

PREFACE

The role of library in the current Internet-era has changed drastically and it is continuously changing with the application of information and communication technologies in library services. The role of librarian is also dramatically changing, especially with the invention of Internet and the World Wide Web. It has successfully entered all the areas of human sphere and to a great extent is directly or indirectly affecting the library and information centers. A wide variety of public domain (free) and commercial information sources are currently being available on the Internet, with new sources added frequently. Such sources include bibliographical/full text databases, table of contents of journals, discussion forums, preprints, technical reports, directories, biographies, teaching and training materials, data archives, software, library catalogues and so on. The Internet has led to the creation of a stimulating academic environment by completely modernizing the tools of learning as well as the process of teaching, and research. It is no wonder that, it has tremendously transformed the approach of the teachers and students towards information seeking and the methods they employ for research and learning activities. In such an academic environment, institutions of higher learning such as Engineering and Management institutions are also doing their best to provide their users access to this vast reservoir of information.

The present investigation, however, primarily concentrates to the usage pattern of Internet/web resources, rating the importance of Internet as compared to the traditional library systems and the problems encountered in accessing internet resources with specific reference to the students and LIS professionals of Engineering and Management institutions of Orissa. The entire thesis consists of five broad chapters to represent the total work done in the study. Chapter -1 deals with the introductory aspects of the study, whereas Chapter-2 reveals the history and growth of Engineering and Management Education in Orissa. Chapter-3 unfolds the overall aspects of Internet and Chapter-4 covers the analysis and interpretation of data collected. Finally, Chapter-5, the concluding section exposes the major findings and concluding remarks of the study including the testing of hypotheses and area of further studies.

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