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Contents

Use of CD-ROMs and Internet Resources by the Students in Jaypee University of Information Technology, Himachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Advancement of Information Communication Technology (ICT) has ensured the application of Internet and other electronic resources i.e. CD-ROM, DVD-ROM etc. in the Learning Resource Center (LRC). Sources of information available via the Internet are increasing exponentially (Asemi, 2005). This comes with a steady increase in Internet use for education and for research (Edwards and Bruce, 2002). ICT technologies in LRC have revolutionized the way of providing information and services to the users. Users are more wiser than earlier age, now they want pin-pointed information at least possible time They use the Internet and electronic resources to do things like accessing LRC resources, providing remote faculty care through telefacilities, and accessing literature (Joos, et al., 2006). As the title implies that the present study is an attempt to examine the use of the Internet and electronic resources in LRC JUIT. Results show the frequency, availability of resources and it reveals the purposes, reasons and broad areas of problems. The article also covers the competencies of LRC staff to handle the problems associated with the use of computers.

Scope of the Study

The scope of study is limited to the LRC Jaypee University of Information Technology, Waknaghat, a University of Engineering, Science & Technology functioning within the territorial jurisdiction of Himachal State of India. The study includes Learning Resource Center where more than 2500 students and more than 250 faculties uses the Services of LRC.

Objectives

The objective of this study was to analyze the patterns of use of Internet and Electronic Resources for care of students and teachers, the Internet skills of the LRC users, and problems faced by them while using the Internet and Electronic Resources. The study was conducted to find the satisfaction derived by the researchers with the Internet and Electronic Resources and to find an answer to the questions:

- Can Internet and Electronic Resources replace print resources?

- Is Internet use in the LRC enhanced the quality of education?

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Methodology

A questionnaire (comprising 25-items) 36 Questions was designed, and was pre-tested before using it for the survey. All teachers and students were given the same questionnaire. Some respondents willingly filled out the questionnaire but some showed reluctance. The respondents were interviewed to fill in gaps. The questionnaire was distributed to 150 respondents. One hundred ten questionnaires (i.e. 50 from the teachers and 60 from the students) were received back. The overall response rate of the survey was 82%.

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INTERPRETATION

The Library has 47 computers and are using for library operations and providing better services to the users. The Library has also extended Internet facility and CD-ROM to provide Literature searches to the users.

Table -1: Frequency of Visit to the Library

Frequency	No. of Responses	Percentage
Everyday	35	32.65
Once in a week	28	25.51
Twice in a week	25	21.43
Once in a month	15	15.31
Rarely	07	5.10
Total	110	100.00

Frequency of Visit to the Library
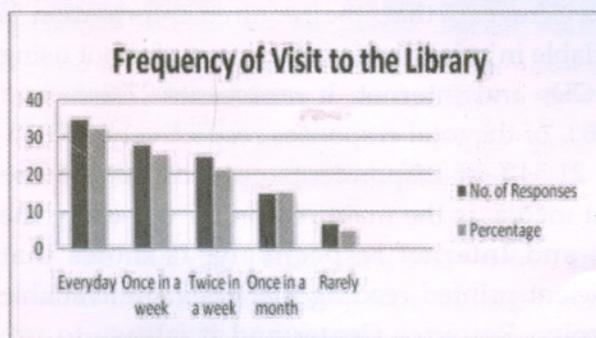
The frequency of visits to the library depends upon the nature of library collections, organization, maintenance and services etc. Table-1 indicates that, of the total (32; 32.65%) of students visit every day and 25.51% of students visit once in a week. Less than (5.10%) of students visits the library rarely.

Table- 2: Availability of CD-ROMs and INTERNET

Opinion	CD-ROMs n=110	Browsing center in the University Campus
Yes	95 (86.36)	78 (79.09)
No	15 (13.64)	23 (20.91)
Total	110 (100.00)	110 (100.00)

The students were requested to indicate the availability of CD-ROMS and Internet facilities. Table- 2 shows that 86.36% of the students indicated that CD-ROMs are available in the library on different subjects for their study. At the same time 79.09% of students indicated that the Internet facility is available in the browsing center, which is established by the university authority.

