Abstract

Advancements in ICT in particular internet are increasingly accepted in all aspects of human life and its impact is clearly visible in action and products of day to day use. It has become integral part of current day generation. The current generations is more tech-savvy and intelligent and are impatient for any delayed actions. The internet and IT based products and services have impacted greatly on nature and formats of information resources and mode of providing the same to the users in libraries. Providing excellent resources and facilities will not guarantee the utilization. Resources needs to be supported by excellent services and dedicated manpower for the same. In academic world, the institutions of higher learning need to motivate users for optimal utilization of their resources and facilities. For this, the library management has to go beyond the rule book to reach users more closely with human touch and create conducive environment for proper utilization.

The study investigated the research scholars' perceptions of impact of internet on library usage in university libraries in Karnataka state. The study carried out considering six university libraries who are financially assisted by UGC and members of UGC-Infonet e-consortia. As the study intended to cover research scholars of these six universities, it considered the regular research scholar of science, Humanities and social science disciplines as target population. The study adopted survey research method for obtaining primary data and considered a structured questionnaire as survey instrument for data collection.

As the study was desirous of obtaining comprehensive data for consistent and meaningful interpretation, it included census population for the study. Hence no sampling method was adopted for identifying respondents and included all the 1468 research scholars as target population. The carefully designed questionnaire was self administered to the researchers and posted to those who are away from the campus. Of 1468 respondents, the study received 1077 responses resulting in 73.36% of response rate.
The analysis and interpretation of responses revealed many interesting facts on internet facility in university libraries considered for the study and their perception of impact of internet on functions and services of library. To mention some of the major findings, researchers tend to use more and more e-resources through internet and expressed the access and technical related problems while accessing the internet. They feel the current status of internet connectivity is good leaving scope for further improvement. Usage of UGC-mfonet resource and library staff cooperation are the issues of concern which need to be considered by university authorities on priority. Like this the study unearthed many interesting facts and identified some areas which need further probing and they are mentioned in the body of the thesis.

The study has recommended some measures to improve the current status of internet information resources and services for the benefit of researchers’ community. Also it indicates some areas for future research in the concluding part of the thesis.

**Key Words:** Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Internet, University Libraries, Research Scholars, Information Resources, Library Facilities and Services, Internet Tools and Services, Internet based library Services