

THE IMPACT OF INTERNET OF THE REASARCH ACTIVITIES AMONG THE FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY-ROUDEHEN BRANCH

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ABSTRACT

Internet has made significant changes in today's scientific world. This technology has influenced the objectives of research, the kinds of information being searched, the methods of searching for information applied by members of scientific society, and consequently their research activities. The accomplishment of the research projects requires conditions and facilities by which one can benefit from this efficient technology to meet the demands of the scientific society. The present research, applying a descriptive-correlative method, studied the effect of internet on research activities of the faculty members of the Islamic Azad University (IAU) – Roudehen Campus. The findings indicated that more than half of the samples (59.9%) use internet and (49.5%) of them considered internet as an effective technology to carry out their research projects.

Keywords: *Internet, Faculty Members, Scientific Activities, Islamic Azad University*

INTRODUCTION

Students in institutions of higher learning should take advantage of information available on the Internet in their coursework. The Internet is also utilized for social and other non-academic functions. Hence, it is desirable, for students to strike a balance in the time spent online for academic and non-academic purposes (TOJET, 2014). The Web gives lifelong learners the tools to become autodidacts, eschewing exorbitant tuition and joining the ranks of other self-taught great thinkers in history such as Albert Einstein, Alexander Graham Bell, Paul Allen and Ernest Hemingway (as quoted in <http://thenextweb.com>). Most students believe that internet use in university study makes learning more interesting and effective, and that possessing internet skills will assist their future job prospects. There is no doubt that amongst the latest technologies to promote and maintain the education standards the Internet comes first. Internet is not only an access to websites; it is abounding of resources of information and knowledge (Karnataka, 2012). Our nation's libraries and institutions of higher education are leaders in creating, fostering, using, extending and maximizing the potential of the Internet for research, education and the public good. As we stated in our initial comments, libraries and institutions of higher education depend upon an open Internet to fulfill their missions and serve their communities (as quoted in <https://www.aau.edu>).

The information age, has obliged the universities and research and information centers to search new methods for the access of the researchers, faculty members and students to information. One of these methods is the use of information technologies. The internet can be referred to as one of the most important achievements of these technologies (Hayati and Tasviri, 2000). Information development and its updateness has made the internet the first indicator of information age manifestation, since the internet plays an important role in the access to the up-to-date information and fast and efficient contact among scientists and experts of different fields of sciences. The necessity of knowledge of the internet abilities and the amount of its impact on scientific productions especially among faculty members and university researchers seems essential. Due to the extended use of the internet in most science and research centers

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and since Islamic Azad University of Roudehen which is one example of an expanded instruction center in Iran that provides its researchers with the internet in order to support them scientifically and considering the internet impact on science and research activities and increase in the use of the internet, this study examines the impact of the internet on science and research activities of Islamic Azad University, Roudehen Campus faculty members.

Research Questions

1. How much do the faculty members tend to use the internet?
2. What official sources do they use the most?
3. What computer sources do they use the most?
4. Has the impact of the internet on science and research activities been much investigated by society?
5. What percentage of the research society uses the internet?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research used survey method and the research society consists of Islamic Azad University of Roudehen faculty members. Through continuous tracking from 250 distributed questionnaires, 227 were received. The data were elicited from questionnaires and to analyze data statistical software SPSS was used.

What is the Internet?

Internet is a name for an expanded organization and a world including people, information and computer. Internet is so huge and complicated that can not be perceived by anybody.

Not only no one can perceive it entirely but also there is no one who can understand the greater part of it. Internet is also the biggest computer net in the world that is known as the net of nets (Jafarbeglu, 1999).

Internet was formed in 1960 as a national net.

The U.S government established a net to connect its military and university information computers so that researchers could easily use the existing information in the organization (Hafezian, 1999).

Using a simple definition, Internet is a collection of thousands of linked service provider nets in a linked organization that exchanges information based on specific conventions.

In sociocognitive view, Internet is a linked system consists of electrical and electronic elements, data and information, softwares, firmwares and hardwares.

The internet society is a vast and complicated society which consists of humans, computers, information, conventions and an unlimited supervising system.

This system in fact consists of sub-systems which are the constituents of the central system of the internet.

Upon interring any group new collection into the unlimited world of the internet, specific rules of the system of new access and a new system is added to its general body.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The present research has studied the importance of the internet as an easy way in data recovery and its impact on research activities of faculty members of Islamic Azad University Roudehen Campus.

The selected participants were asked some questions and the analysis of their answers was presented in the following tables:

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Table 1: Frequency Distribution of faculty members based on the amount of research activity

Indicators The amount of activities	Observed Frequency	Percentage	Expected Frequency
Plan Implementation	202	3.80	483.6
Collaboration in Plan	109	2.05	483.6
Invention Record	4	0.08	483.6
National Seminar	200	3.76	483.6
International Seminar	23	0.43	483.6
Paper Authorship	495	9.30	483.6
Paper Translation	342	6.43	483.6
Book Authorship	207	3.89	483.6
Book Translation	109	2.05	483.6
B.A Thesis Supervision	2983	56.07	483.6
M.A Thesis Supervision	646	12.14	483.6
Other	0	0	483.6
Total	5320	100	

Table one results regarding the amount of research activities of Islamic Azad University Roudehen Campus faculty members indicates that from 5320 research activities the highest percentage (56.07) belongs to B.A thesis supervision and paper authorship and the lowest percentage(8%) belongs to invention record.

