Utilization of Web Information Resources among Scientists in Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam

Karthika Reghunath[1], Shehitha Salim[2]

[1]Asstistant Librarian, Theophilus College of Nursing, Kangazha, Kottayam
[2]Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, St Berchmans College, Changanacherry, Kottayam

Abstract

Web-based information resources, such as e-books, online journals, databases, and bibliographic databases, play a crucial role in both educational and professional settings. The study investigated the utilization of web information resources among scientists in Rubber ResearchInstitute of India, Kottayam. The study aims to find out the database available in the library, to know time spent on web resources and to determine frequency of using web information. The methodology used was survey method. Findings revealed that the majority of the scientists indicated E-journals as the most used web information resource. Least number of scientists used the Web OPAC, institutional repositories and E- newspaper.

Keywords: Web Information, Web-based Resources

1. Introduction

The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the realm of information management has brought about a significant transformation in how we store and access information resources. Among these developments, the World Wide Web (WWW) stands out as a notable milestone. It serves as a digital map within the vast expanse of the internet, enabling users to navigate through interconnected pieces of information. However, given the sheer volume of data available online, users often find themselves bewildered when trying to locate specific information. To access precise and relevant information on the internet, users must become acquainted with effective techniques and strategies. There is a plethora of advanced methods and approaches accessible online to aid users in finding the information they need at the right moment. Proficiency in these information retrieval techniques streamlines the process of obtaining accurate information from the wealth of sources available.

2. Literature Review

Aleena and Shehitha (2023) conducted a study on web information retrieval among research scholars in Marian College (Autonomous). Questionnaires were distributed to the research scholars by using Google forms. 53 questionnaires were distributed among the research scholars and 44 filled questionnaires were received back. The findings show that the majority of the research scholars' access webinformation resources through their mobile phones and the majority of the research scholars frequently use web resources. The study depicts that e-journals, e-books, online databases, e-

magazines/e-newspaper, e-thesis/dissertations, and e-research papers are the most available web information resources in the library, and e-journals, e-books, online databases, and e-research papers are the most used web information resources in the library. Majority of the research scholars use the library services such as e-reference service, current awareness service, online internet search service, and CD-ROM searching service. The study recommended that the library has to provide periodic training and orientation about retrieving web information resources. In the light of analysis, it is suggested to provide more web information resources that are beneficial for research scholars.

Iroaganachi and Izuagbe (2018) examined the role of access to online databases as the basis for faculty research output in six universities in two Southwestern states in Nigeria. The questionnaire was adopted as the method of data collection. It was structured to enable the study to collect data on faculty responses vis-à-vis access to online databases and faculty research output. Of the 339 questionnaires administered, 298 representing over eighty-nine per cent were duly completed and returned. According to analysis, HINARI, ProQuest, JSTOR and EBSCOhost were the most regularly accessible among the examined online databases. Power supply posed the greatest threat to online databases access among faculty. Unavailability of full-text of most relevant materials, unsteady access to the web, expensive subscription fee for some materials are other prominent inhibitors of online databases access as analysis revealed. For overcoming the constraints faced by faculty in accessing online databases, the study found that the provision of full-text of most relevant materials, steady power supply and training on acquisition of information literacy skills were the most effective ways of addressing online databases access challenges. The study recommended that regular electricity is sacrosanct for powering the internet and other ICT infrastructures in order to guarantee constant access to online databases.

3. Objectives
1. To identify use of web information sources by Scientists of RubberResearch Institute of India, Kottayam.
2. To know the frequency of using web information resources by Scientists.
3. To know the database available in the library.

4. Methodology
Research methodology refers to the structured and organized approach used to conduct research. A questionnaire was prepared and distributed among scientists of Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam. The questionnaires were distributed to 46 scientists and the received questionnaires tabulated and analysed using a percentage method. The percentage of response tabulated in Table1.

