

Internet Attributes among Research Scholars of Social Science at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi: A Study

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Abstracts

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors affect the optimum use and utilization of internet by research scholars at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The study mainly focused on the preferred information sources and methods to access for internet. The study describes about frequency, purpose, problems in brief. The objectives, scope, research methodology of the study are clearly expanded. To conduct this study the researchers prepared a well structured questionnaire as a tool for data collection and same responses were subjected to mathematical and statistical analysis.

Introduction

Today the Internet has become an increasingly useful and relevant tool for everyone's day to day life, so has it become a useful tool for sociological research. Information is very important key resource for every type of organization. The exponential growth in information and increase in the number of documents being published in various fields, affects the growth in number of user, need of user. This study examines how the social science

researchers of B.H.U., Varanasi perceive the internet. The output of the present researcher will be help to management of this information services in academic library setting in efficient way. Since this is a case study, entails some limitations. Another factor in this limitation is the use of convenience sampling in the present study. The applications of user perception methods also present some concern.

In Information Communication Technology enabled scenario libraries are surrounded by networked data that is connected

to vast ocean of Internet-based services. Moreover, electronic resources relevant to the professions are developing at an unprecedented pace. Academic libraries are considered to be the nerve centers of academic institutions, and must support teaching, research, and other academic programmes. The situation in academic libraries of is the same as that of academic libraries the world over; however, Indian libraries must provide maximum information with limited resources.

In the context of Internet it can be said that in the digital era the Internet plays a vital role in the development of education and learned society. The Large amounts of data of any field are transmitted within seconds, and Internet access offers unimaginably large amounts of information, data, and interpreted materials. Today's Scenario internet has become made a powerful and dynamic tool for communication; it is the largest single source of information at the global level (Maheswarappa and Emmanuel, 2003).

Statement of the Problem

This study explores the nature of the searching of information through Internet among research scholars of social science at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Further, it explored the various attributes of Internet among social science research scholars of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Scope of the study

The present study is intended to cover only research scholars of Social Science at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. A case study to examine the researcher's perception of Internet and its role in their academic work.

Literature Review

The literature of awareness and attributes to internet attributes among researchers available is greatly broad ranging. An attempt has been made to cover number of works that go beyond discussions of the awareness and attributes to internet among researchers and its direct applications to closely related topics. The present study is an attempt to establish and exhibit the status of Library and Internet resources, services, use, and awareness at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Mukerjee and Kumar (2010) stated that there was a demand for more e-journal titles, although a substantial number of users were satisfied with exiting model of UGC-Infonet Consortium. They recommended a comprehensive training on e- resources. Madhusudhan (2007) 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. Raza and Upadhyay (2006) reported that research scholars were referring e-journals in their research. Asemi's (2005) study showed that the majority of respondents searched for scientific information in various databases and online journals provided by the university library. Maheswarappa and Emmanuel (2003) conducted an exploratory study at Gulbarga city, showing a high rate of computer knowledge. Chandran (2000) carry out a study on the use of Internet resources and services in S.V. University, Tirupati, indicating that more than 56 percent of respondents used to the Internet to access

information. Kaur (2000) studied Guru Nanak Dev University, and Bavakutty and Salih (1999) conducted a survey at Calicut University, which showed that students, research scholars, and faculty members used the Internet on education and research purpose.

Some studies have revealed that researchers and faculty use the Internet in various ways to enhance research work, self study, learning and teaching. On the other side the common research scholars use email to communicate with their peers and with their tutors.

About Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Banaras Hindu University is an internationally reputed temple of learning, situated in the holy city of Varanasi. This Creative and innovative university was founded by the great nationalist leader, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, in 1916 with cooperation of great personalities like Dr Annie Besant, who viewed it as the University of India. Banaras Hindu University was created under the Parliamentary legislation - B.H.U. Act 1915. It played a stellar role in the independence movement and has developed into the greatest center of learning in India. It has produced many great freedom fighters and builders of modern India and has immensely contributed to the progress of the nation through a large number of renowned scholars, artists, scientists and technologists who have graced its portals. The area of the main campus of this premiere Central University is 1300 acres, having well maintained roads, extensive greenery, a temple, an air strip and buildings which are an architectural delight. The Air Field of the campus was started for military training for flying during the Second World War.

