# INTERNET USE BY FACULTY MEMBERS: A STUDY ON JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MEDICAL COLLEGE, BELGAUM.

**Holeyannavar, Atmanand G.**

ABSTRACT

*Technological advancement has its own impact on education. Communication technology plays a vital role in the development of society. Vast amounts of data are transmitted in seconds, and Internet access offers unimaginably large amounts of information, data and interpreted materials. This study attempts to focus on the impact on the impact of Internet on academicians. Now a day's large majority of faculty has been using the Internet. They use the Internet mostly for and give importance to, e-mail, and search engines, resources mainly for communication, research, and teaching. It has helped them to save time, find up to date information. Slow speed, lack of time, and lack of access from home are the major problems. Most of them are concerned in improving the Internet use skills through formal training*

**Keywords:** *Internet and User study*

## 1. Introduction

Internet is a technology facilitator for library. Though we known that internet is the latest media for effective communication. Hence it is no doubt a facilitator for all Library application and services to known that the medium of usage of all application will became relevant for study here. The Internet has become a familiar term to almost everyone. Originally intended as a means of communication between researchers, it has now evolved to become a network of networks, linking millions of computers. The Internet facilitates electronic mail communication, logins to remote computers, file transfers, and access to a multitude of information resources. From a slow start, the Internet has grown into a global community with an estimated 60 million users in mid-1997. Most libraries and information centers have welcomed this new technology. The initial use of it was confined to online searching of databases for reference and inter-library loans. Today, the Internet provides libraries with vast opportunities in diverse areas such as management activities, question answering services, information sharing, and increasing librarian's visibility and value to the community. Internet computer-based worldwide information system. At the crack of dawn of information age professionals are experiencing new dynamism in field of information collection, information handing and retrieval. The internet considered as the electronic mobile library in cyberspace provides an almost universal infrastructure for accessing the information with almost global achieves. The Internet is composed of a large number of smaller interconnected networks

called internets. These internets may connect tens, hundreds, or thousands of computers, enabling them to share information with each other and to share various resources, such as powerful supercomputers and databases of information. During the 1990s the Internet has grown tremendously in the number of people using it and the amount of information contained on it.

## 2. Need for the study

Medical libraries have made a significant investment of Internet and in computer-based technologies in general

[1] *Research Scholar, RCU & Assistant Librarian, USM-KLE International Medical Programme, Belgaum. nandu.nandu32@gmail.com*

and the Internet in particular as a need on the part of faculty to provide technology mediated information services to the clientele. In a limited span of time, the Internet has become an integral unit for Library and Information Centers. The current study is conducted to gather & measure and access the changing user's attitude, and behavior towards the Internet. It is necessary to examine the Internet facility provided at the campuses of the colleges and to evaluate the use of Internet.

### 3. Objectives of the Study

The study generally aims to analyze the Internet use by the faculty members of JN Medical College of Belgaum.

- To know the purpose of using the Internet.
- To examine the impact of Internet in teaching and research.
- To determine the location of the Internet facility most frequently used.
- To determine the influence of the Internet on Medical faculty academic efficiency.
- To find out the problems faced by the Medical faculty while accessing the Internet.
- To find out use of library resources through internet facility
- To find out the use of library service through internet

### 4. Methodology

A survey, using a questionnaire, among the faculty members of the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Belgaum, was conducted to study the use of the Internet and to reveal the impact of the Internet on Faculty members. 100 questionnaires were received back, resulting a response data given by the faculty is analyzed and presented.

### 5. Scope and Limitations

The study is confined to Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Belgaum affiliated RGHUS, regarding the usability of electronic resources.

### 6. About JNMC: Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum.

The extreme shortage of medical facilities in the region, promoted the KLE Society to establish the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College at Belgaum in 1963. The J N Medical College, Belgaum, stands testimony to the high professional standards aimed for and achieved by the KLE Society.

**JNMC Offers Course like** MBBS, Post- Graduate degree (MD/MS) and Diploma, Allied Programs and Fellowship Programs, etc.

