates the data regarding this issue.

Data analysis of table-2 reveals that majority of the teaching faculty of Bacha Khan University are using the internet at their respective departments (Mean=1.3403 and Skewness=.681). A good number of the respondents reported that Library is the place where they use the interne and a few of the University teachers are using the internet facility at home (as data is negatively skewed). None of the respondents claimed Cyber café or any other forum for internet use.

Table-2
Place of Internet Use

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
Gender	144	.00	1.00	.0833	.27735	3.047	.202	7.386	.401
Department	144	1.00	2.00	1.3403	.47546	.681	.202	-1.558	.401
Library	144	1.00	2.00	1.8194	.38599	-1.678	.202	.829	.401
Cyber Cafe	144	2.00	2.00	2.0000	.00000	.	.	.	.
Home	144	1.00	2.00	1.8403	.36763	-1.877	.202	1.545	.401
Any other	144	2.00	2.00	2.0000	.00000	.	.	.	.

Table-3 also showed that half of the population is using the internet on two to three times a day (S.D=.5000 and Skewness=.169). A reasonable number of the respondents is accessing this facility on daily basis(S.D=.48581 and Skewness= -.522) and 01 Faculty member each is using internet rarely. Kaur, Amritpal and Rajeev Manhas[14] have also examined that 62 percent of the students and teachers of Engineering Colleges of Punjab and Haryana (India) are using internet on daily basis.

Table-4 exhibits that majority of the respondents use the internet for Research and Teaching purposes followed by career development. A good number (72.72%) of the teaching staff reported that they are using Internet for email purposes. Few of the respondents reported that they are using the internet for recreation and News.

Table-3
Frequency of internet use

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error
Frequency	144	.00	1.00	.0833	.27735	3.047	.202
2-3 times in a day	144	1.00	2.00	1.4583	.50000	.169	.202
Daily	144	1.00	2.00	1.6250	.48581	-.522	.202
Once in a week	144	1.00	2.00	1.9306	.25510	-3.423	.202
Once in month	144	2.00	2.00	2.0000	.00000	.	.
Rarely	144	1.00	2.00	1.9931	.08333	-12.000	.202

Table-4
Purpose of internet

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error
Frequency	144	.00	1.00	.0833	.27735	3.047	.202
Email	144	1.00	2.00	1.2708	.44594	1.042	.202
Sports	144	1.00	2.00	1.8194	.38599	-1.678	.202
Update yourself	144	1.00	2.00	1.5417	.50000	-.169	.202
Career development	144	1.00	2.00	1.1806	.38599	1.678	.202
Research and teaching	144	1.00	2.00	1.1736	.38010	1.742	.202
Recreation and News	144	1.00	2.00	1.4514	.49937	.197	.202

Table-5
Use of Internet resources

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance
Conference proceedings	144	1.00	2.00	1.5764	.49586	.246
Databases	144	1.00	2.00	1.5000	.50175	.252
EBooks	144	1.00	2.00	1.4375	.49781	.248
Standards and patents	144	1.00	2.00	1.7431	.43847	.192
Reference works	144	1.00	2.00	1.3750	.48581	.236
E-journals	144	1.00000	2.00000	1.1388889	.34703	.120
Technical Reports	144	1.00000	2.00000	1.8194444	.38599	.149
Theses and Dissertations	144	1.00000	2.00000	1.3888889	.48919	.239

Table-6
Satisfaction with Internet facilities

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance
Gender	144	.00	1.00	.0833	.27735	.077
Fully	144	1.00	2.00	1.6042	.49074	.241
Partially	144	1.00	2.00	1.5486	.49937	.249
Least satisfied	144	1.00	2.00	1.8958	.30654	.094
No comments	144	1.00	2.00	1.9236	.26655	.071

The analysis of table-5 shows that majority of the faculty members at BAKU are accessing E-Journals (S.D=.34703764 and Variance=.120) while using internet followed by reference works, theses and dissertation. Technical reports, standard and patents followed by conference proceedings are the less used resources at internet.

The respondents were also asked about their satisfaction level from the internet. Table-6 elaborates the details about this phenomenon. About half of the faculty members at BAKU are satisfied with the internet use for the fulfillment of their information needs.

Rating of internet for academic pursuit: The teaching faculty of the Bacha Khan University was asked about the rating of internet used for their academic pursuit. They were asked to rate in five point scale (High, Average, Low, Very low and Uncertain). The respondents' opinion was recorded in Table 6.

Table-7
Rating of internet

Rating of Internet	Frequency	Percentage
High	48	32
Average	85	63
Low	01	02
Very Low	01	02
Uncertain	01	01

N=144

The analysis of table-7 reflects that teachers rated the use of internet in teaching, researching process as average. A good number reported high rating of internet for academic pursuit.

Barriers to internet use: When asked from the teacher community about the barriers to internet use. The reports of the respondent's opinion were summarized in table-7.