Another campus of the university at Barkachha, in Mirzapur district, covering an area of 2700 acres is coming up. The university comprises 3 Institutes, 14 Faculties 140 Departments, 4 Inter disciplinary Centers a constituent college for women's and 3 Constituents Schools, spanning a vast range of subjects pertaining to all branches of humanities, social science, technology, medicine ,science, fine arts and performing arts. It has 6 centres of Advanced Studies, 10 Departments under Special Assistance Programme and a large number of specialized Research Centers. Four Degree Colleges of the city are affiliated to the University. Bharat Kala Bhavan, the reputed museum of the university, is a treasure trove of rare collections. The 927 bed hospital of the University is equipped with all the modern amenities. The university provides a wide range of facilities for sport and hobbies, has large playgrounds, a big auditorium, a flying club and many auxiliary services and units like Printing Press, Publication Cell, Fruit Preservation Center, Subsidized Canteens, Employment and Information Bureau, Security etc. The University family consists of about 15000 students belonging to all streams of life, castes and religions and races, about 1700 teachers, and nearly 8000 non-teaching staff A large number of students from foreign countries like the U.S.A, the countries of Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa etc., come to study here. The university has taken a leadership role in promoting new ideas, the spirit of integration of the world, and cultivation of intellect and culture. Banaras Hindu University is small virtually the universe in microcosm.

Objectives of the study

The purpose of this study is to explore the awareness of Library and attributes of

Internet among research scholars under the faculty of social science at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and try to evaluate correlation of selected variable in association of level of internet attributes. There are total five departments under the faculty of Social Science. The major objectives are given below:

1. To identify frequency for the use of the Internet with its resources among social science research scholars ;
2. To identify the purposes for using the Internet;
3. To know the preferred location of the use of internet by researchers;
4. To examine the search technique of internet use by the respondents
5. To discover the satisfaction level with Internet-based resources and facilities in library;
6. To know the problems faced by social science research scholars while access the Internet

Methodology

The collection of relevant data from the entire population of research scholars (Faculty of social science) is not very small to be adequately covered only in a single or this study. Therefore the total no. of questionnaires distributed is 109 among different departments of faculty of social science. A total number of 81 (74.31%) filled questionnaire were returned back.

Data Analysis & Interpretation

A total of no. 109 structured questionnaires were distributed among research scholars (Faculty of social science) at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Total 81 questionnaires were received. All received sample questionnaires were analyzed statistically. The open-ended questions were analyzed using content analysis. The number of respondents (Research Scholars of Faculty of Social Science) who respondents the dully filled questionnaire were 81 i.e. 74%

Table 1. Responses from Research Scholars (Faculty of Social Science)

| Name of the Deptt. | Details regarding No. of Respondents | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| | Questionnaires Distributed | Questionnaires Received | % |
| Economics | 16 | 13 | 81.25 |
| History | 27 | 20 | 74.07 |
| Political Sc. | 28 | 18 | 64.29 |
| Psychology | 9 | 6 | 66.67 |
| Sociology | 29 | 24 | 82.76 |
| Total | 109 | 81 | 74.31 |

