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Information search pattern of post graduate students in web based environment: A special reference to Basaveshwar Engineering College, (autonomous) Bagalkot

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Abstract
The Web based information is now known to be the richest source of information. The growth rate of the web is exponential. This paper explores different aspects of web search behavior of engineering professionals, in terms of user's and experience with web, purpose of use, searching skills, frequency of use, favorite search engine, etc. All these factors contribute to the way in which the students search the web. The researchers prepared a well-structured questionnaire as a tool for data collection and same analyzed and presented with useful percentage analysis and suitable table for presentation of data.

Keywords: use of web base information, search engines, purpose and need for web based information

Introduction
Libraries are the kingdom of information dissemination, important components of any professional institution, and hub of learning activities where students and teachers can explore the large amount of web information resources. The present age is regarded as the 'age of information' and information has become the commodity today's context of information explosion where we are living in the information society. Information has become an essential requirement for every one's life. Information and communication technology has revolutionized every step of human society. Large scale computerization, invention of internet and influx of Web has made extensive and speed dissemination of information change the world in a global village. Initially the Web was developed at CERN (Geneva) by Tim Berners-Lee and became almost a synonym for Internet itself. Due to emergence of new technology and its adoption in the library especially the building of web resources has paved the way to different methods of information storage, search patterns and utilization of new forms of information products and services has also influenced the library collection development policy.
Basaveshwar Engineering College is located in a sprawling 91 acre on the outskirts of the city and is adjoining to new Bagalkot town. The college was started in 1963 has been designed and equipped for dispensation of quality engineering education. The institution is backed by highly qualified and experienced staff, well equipped laboratories, library, and modern teaching aids. The college offers courses in BE, M.Tech, P.G Degree, Diploma and Ph.D. These courses are governed by the Visveshvarayya Technological University of "Jnana Sangama" Belagavi Karnataka.

Need for the Study
World Wide Web information resource is very necessary part to most of the technical organizations. The awareness and usage of Web information sources by engineering (M.Tech) students depends mainly on skills of every individual to locate discrete knowledge elements. Information explosion has increased in the vast amount of web information resources available on the particular websites.

Statement of the problem
"Information Search Pattern of Post Graduate Students in Web Based Environment: A Special Reference to Basaveshwar Engineering College, (Autonomous) Bagalkot"

Objective of the study
- To identify the awareness of web based resources
- To know the purpose of using web based resources
- To find out the problems faced by the PG students of engineering while accessing and using the web resources.

Methodology
To collect the data, a structured questionnaire is designed, to anticipating the use of web information resources in Engineering College (Autonomous), Bagalkot. The questionnaires were distributed to the Engineering (M.Tech) students collected data is presented by using % (percentage) and graphs.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Gender Wise distributions

Gender wise	No of Respondents	Percentage%
Male	38	63.33
Female	22	36.67
Total	60	100

Table 1 Indicates the gender wise respondents 38 (63.33%) of respondents are the Male students, and 22 (36.67%) of the respondents are Female students.

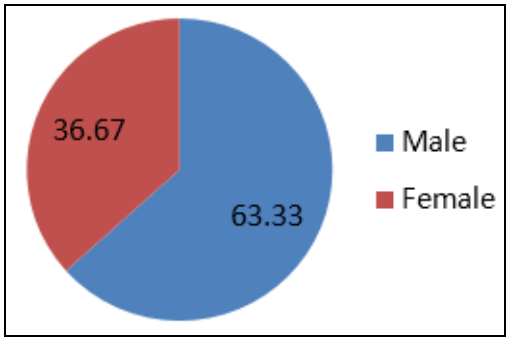

Fig 1: Gender Wise Distributions

Table 2: Access to electronic information resources

Electronic information resources	No of Respondents Yes	Percentage (%)
Male	38	63.33
Female	22	36.67
Total	60	100

Table 2 Depicts that 60 (100%) of respondents are aware of access to electronic information resources available in Basaveshwar Engineering college (Autonomous), Bagalkot.