Table 1: Percentage of response

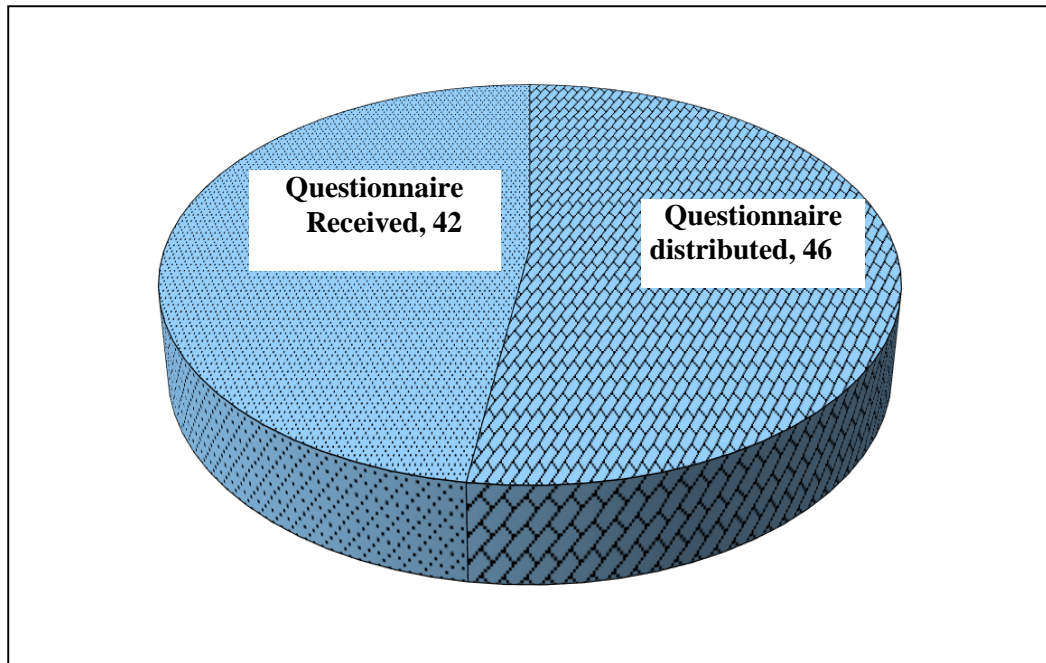| Category of users	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire Received	Percentage
Scientists	46	42	91.30%

Figure 1: Pie diagram showing percentage of response

5. Analysis of Data

Web information sources and services

Location of access

Respondents were asked to specify the location from where they access the webresources.

Table 2: Location of access

Sl. No.	Location of access	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Institution library	19	45.24%
2	Home	16	38.10%
3	Mobile Phone	28	66.67%
4	Cyber cafe	1	2.38%

Table 2 shows that 66.67% of respondents access web resources from mobile phones,45.24% access from institution library, 38.10% access web resources from home and only 2.38% access from cyber cafes. Here it exceeds 100% because of multiple choices.
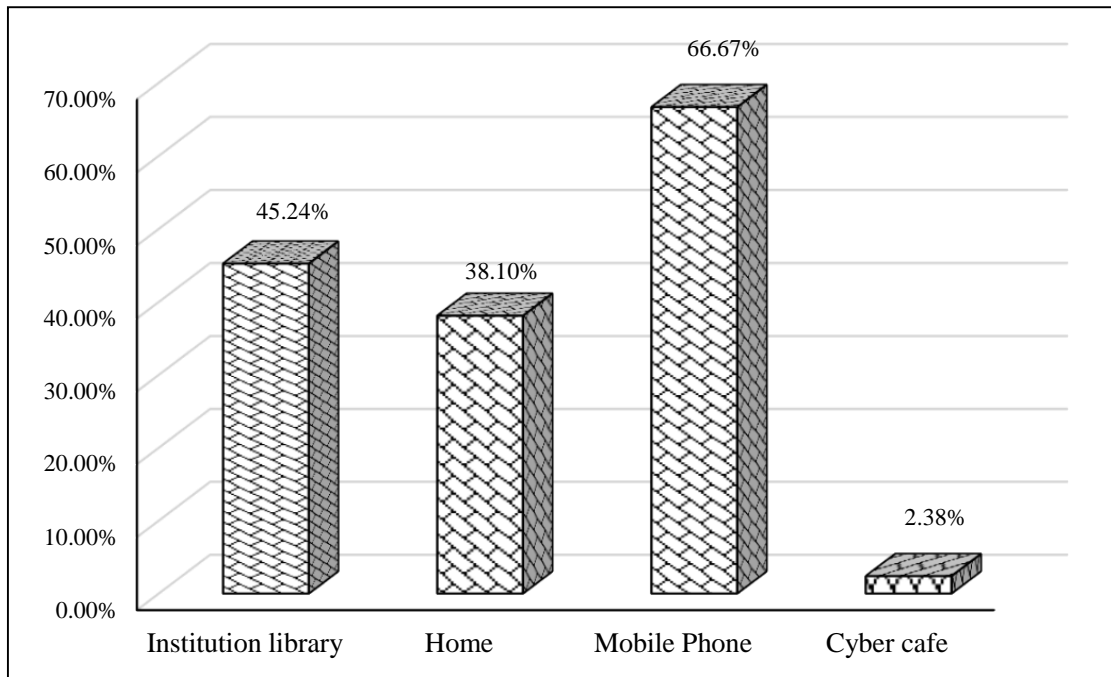
Figure 2: Column diagram showing location of access