Table -3: Frequency of using CD-ROMs and INTERNET

Frequency	CD-ROMs	Browsing center in the University Campus
Very Often	27 (23.28)	32 (25.39)
Often	54 (46.55)	57 (45.24)
Sometime	22 (18.97)	22 (17.46)
Rarely	09 (7.76)	15 (11.90)
Not responded	04 (3.44)	00 (0.00)
Total	116 (100.00)	126 (100.00)

Frequency of using CD-ROMs and INTERNET
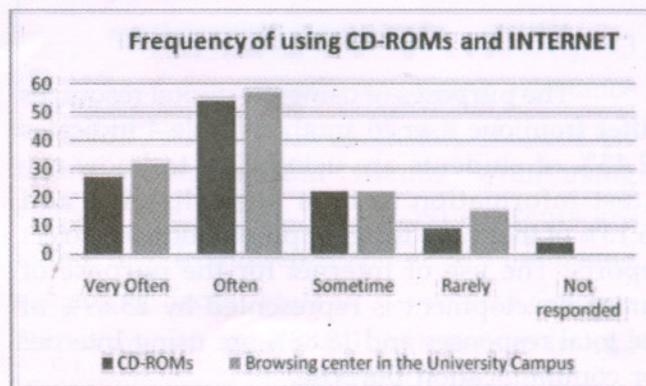
Frequency of using the CD-ROMs and Internet depends upon the availability of digital resources and services etc., organization, maintenance, and above all services and helpfulness of the library staff in making use of library resources. Table-3 indicates that 46.55% of respondent's use CD-ROMs in their subject are 'often', and 23.28% use 'very often.' The frequency of use of Internet often is by 45.24% and 25.39% use very often. Very few (7.76% and 11.90%) percentage of student's community use CDs and Internet rarely.

Table- 4: Purpose for using CD-ROMs and INTERNET

|	Purpose	CD-ROMs	Browsing center in the University Campus
1	To know the latest information for specialization	47 (42.34)	29 (16.11)
2	To prepare for project reports	29 (26.13)	30 (16.66)
3	For communication	10 (9.01)	34 (18.88)
4	For career development	10 (9.01)	43 (23.89)
5	To gain current & general information	15 (13.51)	25 (13.89)
6	Others : Technical & Management sites	0\ (9.00)	19 (10.56)
	Total	111(100.00)	180 (100.00
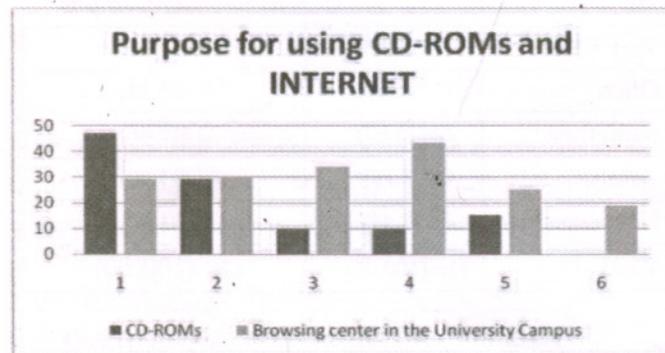
The purposes of using the digital resources differ from one user to another. Table-4 indicates 42.43% of students are using CDs to know the latest information in their specialization and 26.13% of them are using for preparation of project reports. The use of Internet for the purpose of career development is represented by 23.89% of the total responses and 18.88% are using Internet for communication purpose.