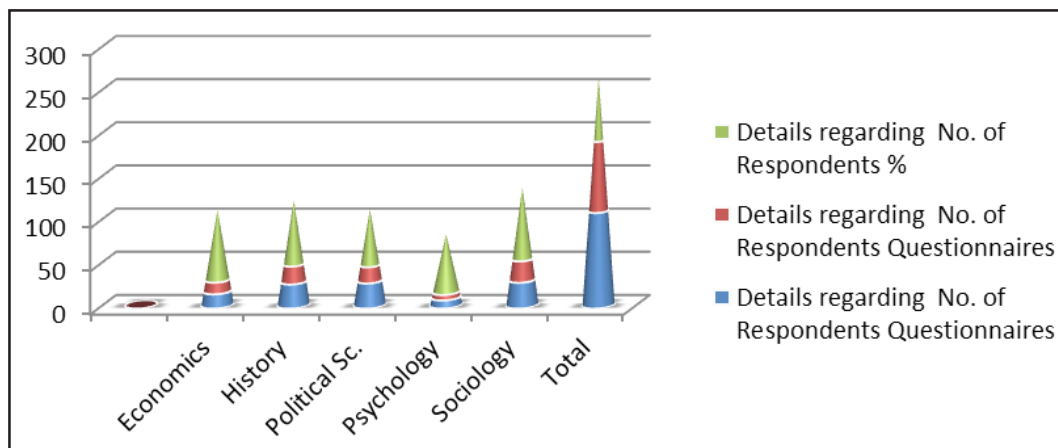
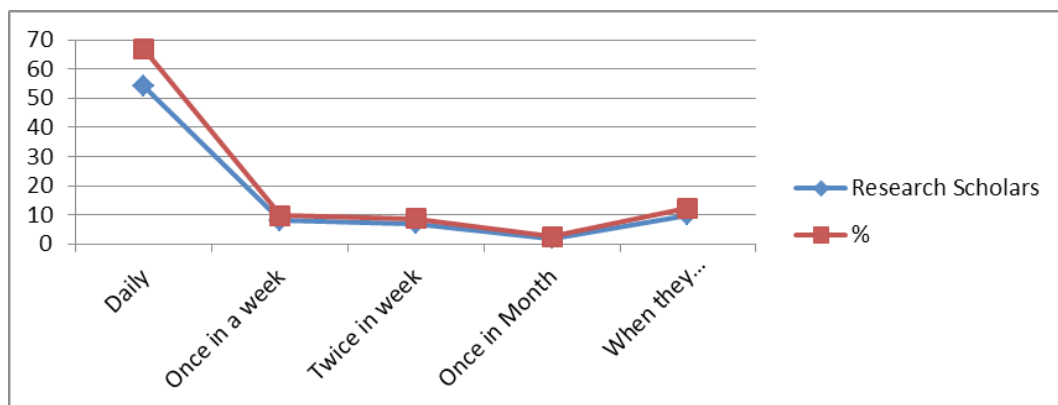


Figure 1. Responses from Research Scholars (Faculty of Social Science)

The analysis of data in table-1 shows that out of 81 respondents, maximum numbers of respondents i.e. 24 and 20 representing 82.76%

and 74.07% of total respondents are researcher of department of Sociology and History. It is followed by other departments.

| Frequency of Use | Research Scholars | % |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Daily | 54 | 66.67 |
| Once in a week | 8 | 9.88 |
| Twice in week | 7 | 8.64 |
| Once in Month | 2 | 2.47 |
| When they feel/Occasionally | 10 | 12.35 |



It is observed from the table-2, that 66.67% of the research scholars use the internet daily, and followed by 9.88% once in week, 8.64%

twice in weak, 2.47% once in month and 12.35% of respondents use the internet when the feel/ occasionally.