Database available in the library

Respondents were asked to specify the database available in the library.

Table 3: Database available in the library

Sl. No.	Database	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	N-LIST	3	7.14%
2	DELNET	0	0
3	Web of Science	8	19.05%
4	CAB Direct	7	16.67%

Table 3 shows that 19.05% of respondents opined Web of Science database availablein the library followed by CAB Direct (16.67%), N-LIST (7.14%).

Frequency of using web resources

Respondents were asked to specify the frequency of using web resources.

Table 4: Frequency of using web resources

Sl. No.	Frequency	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Daily	34	80.95%
2	Twice a week	0	0
3	Weekly	2	4.76%
4	Monthly	1	2.38%
5	Rarely	0	0
6	As when needed	8	19.05%

Table 4 shows that 80.95% of respondents use the web resources daily. 19.05% use as when needed, 4.76% use weekly and only 2.38% use monthly. Here it exceeds 100% because of multiple choices.
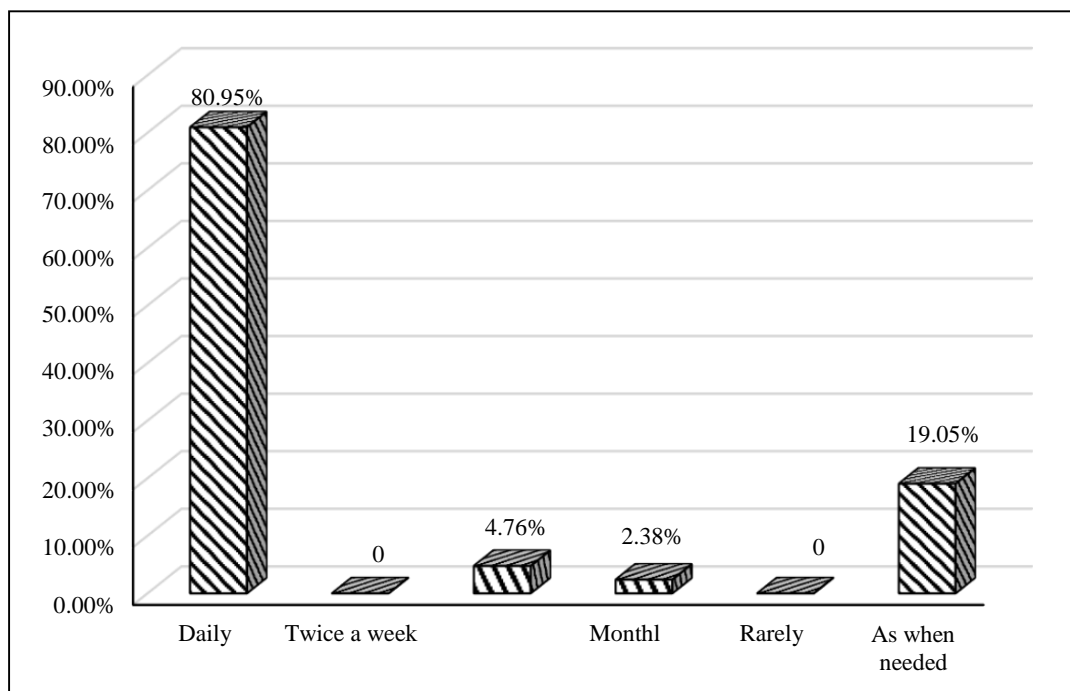

Figure 3: Column diagram showing frequency of using web resources

Time spend on web resources per day

Respondents were asked to specify the time spent on the web resources per day.