Table- 5: Reasons for not using CDs and Internet

Reasons	CD-ROMs	Browsing center in the University Campus
Lack of IT knowledge	12 (8.57)	15 (11.53)
Required information available in print media	39 (27.86)	37 (28.46)
Own CD collection and Net connection at home	27 (19.28)	25 (19.23)
Lack of time to use in the university	23 (16.43)	25 (19.23)
Easy to use print form	39 (27.86)	28 (21.54)
Total	140 (100.00)	130 (100.00

Note: Total sample exceeds the required size since the questions are of multiple choices.
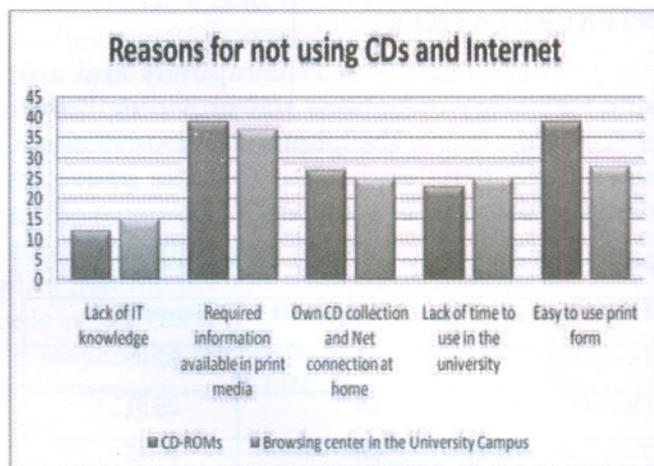
The students were requested to indicate the reasons for not using CDs and Internet in their Learning Resource Center. The data shown in Table 5 reveals that, the required information is available in print media is the reason for not using the CDs and Internet. It represents 27.86% and 27.46% of the total responses respectively. 27.86% and 21.54% of respondents opined 'easy to use print media' is the main reason for not using the CDs and Internet respectively. It shows that sufficient printed reading materials are available Learning Resource Center and it is easy to use them in the library as also at home.

An average of 19.00% (19.28+19.23) students has their own CDs and Internet connection in their homes. At the time of discussion with some students we came to know that lack of CDs in a particular subject and limited computer terminals in the browsing center is the main reason for not using digital resources in the University Learning Resource Center.

Table – 6 : Problems faced using CD-ROMs and Internet

Type of Problems	CD-ROMs	Browsing center in the University Campus
Lack of hardware knowledge	18 (13.95)	10 (8.93)
Lack of software knowledge	27 (20.93)	16 (14.28)
Lack of training	21 (16.28)	22 (19.64)
Lack of time	39 (30.23)	36 (32.14)
Lack of information	09 (6.98)	19 (16.07)
Others: Lack of patience to sit and work on PCs	15 (11.62)	10 (8.93)
Total	129 (100.00)	112 (100.00)

Problems faced using CD-ROMs and Internet
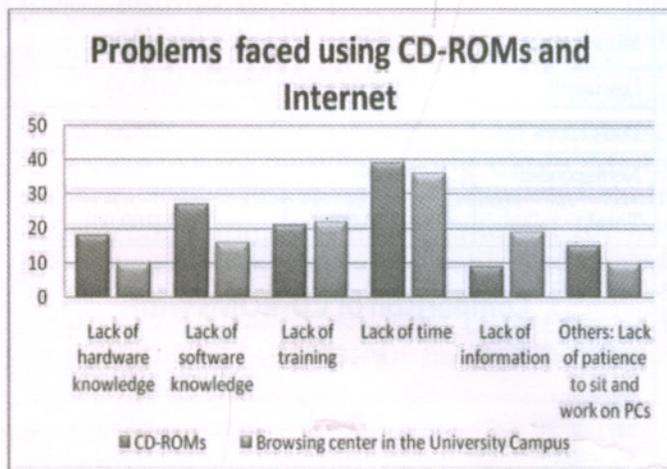
The analysis of the data shown in Table-6 represents the problems using CDs and the Internet. 30.23% and 32.14% of students users have 'lack of time' to use CDs and Internet followed by 20.93% who suffer from 'lack of software knowledge'. It is

very interesting to note that 11.62% and 8.93% of the students have 'no patience' top sit and work on PCs. Lack of training regarding how to use Internet is the main problem. It is represented by 19.64% of the total responses.

