Internet Services Utilization - An Appraisal

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in Agricultural college, Bapatla to explore the extent of utilization of Internet services by the students. Majority of the students used internet services such as search engine, www, e-mail, gopher, willfer and chatting.

The convergence of computers, mass media and telecommunication technologies have created a high speed *'Network of Networks'* called the Internet, a zeitgeists of the millennium connecting individuals, business industry, government and non-government agencies, academic and research institutions of the world providing seamless universal connectivity. The Internet has been described as the gateway to a world of seemingly inexhaustible resources and information superhighway of unlimited opportunities. The notion of the whole World terming Internet as a 'Global Village' meaning instant communication with any part of the world, while other terms include 'Global Information Infrastructure', 'Global Shopping', 'Global Competitiveness', 'Global Business', 'Virtual University', 'Virtual Library', 'Virtual Classroom', Virtual Office', 'Cyber Cafe', 'Cyber Space', 'Cyber Advertising' and 'Internet Banking' etc. (Maheswarappa and Emmanuel, 2003)

Internet is a large, uncontrolled, un-administered, anarchic cyber-state that will soon take over the world. Basically, it's just every-ones computer hooked together. It's not a corporation, organization, or entity in itself. Always capitalized, the word Internet can also be referred to colloquially as the "Net". (Kumbar and Shirur, 2002).The Internet contains more information than the world's largest libraries. The Internet had its developmental roots in the U.S. Military during the 1960s. A pioneering long-haul network funded by what's now called as Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). It was the foundation on which the Internet was built. The ARPA was funded by the department of Defense and was a Cold War Military Project to test the possibility of creating a disaster-proof nationwide computer system. It was designed for purpose of military communication in United States devastated by a Soviet nuclear attack. The goal was to develop a peer-to-peer computer system – a radical departure from the conventional mainframe hierarchical system.

MATERIAL AND METODS

An exploratory research design was followed for the study. Agricultural college, Bapatla was selected for the study. The sample constituted one hundred and twenty (n=120) respondents. Twenty students were selected each from four year's of under graduation and two year's of post graduation. The different Internet services were taken for the study. The data was collected primarily through Questionnaire. The data was subjected for statistical analysis with percentage and frequency. The specific objective for the study is as under.

1. To explore the extent of consumption of Internet services by the students of Agriculture.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
INTERNET SERVICES:

It was operationlized as the facilitating module/agency, which provides Internet access to the browsers. With respect to Internet services such as search engine, world wide web, e-mail, gopher, willfer, chatting/video chatting, student groups, online data bases, newsgroups, discussion forum, file transfer protocol were used frequently by (60.80%), (52.0%), (50.10%), (45.00%), (28.50%), (20.10%), (18.40%), (15.00%), (5.80%), (5.00%), (3.30%) respectively. With respect to Internet services like news groups, willfer, gopher, chatting/video chatting, search engine, student groups, world wide web, e-mail, online data bases, file transfer protocol and discussion forum were used occasionally by (36.60%), (34.10%), (34.10%), (34.10%), (33.30%),

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to extent of use of Internet services

n = 120

Sl. No.	Internet service	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently
1	World Wide Web (WWW)	12 (10.10)	17 (14.10)	28 (23.30)	63 (52.50)
2	E-mail	12 (10.10)	20 (16.90)	27 (22.90)	61 (50.10)
3	News groups	33 (27.50)	36 (30.10)	44 (36.60)	7 (5.80)
4	Discussion forum	74 (61.60)	26 (21.70)	14 (11.70)	6 (5.00)
5	File Transfer protocol (FTP)	57 (47.50)	35 (29.20)	24 (20.00)	4 (3.30)
6	Student groups	38 (31.60)	32 (26.60)	28 (23.40)	22 (18.40)
7	Chatting / Video chatting	30 (25.00)	25 (20.80)	41 (34.10)	24 (20.10)
8	Online data bases	42 (35.10)	34 (28.30)	26 (21.60)	18 (15.00)
9	Gopher	14 (11.60)	11 (9.30)	41 (34.10)	54 (45.00)
10	Search engine	1 (0.80)	6 (5.10)	40 (33.30)	73 (60.80)
11	Willfer	26 (21.60)	19 (15.80)	41 (34.10)	34 (28.50)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages.

(23.40%), (23.30%), (22.90%), (21.60%), (20.00%), (11.70%) respondents respectively. With regard to Internet service such as newsgroups, file transfer protocol, online data bases, student groups, discussion forum, chatting/video chatting, e-mail, willfer, world wide web, gopher and search engine were used rarely by (30.10%), (29.20%), (28.30%), (26.60%), (21.70%), (20.80%), (16.90%), (15.80%), (14.10%), (9.30%), (5.10%) respondents respectively. Finally the Internet services such as discussion forum, file transfer protocol, online data bases, student groups, news groups, chatting/video chatting, willfer, gopher, e-mail, world wide web and search engine were never used by (61.60%), (47.50%), (35.10%), (31.60%), (27.50%), (25.00%), (21.60%), (11.60%), (10.10%), (10.10%), (0.80%) respondents respectively.

LITERATURE CITED

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