Table 5: Time spend on web resources per day

Sl. No.	Time	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Below 1 hour	7	16.67%
2	1-2 hours	19	45.24%
3	3-4 hours	8	19.05%
4	More than 4 hours	7	16.67%

Table 5 shows that 45.24% of the respondents spend 1-2 hours of time on web, 19.05% spend 3-4 hours, equal number of respondents that is 16.67% spend on web resources below 1- hour and more than 4 hours per day. Here it exceeds 100% becauseof multiple choices.

Reason for using web information sources and services

Respondents were asked to specify their reason for using the web resource.

Table 6: Reason for using web information sources and services

Sl. No.	Reasons	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Research work	39	92.86%
2	Seminar/conference paper	20	47.62%
3	Literature searching	32	76.19%
4	Up-to-date with subject	26	61.90%
5	Career development	11	26.19%
6	Writing articles and publishing	27	64.29%

Table 6 shows that the respondents 92.86% use the web resource for research work, 76.19% use for literature searching, 64.29% use for writing articles and publishing, 61.90% use to up-to-date with subject, 47.62% use for seminar/conference paper and 26.19% use for career development. Here it exceeds 100% because of multiple choices.

Use of web information resources

Respondents were asked to specify the use of different web resources.

Table 7: Use of web information resources

Sl. No.	Web information resources	Highly used	Less used	Not used
1	E-journals	37 (88.10%)	3 (7.14%)	0
2	E-books	17 (40.48%)	18 (42.86%)	0
3	Audio/video	11 (26.19%)	16 (38.10%)	5 (11.90%)
4	Course material	17 (40.48%)	12 (28.57%)	2 (4.76%)
5	E-newspaper	7 (16.67%)	16 (38.10%)	6 (14.29%)
6	Web OPAC	2 (4.76%)	6 (14.29%)	14 (33.33%)
7	E-conference proceedings	15 (35.71%)	12 (28.57%)	5 (11.90%)
8	Databases	20 (47.62%)	10 (23.81%)	1 (2.38%)
9	Institutional repositories	10 (23.81%)	14 (33.33%)	2 (4.76%)
10	Digital libraries	12 (28.57%)	10 (23.81%)	7 (16.67%)
11	Subject gateways	14 (33.33%)	12 (28.57%)	3 (7.14%)

Table 7 shows that 88.10% of respondents opined that E-journal is highly used web resource, followed by databases (47.62%), E-books and course material (40.48%), E-conference proceedings (35.71%), subject gateways (33.33%), digital libraries (28.57%), audio/video (26.19%), institutional repositories (23.81%), e-newspapers (16.67%) and Web OPAC (4.76%).

6. Findings

1. From the analysis, it is understood that most of the scientists access the web resource from their mobile phones. The least number of scientists accessed fromcyber cafes.

2. Databases are an important source of information. The analysis revealed that the majority of the scientists are not aware of databases available in the library.Least number of scientists replied that the databases web of science and CAB direct are available in the library.

3. From the analysis on frequency of using web resources, it is understood that the majority of the scientists' frequency of using web resources is daily and furtheranalysis revealed that the majority of scientists spend 1-2 hours per day on webresources.

4. It is evident from the analysis that the majority of scientists' reasons for using web information resources are for research work, literature searching, writing articles and publishing and being up-to-date with the subject.

5. Web resources are an essential source of information, so it is important to knowthe use of different web resources. Analysis reveals that the majority of the scientists indicated E-journals as the most used web information resource. Leastnumber of scientists used the Web OPAC, institutional repositories and E-newspaper.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the absence of digital library facilities and databases within the library limits users' ability to access a diverse array of digital resources and hinders their capacity to retrieve web documents and conduct extensive research. These missing components underscore the importance of incorporating digital libraries and databases within the library system to enhance accessibility and enrich the research experience for patrons.

Reference

1. Aleena S., Shehitha S., "Web information retrieval among research scholars in Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous)". Research and Reflections on Education, 2023, 21(2A),146-149.https://www.sxcejournal.com/ spe-jun-2023.html

2. Ansari M., "Use and awareness of e-resources among research scholars of literature subjects in Banaras Hindu University", Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal), 2020. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4667

3. Asif M., Khan S, "Online information searching techniques: an investigation from library science professionals",Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal), 2022. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6935

4. Iroaganachi M., Izuagbe R. (2018). Access to online databases: Predicate for faculty research output. "Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal)", 2018. https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2133