Table-7: Assistance while taken while using CDs and Internet

Reasons	CD-ROMs	Browsing center in the University Campus
Library Staff	43 (36.44)	27 (22.88)
Staff of Computer Science Deptt.	32 (27.11)	38 (32.20)
Friends	35 (29.66)	42 (35.59)
Not responded	08 (6.78)	11 (9.32)
Other (please specify)	00 (0.00)	00 (9.00)
Total	118 (100.00)	118 (100.00)

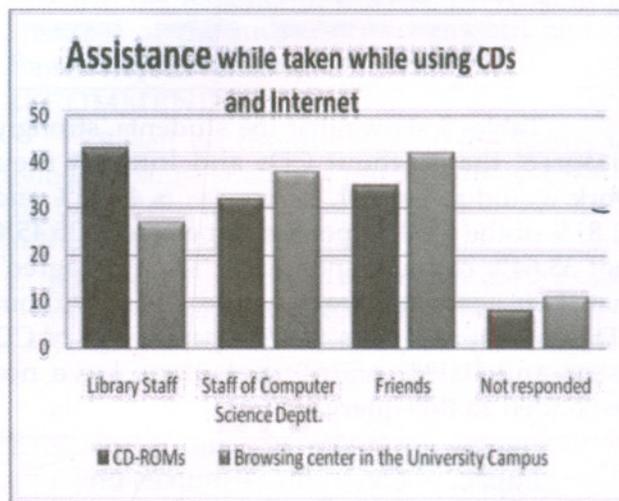Assistance while taken while using CDs and Internet

Table-7 indicates that majority 43 (36.44%) of the students are taking assistance from "library staff"; and 29.66% of them are taking assistance from "friends" while using CD's in the library. 42 (35.59) students are taking help from friends and 32.20% are taking assistance from 'staff of Computer Science Department" while using Internet in the browsing center.

Table- 8: Standard of Work Suffer without Electronic Resources

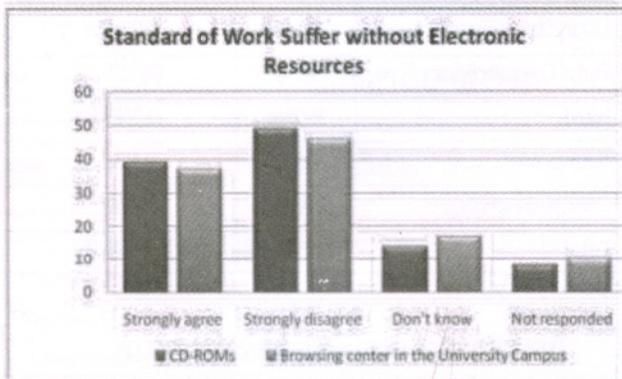| Opinion	CD-ROMs	Browsing center in the University Campus
Strongly agree	39 (35.45)	37 (33.64)
Strongly disagree	49 (44.55)	46 (41.81)
Don't know	14 (12.73)	17 (15.45)
Not responded	08 (7.27)	10 (9.09)
Total	110 (100.00)	110 (100.00)

Table- 8 shows that the students 'strongly disagree' that without CDs and Internet their work would not suffer. It represents 44.55% and 41.81% of the total responses respectively. 35.45% and 33.64% of the respondents 'strongly agree'; that their academic work would suffer without CDs and Internet. Less (7.27%) percentage of CD users and 0.09% of Internet users have not responded to this query.
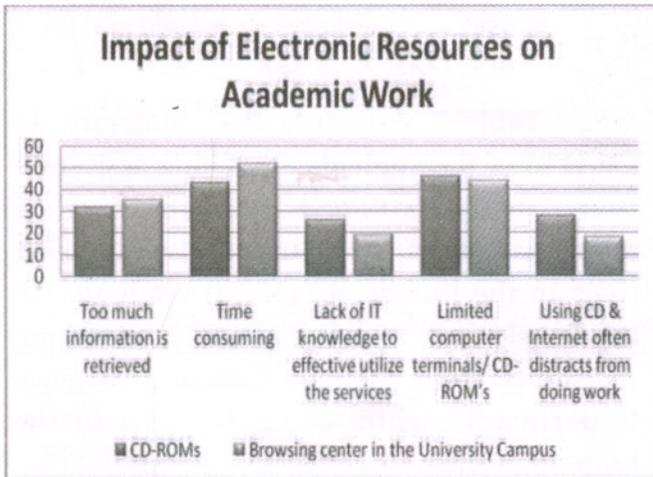