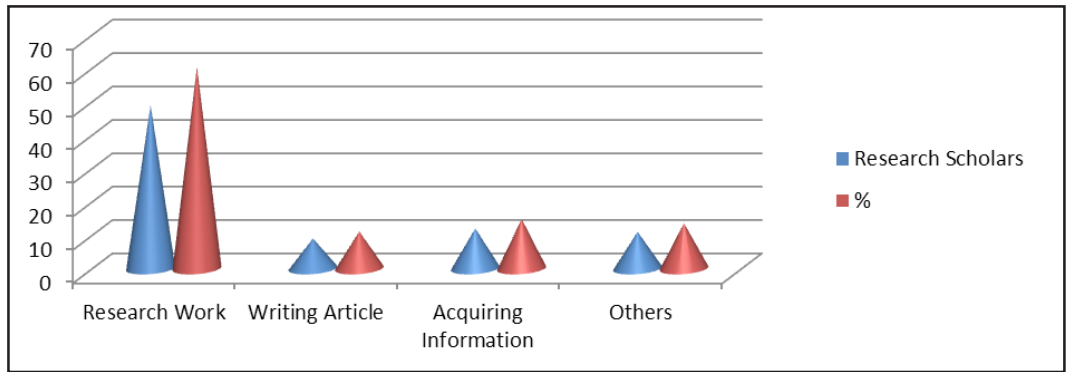


Figure 3. Purpose for using Internet

The research scholars were asked a question about the purpose for which they use internet. It is observed that 60.49% of the researchers use search engine for the purpose of research work, 11.11% for writing article, 14.81% for acquiring information, and 13.58% of respondents use the internet for other purposes.

Generally research scholars use the internet for their, writing articles, acquiring information and for other purposes, which are summarized in fig 3.

Research scholars use internet at various places like library, department, computer center, home and cyber cafe/other places.

Table 4. Location access to information through internet

| Location | Research Scholars | % |
|---|-------------------|-------|
| Library | 55 | 67.90 |
| Department | 12 | 14.81 |
| Home | 9 | 11.11 |
| Computer Center/ Cyber Café/ Other Places | 5 | 6.17 |

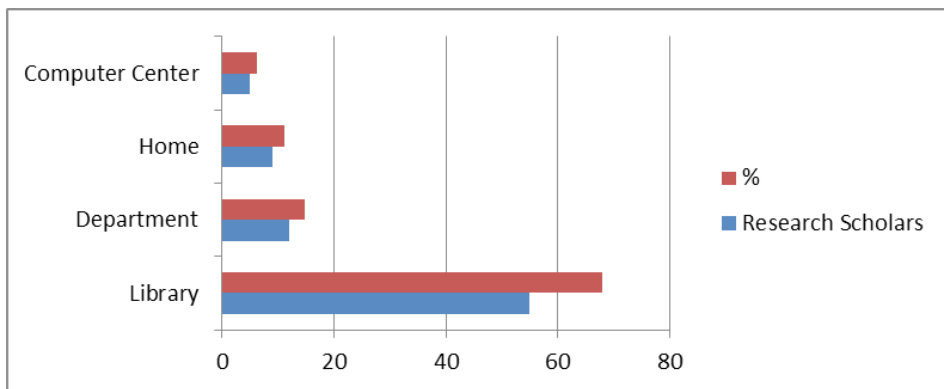


Figure 4. Location access to information through internet

The analysis of data in table 4 depicts that 67.90% of research scholars prefer to use the internet at libraries, followed by 14.81% access it in their department, 11.11% at their home and 6.17% of researchers use the internet at cyber

cafe/other places.

Research scholars use various types of search engine like, Google.com, Yahoo.com, Rediff.com, MSN.com, opera.com and others.

Table 5. Preferred types of search engine to access information

| Types of Searches | Research Scholars | % |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Google.com | 71 | 87.65 |
| Yahoo.com | 42 | 51.85 |
| Rediff.com | 29 | 35.80 |
| MSN.com | 19 | 23.46 |
| Opera.com | 3 | 3.70 |
| Other types | 2 | 2.47 |