### 7. Literature Review

Maheshwarappa and Ebnazar (2003) reports the results of an exploratory study on the use of Internet resources and services in Gulburga city based on the data collected from 123 users of Internet in private and public sectors covering 47 from cybercafés and 76 users from the university and college environment. Most frequently used resources and tools of the Internet were E-mail, web browsers and search engines. Most frequently used search engines were Yahoo, rediff, MSN search and Lycos. 70% have not received any instructions

in the use of Internet and felt the need for training.

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). The craving for the internet stems from its central role in providing access to free online journals, magazines and other information resources anytime and from anywhere for academic and research purposes.(Kode and Kode, 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. 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 has emerged as the most powerful medium for storage and retrieval of information. In the era of networked information Internet, the largest worldwide network of networks has emerged as the most powerful tool for an instant access to information (Rajeev Kumar and Kaur, 2005). But, in the present Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with a tremendous amount of content on the Internet, retrieving relevant information cannot be achieved easily. Retrieving the relevant information from the overwhelming amount of information has become the need of the hour. But the effective use of search engines for retrieval of information is a crucial challenge for any Internet user. At this juncture, the search engines come into rescue.

Asemi (2005) did a case study of Medical Sciences University of Isfahan (MUI), Iran. The results of the study showed that all the respondents used the Internet frequently because all faculties had an Internet connection. It was revealed that the researchers of the university were getting quality health information and patient care through the Internet. Fifty-five percent of respondents searched for scientific health information through the Internet because the university library provided access to databases and online journals students and staff.

Ajuwon (2006) conducted a study of the physicians' use of the Internet for health information for patient care at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria. The findings revealed that 98% of the respondents had used the Internet. A majority (76%) accessed the Internet from cyber cafes. Ninety percent reported that they had obtained information from the Internet for patient care; of this number, 76.2% had searched a database.

Chestnutt and Reynolds (2006) conducted a study of 457 dentists in Wales to identify how patient information on the Internet has influenced the delivery of oral care and the use practitioners make of the Internet. Thirty-nine percent of respondents agreed that information gained from the Internet had led to patients demanding inappropriate care.

**8. Library E-Resources**

- **E-books:** E-books are electronic version of books delivered to readers in digital formats they are read on all types of computers, including handheld devices designed specifically for reading e-books.
- **E-journals:** E-journals are often referred to interchangeably as "electronic serials", "online journals", "paperless journals", "virtual journals", "CD-ROM journals" and "electronic journals".

- **E-zine**: An e-zine is also known as an e-mail magazine.
- **ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations):** ETD is a document that is prepared as a result of research work carried out by a student of post graduate courses or research degree.
- **E-reference sources**: There are different kinds of e-reference sources like dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, handbooks, thesaurus, yearbooks, etc.
- **Library Services**
  - ✓ OPAC-Searching the book through a Online Public Access Catalogue
  - ✓ Library Alerts – Instant message for the Faculty through the Mail, while issued the book.
  - ✓ CAS – Current Awareness Services
  - ✓ Lectures-Lectures will conducted form the library
  - ✓ web-page - A static web page is delivered exactly as stored, as web content in the web server's file system, while a dynamic web page is generated by a web application that is driven by server-side software or client-side scripting. Dynamic web pages help the browser (the client) to enhance the web page through user input to the server.
  - ✓ User Orientation: Orienting users to modern library services is another challenge. LIS schools that they must produce graduates who are up to the demands of the changing and challenging information market place.

## 9. Data Analysis and Interpretation

**Table 1: Gender wise distribution of respondents**

| Gender | No. of Faculty | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 70 | 70% |
| Female | 30 | 30% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

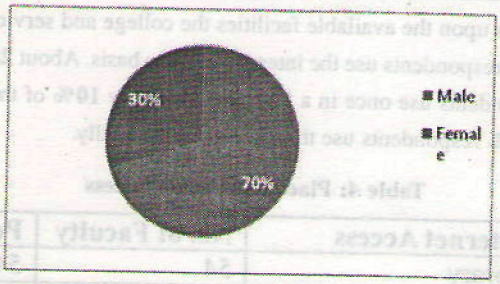
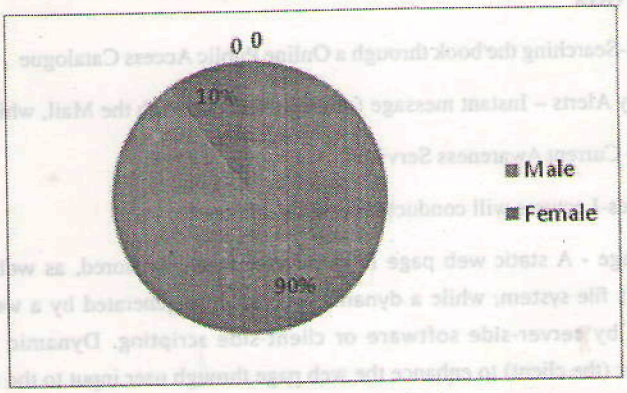