Table -9: Impact of Electronic Resources on Academic Work

Opinion	CD-ROMs	Browsing center in the University Campus
Too much information is retrieved	32 (18.29)	35 (20.83)
Time consuming	43 (24.57)	52 (30.95)
Lack of IT knowledge to effective utilize the services	26 (14.86)	19 (11.31)
Limited computer terminals/ CD-ROM's	46 (26.28)	44 (26.19)
Using CD & Internet often distracts from doing work	28 (16.00)	18 (10.71)

The responses received regarding how the Electronic Resources impact on students academic work shows in Table-9 that 52 (30.95%) and 43 (24.57%) of the respondents have opined the searching literature/ working with Internet/CDs is a 'time consuming' process and limited computer terminals/ CDs has also impact on students community that represents 26.28% and 26.19% of the total responses respectively.

Table-10: Comparison of CD-ROMs with Internet

Opinion	CD-ROMs	Browsing center in the University Campus
More useful	63 (57.27)	63 (57.27)
Less useful	22 (20.00)	29 (26.36)
Don't know	15 (13.64)	18 (16.36)
Not responded	10 (9.09)	07 (6.36)
Total	110 (100.00)	110 (100.00)
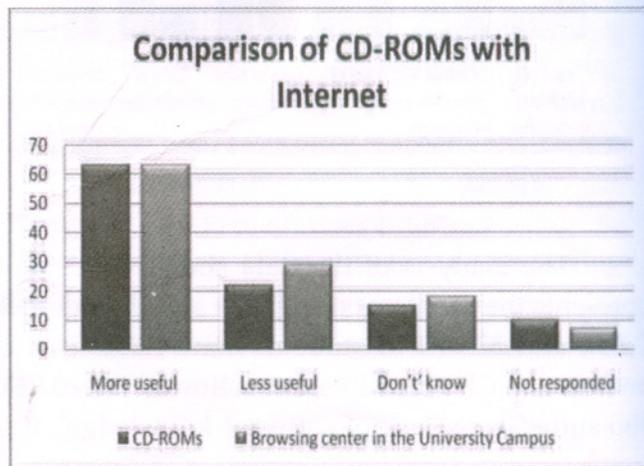
Table-10 shows that, 57.27% of respondents have opined both CDs and Internet are 'more useful' for their academic work/study. 26.36% of Internet users and 20.00% of CD users have opined that both are 'less useful' for their study. 9.09% CD users and 6.36% of Internet users have not responded to this query.

FINDINGS

Internet has emerged as a alarming social and cultural institution of global proportions facilitating access to a wealth of information on the web for the academic society to support their academic and research activities. Thus the use of Information Technology has increased by research productivity of scholars beyond expectation.

1. Answer to our first questions of study is that the Electronic Resources will never replaced by the Electronic Resources. The print media is the main reason for not using the CD and Internet in the LRC. It represents 27.86% and 27.46% of the total responses respectively.

2. Majority 32 (32.65%) of students visit every day and 95 (86.36%) of respondents observed that CD-ROMs are available on different subjects for their study. Which reply our second question of study that it will enhance the quality of education. The study shows that 46.55% of students are using CD-ROMs in their subject often. The frequency of use of Internet often represents 45.24% of the total responses. 42.45% of students are using CD-ROMs to know the latest information in their specialization. The use of Internet for the purpose of career development is represented by 23.89% of the total responses. 57.27% of the respondents observed both CDs and Internet are more useful' for their academic work/study than any other.