The analysis of table-8 exhibits that power breakdown/ failure is a great barrier to the use of internet. Apart from that social and religious factors, slow bandwidth speed, lack of computer terminals, virus on computers are also reported as barriers to the

utilization of this wonderful and amazing technology. Lack of proper training and finance are not considered as hindrances to the use of internet by the teachers of Bacha Khan University Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Table-8
Barriers to internet use

Barriers	Frequency	Percentage
Slow Speed	41	30
Lack of enough computer terminals	24	18
Virus on computers	23	17
Lack of proper training	02	1.5
Finance	00	00
Power dependencies	102	78
Social and Religious factors	29	20

Note: N=144

How to cope with these barriers: The respondents were asked to comment in response to an open end question and suggest some means and ways for the eradication of these barriers. The faculty members of Bacha Khan University Charsadda recorded that alternate power supply (UPS/ Generator), replacement of line cable with optical fiber, powerful antivirus software and technical staff is the tool that can be used to cope with these barriers.

To comment on the most satisfactory source of information: With the advent of emerging technologies, the style of information search has been totally changed. The university teachers were asked to report about the most appropriate source information. Table-6 shows the response of the respondents.

Table-8
Sources of information

Sources of Information	Frequency	Percentage
INterent	124	86
Research Journals	42	29
Newspaper	17	12
Books	47	33
Experts	27	19

Table-8 shows that internet is the most commonly used source on information in this modern era of emerging technologies. Books and research journals were also declared as appropriate sources of information by the teacher community of the university.

Conclusion

It is safely concluded that faculty members of Bacha Khan University Charsadda are using University facilities for their internet use. They utilize the internet facility of their respective departments and library. Internet is widely used for learning, teaching and research activities. Irregular Electricity failure and low voltage is considered as the major obstacle to the internet use in the campus. Internet was considered as the major source of information along with books and research journals.

It is recommended that powerful alternative power supply may be provided to the university to solve the problem of electricity failure. The land line cable may be replaced with the optical fiber to reduce data loss/ corruption and increase internet speed. The users should be educated about the positive use of the internet. The technical staff may be recruited for maintenance of internet connections and proper training to the users on the online searching techniques. The internet users may be provided latest websites with URLs. This information may be displayed on the notice board of library and respective departments.

References

1. Thanuskodi S. and S. Ravi, Internet Use by Researchers: A Study of Annamalai University, Annamalainagar. *Library Philosophy and Practice* Available: http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/thanuskodi-internet.htm **(2011)**

2. Bhullar S., The Internet as a Tool in Education. Retrieved 16 January, 2011. From:http://www.bookcouncil.sg/_courses/pdf/2010/The%20Internet%20as%20a%20Tool%20in%20Education%2026%20Feb%202010.pdf **(2010)**

3. zunboylu H. and Ozdamli F., The Perceptions of University Students on Using E-Mail, Chat and Discussion Groups for Educational Purposes, *Cypriot Journal of Educational Sciences,* **1(1),** 47-60 **(2006)**

4. Sang, G.Y., Valcke M., van Braak J. and Tondeur J., Student teachers' thinking processes and ICT integration: Predictors of prospective teaching behaviors with educational technology. *Computers and Education,* **54(1),** 103-112 **(2010)**

5. Huang H.M. and Liaw S.S., Exploring users' attitudes and intentions toward the web as a survey tool. *Computers in Human Behavior,* **21(5),** 729-743**(2005)**

6. Faizul Nisha Naushad Ali, The Application and Use of Library Intranet Services at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, *Library Philosophy and Practice,* **(2011)**

7. Idrees Haroon and Atta ur- Rehman, Internet use Behaviour of the LIS Community in Pakistan. Library Philosophy and Practice. Available: http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/idrees-rehman.htm **(2010)**

8. Bhatti Rubina, Internet Use among Faculty Members in the Changing Higher Education Environment at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan, *Library Philosophy and Practice.* Available: http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/bhatti3.htm **(2010)**

9. Gifty Adika, Internet use among faculty members of universities in Ghana. *Library Review*, **52(1),** 29-37 **(2003)**

10. Alshankity Z. and Alshawi A., Gender differences in Internet usage among faculty members: The case of Saudi Arabia. This paper appears in: *Human System Interactions, 2008 Conference*, **(2008)**

11. Judd T. and Kennedy G., A five-year study of on-campus Internet use by undergraduate biomedical students. *Computers and Education*, 55, 1564–1571 **(2010)**

12. Kaur Amritpal and Rajeev Manhas, Use of Internet services and resources in the engineering colleges of Punjab and Haryana (India):a study. *The International Information and Library Review,* **40,** 10-20 **(2008)**

13. Malik Amara and Mahmood Khalid, Web Search Behavior of University Students: A Case Study at University of the Punjab. *Chinese Librarianship: an International Electronic Journal*, 28. URL: http://www.iclc.us/cliej/cl28MM.htm **(2009)**

14. Perrotta C., Do school-level factors influence the educational benefits of digital technology? A critical analysis of teachers' perceptions. British Journal of Educational Technology, **44(2),** 314-327 **(2013)**

15. Bavakutty M. and Salih Muhamad T.K., Internet services in Calicut University. Conference, Academic Libraries in the Internet Era. Ahemdabad, India. Proceedings of the 6th National Convention on Academic Libraries in the Internet Era., 37-44 **(1999)**

16. Safdar Muhammad, Khalid Mehmood and Saima Qutab, Internet Use Behavior and Attitude of College Students: a Survey of Leadership Colleges' Network. *Library Philosophy and Practice.* Available:http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/safdar-mahmood-qutab.htm**(2010)**

17. Taylor Dena, The Literature Review: A Few Tips on Conducting It. [Online].Available: http://www.utoronto.ca/ writing/litrev.html (Date visited: 4.9.2005) **(2005)**