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Faculty members' motivation in conducting scientific research

Indicators Faculty motivation	Distribution Members'	Observed Cases	Expected Cases	Level of Difference
Identification of specialized sources	47	47	88.9	-41.9
Increasing Knowledge	general 83	83	88.9	-5.9
Updating Information	105	105	88.9	16.1
Publication of Scientific works	117	117	88.9	28.1
Research Projects	129	129	88.9	40.1
Preserving Scientific Status	132	132	88.9	43.1
Other Activities	9	9	88.9	-79.9
The calculated chi-square				
Chi-square		142.801		
df		6		
sig		0.000		

As can be seen in table two, Chi-square equals 142.801 and df equals 6 and the level of meaningfulness (0.000) and Chi-square is bigger than critical square in the table. One with 95 percent confidence may judge that among faculty members there exists a meaningful difference in their motivation in doing research activities and observing the data indicates that most participants with distribution of 132 have

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stated that preserving scientific status has been their main motivation in conducting the research activities and 129 participants have stated in the questionnaires that the most important motivation in doing scientific research has been research activities and 9 participants have pointed out to other motivations.

Table 3: Frequency Distribution of Faculty Members' amount of usage of formal sources

Indicators Formal Sources	Distribution	Observed Cases	Expected cases	Level of Difference
Patents	1	1	28.2	-27.2
Research report	3	9	28.2	-19.2
Theses	6	6	28.2	-22.2
Conference Articles	7	14	28.2	-14.2
Journals	15	15	28.2	-13.2
Book	124	124	28.2	95.8

The calculated chi-square

Chi-square	396.030
Df	5
Sig	0.000

As can be seen in table three, chi-square equals 396.030 and df equals 5 and the level of meaningfulness equals (0.000) and Chi-square is bigger than critical chi-square in the table. One with 95 percent confidence may judge that among faculty members there exists a meaningful difference in using formal sources and the data analysis indicated that the most distribution 124 participants have selected books and the least distribution 1 have selected patents as a formal source of information.

Table 4: Frequency Distribution of the amount of usage of computer sources by faculty members

Indicator Computer Sources	Distribution	Observed Cases	Expected Cases	Level of Differences
Digital Library	10	10	90.5	-80.5
Optical disc CD	33	33	90.5	-57.5
Information Banks	102	102	90.5	11.5
Internet	217	217	90.5	126

The calculated chi-square

Chi-square	286.420
df	3
sig	0.000

As can be seen in table four Chi-square equals 284.420 and df equals 3 and the level of meaningfulness equals (0.000) and chi-square is bigger than critical chi-square in the table. One with 95 percent confidence may judge that among faculty members there exists a meaningful difference in using computer sources. The data analysis has shown that the most frequency 217 participants have stated that they have used the internet and the least frequency 10 participants have stated they have used digital library as computer sources. The results indicate that faculty members first preference has been Internet and then Information Banks and after that optical disks and at the end digital library.

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Table 5: Frequency Distribution of the amount of the effects of the Internet on faculty Members Science-Research activities

Indicator	Distribution	Observed Cases	Expected Cases	Level of Difference
Internet Effect				
A little	18	18	45.4	-27.4
Little	20	20	45.4	-25.4
Very much	32	32	45.4	18.6
Medium	44	44	45.4	-1.4
The calculated chi-square				
Chi-square		66.326		
df		4		
sig		0.000		

As can be seen in the table five, Chi-square equals 66.326 and df equals 4 and the level of meaningfulness equals (0.000) and the Chi-square is bigger than the critical chi-square. One with 95 percent confidence may judge that there exists a meaningful difference in the type of computer source that has been used by faculty members. The data analysis has shown that the most participants (440 people) consider the impact of the internet on science-research activities is about average and 32 participants consider that such an impact is too much.

Suggestions for Further Research

Considering the results and the positive impacts of the internet on conducting science and research activities the following suggestions are provided in order to improve the quality and quantity of the access and use of the internet:

- ✓ Hardware facilities should be increased and faculty members, students and the researcher should be provided with the easy access to the internet.
- ✓ Electronic scientific sources should be bought and provided.
- ✓ Programs should be provided in order to introduce electronic sources and their usage to faculty members, students and researchers.

Conclusion

The aim of each research is to answer the researcher's questions and scientific measurement of hypotheses that the researcher has stated them based on his/her prior knowledge and information in order to find the causes of the problem and to find a solution.

The results show that faculty members use the internet a lot. The number of faculty members' research activities is more than 5000 and the most participants believe that the use of the internet is effective in conducting research activities and scientific productions. Overall, due to the fact that faculty members know that the use of the internet is effective in science-research activities, we can be hopeful about providing the members with more internet facilities especially because the high percentage of members has demanded the possibility of the use of the internet outside universities. Furthermore, we can be hopeful that the internet with its numerous capabilities could be able to help faculty members in accessing to the information and also could lead to qualitative and quantitative improvement of science-research activities.

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