**Table 1 shows** the gender wise allocation of respondents. It is clear from table 1 that **70%** respondents are male where as **30%** respondents are female. Table 1 reveals that male faculties are dominating over, female respondents in faculty members of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Belgaum.

**Table 2: Use of Internet**

| Usage of Internet | No. of Faculty | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 90 | 90% |
| Female | 10 | 10% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |




The Respondents were asked about certain questions to ascertain the awareness, use and purpose of Internet access. Table 2 shows that **90%** respondents use the Internet regularly and very small of **10%** respondents do not use the Internet.

**Table 3: Frequency of Internet use**

| Frequency of Use | No. of Faculty | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Daily | 45 | 45% |
| Once in a week | 25 | 25% |
| Once in a fortnight | 15 | 15% |
| Once in a month | 10 | 10% |
| Occasionally | 05 | 05% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

The frequency of use depends upon the available facilities the college and services provides. **Table 3** shows that the majority **45 %** of the respondents use the internet on daily basis. About **25%** respondents use once in a week, whereas **15 %** respondents use once in a fortnight, similarly **10%** of the respondents use once in a month, this is followed by **5%** respondents use the internet occasionally.

**Table 4: Place of Internet access**

| Place of Internet Access | No. of Faculty | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| College Library | 54 | 54% |
| Internet Café | 25 | 25% |
| Home | 21 | 21% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

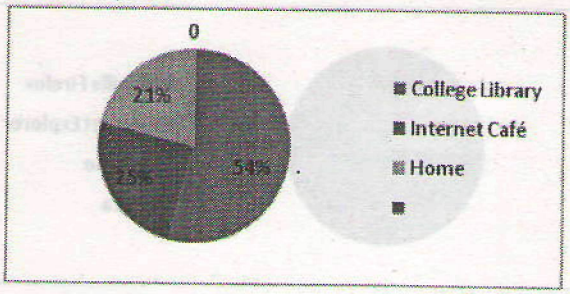



**Table 4** depicts place from where faculty members access the Internet. The majority **54%** of respondents access the Internet from college library, about **25%** respondent's access from Internet cafe, followed by 21 % respondent's access at home.

**Table 5: Purpose of using the Internet**

| Purpose | No. of Faculty | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| E-Mail | 85 | 85% |
| General Information | 80 | 80% |
| News | 60 | 60% |
| Sports | 75 | 75% |
| Research and Teaching | 98 | 98% |
| Online-Database | 45 | 45% |

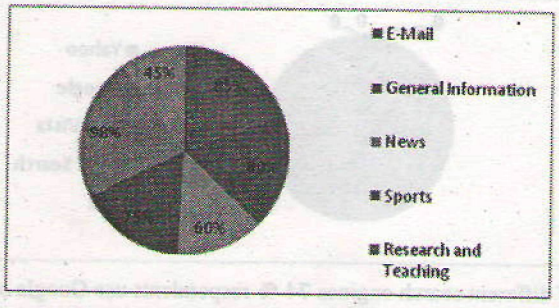



**Table 5** Reveals that majority **98.00%** respondents indicated that research and teaching is the primary purpose of using the Internet. About **85.00 %** respondents use the Internet for E-mail purpose. This is followed by **80.00%** respondents indicated for general information and about **75.00 %** respondents indicated sports. News and Online Database record relatively lesser preference. The findings of table 5 shows majority of the respondents use the Internet for their research and teaching. It is clearly reveals that faculty member of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Belgaum are particular towards their research and teaching activities.