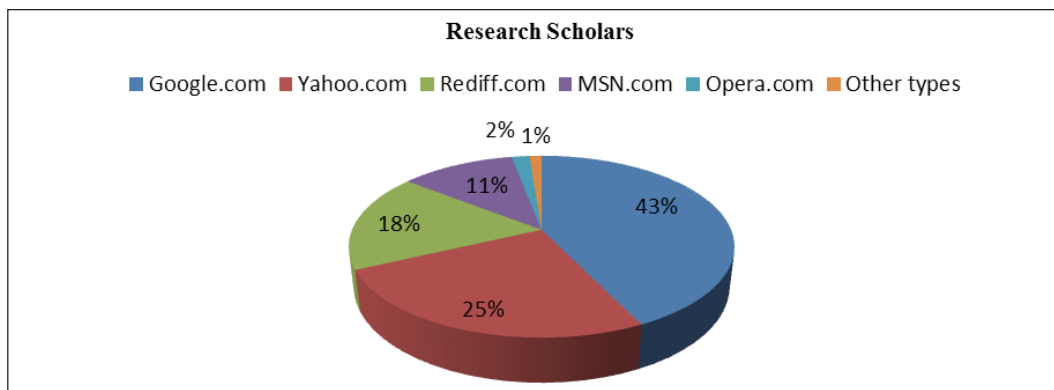


Figure 5. Preferred types of search engine to access information

It is observed from table-5 that, 87.65% of research scholars mostly prefer to use the google.com as search engine, followed by 51.85%

yahoo.com, 35.80% rediff.com, 23.46% MSN.com, 3.70% opera.com and 2.47% of research scholars prefer to other type of search engine

Table 6. Status of search techniques

| Search Techniques | Research Scholars | % |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Keyword | 56 | 69.14 |
| Boolean operators | 14 | 17.28 |
| Use of truncation | 3 | 3.70 |
| Phrase searching | 2 | 2.47 |
| Formulating search strategy | 1 | 1.23 |
| Any other | 5 | 6.17 |

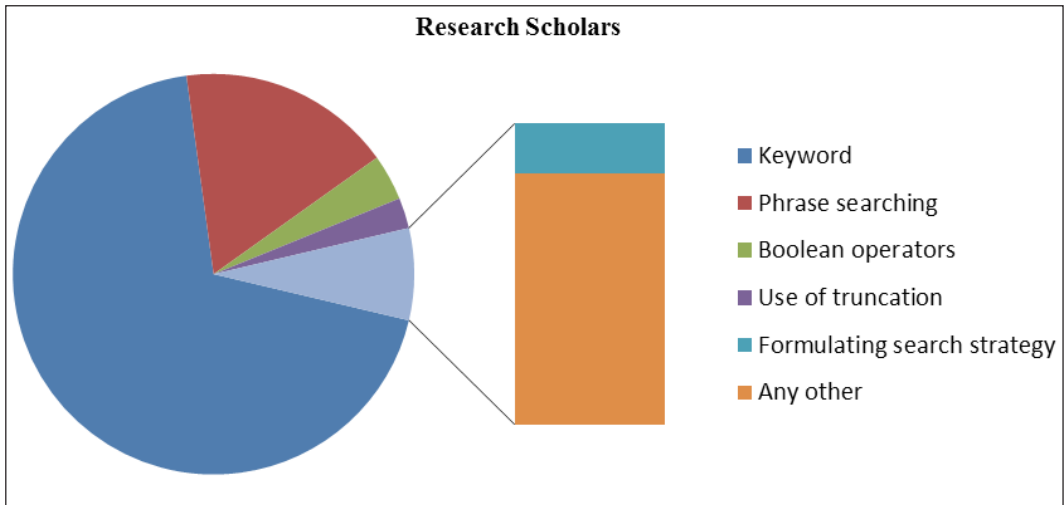


Figure 6. Status of search techniques

Table-6 depicts about search strategy used by the research scholars. It shows that 69.14% of research scholars use the keyword as the main search technique, followed by 17.28% Boolean operator, 3.70% use of truncation, 2.47% Phrase searching, 1.23% Formulating search

strategy and 6.17% of research scholars use another type of search technique in using search engine.

Regarding “satisfaction with search engine” a question was asked to the research scholars. The responses are tabulated in table-6.