3. Main problems areas are associated with computer terminals in the browsing center as the main reason for not using digital resources in the University Learning Resource Center. The study shows that 30.23% and 32.14% of students face lack of time to use CDs and Internet respectively. 43 (36.44%) students take assistance from the Learning Resource Center Staff while using CDs and 35.59% of them take assistance from friends while using Internet in the browsing center. The study strongly disagree that without CD-ROMs and Internet their work would not suffer. It represents 44.55% and 41.81% of the total responses respectively. The 52 (30.95%) and 43 (24.57%) of the respondents opined the searching of literature/ working with Internet /CDs are time consuming process; and

Finally, there are opinions that the Jaypee University Information Technology, Himachal Pradesh must facilitate some sort of training, orientation at the very survival level to make them aware of the existence of digital resources in the library so that most of the students aspiring for higher study, they may make use of it maximum, others opined that the trained staff can be a great help and therefore, they should assist the Internet user in using digital resources for searching required information. It was also opined that if it is possible to ensure maximum power supply to optimize the benefits of Internet services in the premises of the university in general and the library in particular.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions are put forward to improve the use of the Internet and Electronic Resources in the LRC, JUIT Himachal Pradesh.

1. Significant number of users is unaware of the existence of digital resources in the library. Therefore the concerned authority should take initiative of organizing orientation programs etc.

2. There should be complete campus-wide networking with the Internet browsing facility connecting the dental teachers' rooms as well as hostels.

3. Majority of students' community faces the problem while searching information in the CD-ROM's and Internet due to lack of hardware training. Hence, the basic training is needed in using these resources;

4. The respondents suggested that, more number of CD-ROMs should be purchased in all the subjects and make provision to borrow them for use at home;

5. To increase the number of computer terminals in the library/ Internet-browsing center.

6. Library staff should assist the users in using digital resources for searching required information.

It will be possible only through the implementation of these suggestions cited above that the search effort in the University to which Learning Resource Center forms an information support system could be optimized.

DISSCUSSIONS

The LRC is considered to be the backbone of any research organization as it provides its user the literature and information through electronic sources and services in order to carry out their academic activity. There is an increasing demand for a good library collection in terms of large amount of information, and the publishing media is also striving hard to support the demand by way of e-publication as well as online access. At thought technological advancements today have tremendously transformed the nature of information techniques in academic Libraries. The Libraries are becoming more deeply engaged in the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Obviously, information from electronic sources cannot be accessed in the same manner as printed sources were consulted previously. Adequate knowledge about computes and retrieval techniques are desirable to effectively search these electronic sources. Thus, technological advancements have extended new opportunities as well as posed new challenges for individuals, forcing to acquire the necessary skills to be benefited from these advancements.

CD-ROMs have been found to be most useful and highly economic information storage devices. Hence, they are rightly called powerful tools of information storage and dissemination devices because of their compatibility, capability, and transportability and above all economy. Because of variety of applications and products CD-ROMs are found to be more useful in possible to retrieve information independently of time zones and geographical location, and to obtain the most up-to-ate information. The e-mail system provides a communication facility, which to a

great extent replaces the traditional mail and fax systems, formerly used by institution, thus saving time for the user. Finally it has been observed that both CDs and Internet are more useful for their academic work/ study. It is concluded that the main intention of using CDs and Internet resources and services has been the academic interest of the student community in the university.

CONCLUSION

The Internet as medium of communication is useful in medicine, and has become an important means of delivering services. The use of the Internet is an evolving phenomenon at this stage. Its use in the LRC under study is still in a state of infancy or early maturation. We can very well visualize a situation when all users will have achieved near perfection in the use of and full dependency on the Internet for their information needs. So still there is a vast scope of future research in different types of users' behavior and comparison of users' behavior towards the Internet.

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