Table: 3 Types of electronic information resources

Sl.no	Electronic information Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	E-Journals	60	100
2	E-Books	56	93.33
3	E-Conference Proceedings	26	43.33
4	E-Teaching/Reading Materials	34	56.66
5	E- Databases	24	40
6	E- Theses and Dissertations	32	53.33
7	E- Reference Resources	38	63.33
8	E- Portal/ Subject Gateways	26	43.33
9	Wikis, Blogs, RSS feeds	36	60

Table 3 Indicates the different Resources used by Postgraduate Engineering students, 100% of the respondents are use E-Journals, 56 (93.33%) of the respondents use the E-Books, 38 (63.33%) respondents use the E- Reference Resources, 36 (60%) of the respondents use Wikis, Blogs, RSS feeds, 34 (56.66%) of the respondents use the E-Teaching/Reading Materials, 32 (53.33%) of the respondents use the E- Theses and Dissertations, 26 (43.33%) of the respondents use the E- Portal/Subject Gateways, 26 (43.33%) of the respondents use the E-Conference Proceedings, followed by 24 (40%) of the respondents use the E-Databases.

Table 4: Preferred Search Engines

Sl.no.	Search Engine	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Bing	26	43.33
2	Google	58	96.66
3	Yahoo	40	66.66
4	Info Seek	08	13.33
5	AltaVista	06	10.00
6	MSN	24	40.00
7	Others	06	10.00

Table 4 Shows that out of 60 respondents, 58 (96.66%) of respondents are preferred for the Google, 40 (66.66%) of respondents are preferred for the Yahoo, 26 (43.33%) of respondents are preferred for the Bing, 24 (40%) of respondents are preferred for the MSN, 08 (13.33%) of respondents are preferred for the InfoSeek, 06 (10%) of respondents are preferred for the Alta Vista, and rest of the 06 (10%) of the respondents are preferred for the other search engines like, Sirus, Google Scholar and Portals.

Table 5: Features of search engines

Sl.no	Search engines	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Easy to use	50	83.33
2	Relevancy	36	60
3	Reliability	34	56.66
4	Speed	30	50

Table 5 Presented that out of 60 respondents, 50 (83.33%) of respondents are Easy to use, 36 (60%) of respondents are Relevancy, 34 (56.66%) of respondents are Reliability, and rest of the 30 (50%) of respondents are mention for the Speed. Even though the bandwidth of Basaveshwar Engineering College is 50 mbps. Due to outdated computers the machines working capacity is slow.

Table 6: Preferred Searching Option

Sl.no	Searching Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Basic search	32	53.33
2	Advance search	18	30
3	Both	36	60

Table 6 Revels 36 (60%) of the respondents are preferred for the both, 32 (53.33%) of respondents preferred for basic search, and rest of them 18 (30%) of respondents are preferred for advance search.

Table 7: Problems in searching the web

Sl.no	Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Poor connectivity (Low bandwidth)	50	83.33
2	Retrieval of irrelevant/junk information	06	10
3	Outdated computers	24	40
4	Overload	22	36.66
5	Poor web searching skills	14	23.33
6	Unorganized information content	16	26.66

Table 7 Revels that, out of the respondents, 50(83.33%) of respondents are feel the out dated computers for browsing web based resources, 24 (40%) of respondents feel Low bandwidth, 22 (36.66%) of respondents are overloaded information in web, 16 (26.66%) of respondents are Unorganized information content, 14 (23.33%) of respondents feel Poor web searching skills and 06 (10%) of respondents are retrieval of irrelevant/ junk information.