Table 7. Satisfaction level of Search Engine

| Name of Search Engine | No. of Respondents | % |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Google.com | 39 | 48.15 |
| Yahoo.com | 24 | 29.63 |
| Rediff.com | 8 | 9.88 |
| MSN.com | 6 | 7.41 |
| Opera.com | - | - |
| Alta Vista.com | - | - |
| Excite.com | - | - |
| Hunsa.com | - | - |
| Kapook.com | - | - |
| Others | 4 | 4.94 |

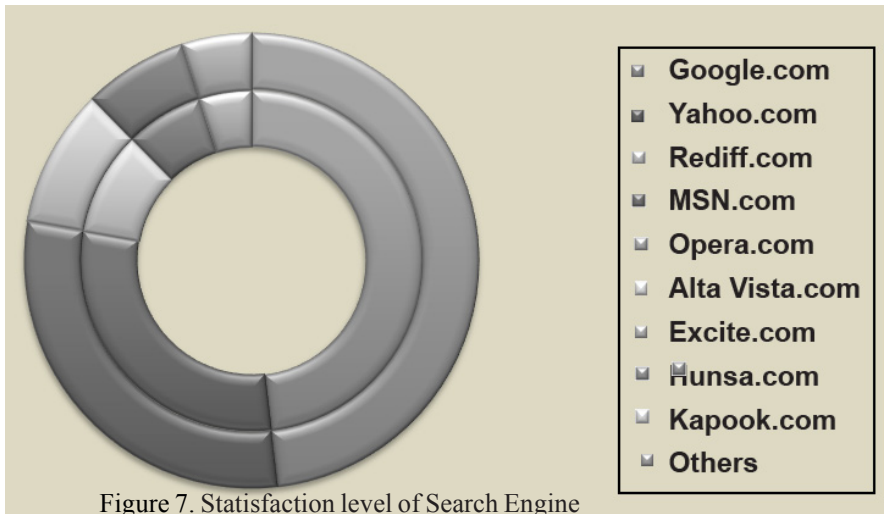


Figure 7. Satisfaction level of Search Engine

It is observed from table-7 that, 48.15% of research scholars completely satisfied with google.com followed by 29.63% with yahoo.com, 9.88% with rediff.com, 7.41% msn.com, and 4.94% of research scholars are satisfied with other types

of search engine.

Regarding “type of information unavailable in search engine” a question was asked to the research scholars. The responses are analyzed in table-8.

Table 8. Type of Information unavailable in search Engine

| Type of Information | No. of Respondents | % |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Synonymous information | 48 | 59.26 |
| Picture searching | 17 | 20.99 |
| Range searching | 13 | 16.05 |
| Birthdates of particular or famous person | 3 | 3.70 |

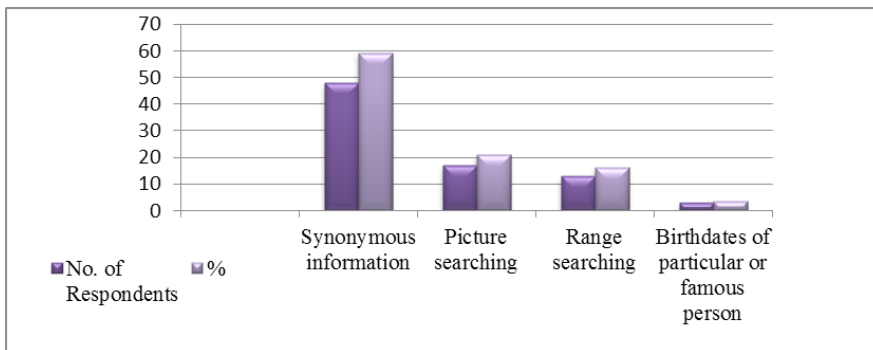


Figure 8. Type of Information unavailable in search Engine

From table-8, it is observed that, according to 59.26% of research scholar's view synonymous information is mostly unavailable in any type of search engine, followed by 20.99% unavailable picture searching, 16.05% unavailability of range searching, and 3.70% Birthdates of particular or famous person is unavailable at any search engine.