**Table 6: Web Browser used by Faculty Members**

| Name of Browser | No. of Faculty | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Mozilla Firefox | 47 | 47% |
| Internet Explorer | 27 | 27% |
| Chrome | 16 | 16% |
| Opera | 10 | 10% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

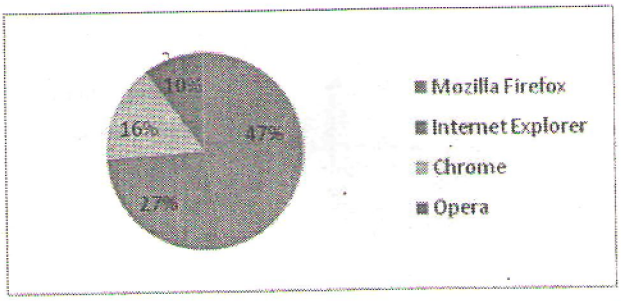



**Table 6** shows that **47%** of the respondents use Mozilla Firefox as the web browser. **27%** of the respondents most often use Internet explorer web browser. Chrome was sometimes used by **16%** users. Opera web browser was rarely used by **10%** faculty members.

**Table 7: Use of search engines**

| Search Engines | No. of Faculty | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Yahoo | 26 | 26% |
| Google | 74 | 74% |
| Alta Vista | ------ | ------- |
| MSN Search | ------ | ------- |
| Ask | ------ | ------- |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

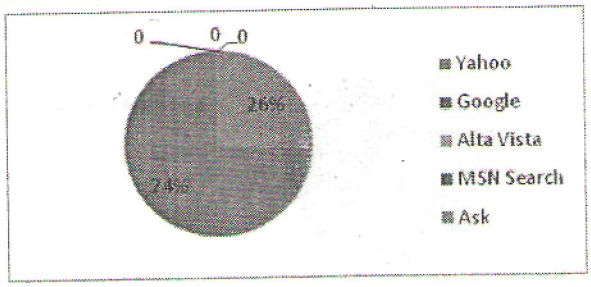



**Table 7** depicts the use of different search engines **74 %** respondents use Google search engine, about **26 %** respondents use Yahoo search engine, followed MSN and Ask search. Record relatively lesser preference.

**Table 8: Impact of Internet on Teaching Research**

| Impact of Internet on Teaching / Research | No. of Faculty | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Agree | 45 | 45% |
| Agree | 25 | 25% |
| Uncertain | 20 | 20% |
| Disagree | 10 | 10% |
| Strong Disagree | ---- | ---- |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

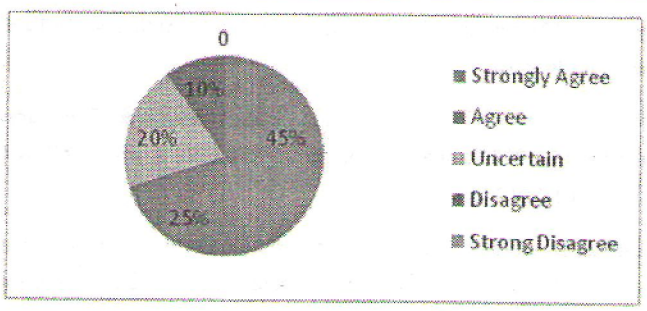



**Table 8** shows that the impact of internet on teaching and research. It is evident that majority **45%** respondents strongly agree that the Internet has an important impact on their teaching and research. About **25.00 %** respondents indicated agree.

**Recommendations**

- User education programmes for the faculty should be conducted at regular intervals regarding the effective use of Internet.
- Efforts should be increase the speed of the Internet access and shorten the time it takes to view and download web pages.
- Information concerning the popular and the newest websites with their addresses should be displayed on the notice board in the computer section in Library.

**Conclusion**

The study indicated that most of the respondents were satisfied with the internet facility. The study indicates a need for colleges to organize user awareness programmes, enhance the internet Facility for maximum hours in the college and also organize a workshop on the usefulness of internet in teaching-learning, to ensure maximum use of e-resources on the Internet and its use in their academic work. The academic staff should support the use of online database for teaching and research. In view of the present condition, it is the responsibility of the human resources of the Library and Information Centres to create more awareness about the use of the Internet among the faculty and to provide friendly environment so that the faculty can make better use of the facility.

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