Table 8: Learn to search web based Electronic Information Resources

Sl.no	Web based Electronic Information Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Learn to Use	30	50
2	Self learning	40	66.66
3	Guidance from colleagues/Friends	22	36.66
4	Guidance from library staff	14	23.33
5	Attending courses, trainings, workshops and seminars	26	43.33
6	Guidance from computing staff/Technicians	20	33.33
7	Any others	06	10

Table 8 Shows that out of respondents, 40 (66.66%) of respondents are learn to search and Self learning, 30 (50%) of respondents are learn to use, 26 (43.33%) of respondents are attending courses, trainings, workshops and seminars, for improve the web search skills.22 (36.66%) of respondents are guidance from colleagues/friends, 20 (33.33%) of respondents are Guidance from computing staff/technicians, 14 (23.33%) of respondents are guidance from library staff and rest of the 06 (10%) of respondents improving the search techniques.

Table 9: Field Based Search Methods

Sl.no	Search Methods	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Title	36	60
2	Subject	30	50
3	Keywords	38	63.33
4	Publisher	20	33.33
5	Author address	16	26.66
6	Any other (Please specify)	04	6.66

Table 9 Indicates that out of respondents, 38 (63.33%) of respondents are using method of keywords, 36 (60%) of respondents aresearching there required information by approach title, 30 (50%) of respondents are depending on subject, 20 (33.33%) of respondents are using publisher as method of searching. And 16 (26.66%) of respondents are using method of author address, and rest of the 04 (6.66%) of respondents are using title of the paper and keyword both.

Table 10: Use of Advance Search Facilities

Sl.no	Search Facilities	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Boolean search (AND, OR, NOT)	20	33.33
2	Truncation/ wildcard search (*and?)	18	30
3	Field based search (Ex.:“Physics”)	22	36.66
4	Phrases search (Ex.: “Use of e-resources”)	30	50
5	Digital Object Identifier	18	30

Table 10 Shows that out of respondents, 30 (50%) of respondents are use advance search facilities phrases search (Ex.: “Use of e-resources”), 22 (36.66%) of respondents prefer field based search (Ex.: “Physics”), 20 (33.33%) of respondents use Boolean Search (AND, OR, NOT), 18 (30%) of respondents use truncation/wildcard search (* and?), and rest of the 18(30%) of respondents use Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

Table 11: Difficulties Faced in Accessing Information from Online Search Mode

Sl.no	Problems Faced	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Lack of any online help	16	26.66
2	Unfamiliarity with the search methods	14	23.33
3	Unorganized elements/contents in asearch page	14	23.33
4	Too much time consuming for searching the information	26	43.33
5	Speed of access is slow	48	80
6	Any other (please specify)	06	10

Table 11 Shows that out of respondents, 48 (80%) of respondents are facing the problem too much time consuming, 26 (43.33%) of respondents are online speed of access is slow, 16 (26.66%) of respondents are lack of any online help, 14 (23.33%) of respondents are unfamiliarity with the search methods, 14 (23.33%) of respondents are unorganized elements/contents in a search page, and rest of the 06 (10%) of respondents are opinion that irrelevant and bulk information like searching the web.

Findings and Suggestions

In the present study the authors have provided a useful summary of information search pattern in the web based environment by PG students of Basaveshwar Engineering College (Autonomous), Bagalkot. The major findings of the study and suggestions to improve the access and use, and search pattern of web information resources have been summarized below:

- It is found from the study out of 60 (100%) of students are using information available through web. And also face problem of out dated computers. The internet acts as a medium to access web information resources available thorough web and remote systems. The new computers should be added for better accessibility of web based information resources.

Conclusion

World Wide Web is an inseparable part of today's any educational Institution. Due to tremendous change in the area of internet and information technology, most of the educational resources are being produced, distributed and accessed in the digital format. The dependency on web and its services is developing everyday and users of professional colleges too are depending much more on information resources available through internet for various educational themes. The switch over from traditional to electronic information resources is developing day by day, but it is observed from this study that students still prefer to access both print and electronic formats of information resources. The Web resources in the virtual world represent a large investment of people's effort and wisdom. Web information resources are real mechanisms for democratization of knowledge and information. The users should make optimum utilization of Web information resources for their educational purposes.

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