The next and last question was asked to the respondents about the problems during getting the information through search engine. There are various problems during gathering information associated with the access of search engine by respondents. Realizing its value, the study attempted to collect data on this and data are tabulated in table-9.

Figure 9. Problems faced by Faculty members and Research Scholars

| Type of Information | No. of Respondents | % |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| Poor connectivity with Internet | 67 | 82.72 |
| Retrieval of irrelevant information | 44 | 54.32 |
| Limited access | 23 | 28.40 |
| Limited access computer terminals | 19 | 23.46 |
| Unawareness of information in their fields | 7 | 8.64 |
| Poor database searching skill | 11 | 13.58 |

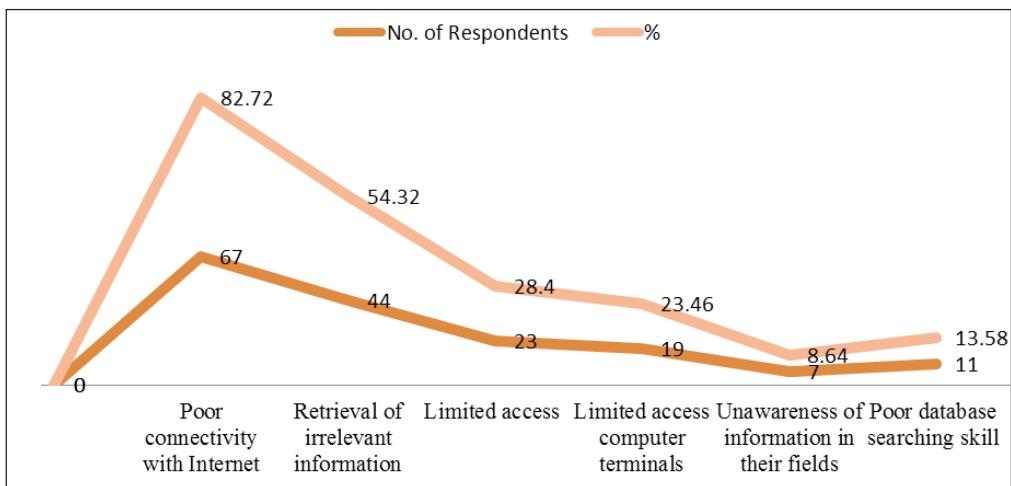


Figure 9. Problems faced by Faculty members and Research Scholars

Table-8 revealed by the analysis of data is poor connectivity with internet i.e. 82.72%, followed by retrieval of irrelevant information 54.32, limited access 28.40%, limited access computer terminals 23.46%, unawareness of information in their fields 8.64% and 13.58 % of research scholars are facing the problem of poor

database searching skill.

Findings of the study

The major findings of the study are:

1. It is observed that maximum research scholars i.e. 67% use internet daily as source of information

2. The study explores that 60% of respondents use internet for the purpose of their research work.
3. On the basis of above observation that 67.90% of research scholars prefer to use the internet at libraries as a best location.
4. The study represents that Google is the most popular search engine among 88% of research scholars.
5. 'Keyword' is the most popular search technique among 69% of research scholars to search information.
6. Analyzed data depicts that 48% of respondents are fully satisfied with Google search engine.
7. The study represents the majority of the research scholars i.e. 83% face the problem of poor connectivity with internet.

Conclusion

The Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, U.P. is the highly established institute which is well known for quality research and academic activities. The study sought to get the overview of information searching by research scholars through internet by taking sample from various departments. The 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 central library of BHU, Varanasi should provide maximum number of computer terminals with good connectivity with internet and try to provide access facilities to reliable & authentic resources for researcher's satisfaction.

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