

A Study to find the usefulness of library automation and internet usage of the academic staff of the Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka

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Abstract: This paper aims to determine a study to find the usefulness of library automation and internet usage of the academic staff of the Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka. Survey method has been used as the basic research tool to data collection with the help of questionnaires. Total number of 120 faculty members was taking to the study. And 98 faculty members were responded. The survey result were tabulated and analyzed with descriptive statistics method using excel software. The internet is the most preferred medium of access to information among the majority of faculty members. Although they have mentioned they really need of automation system to the library. The internet enables access to vast amounts of information to be independently retrieved by anybody at anytime from anywhere in the world. The study is aimed at analyzing useful of library automation and internet use, its impact among the faculty members of Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka. The growing internet and emerging network technologies have been revolutionizing society by making information available to the people in a new way. Use of internet is increasing day by day as it is time saving, more informative and less expensive. The amount of internet resources available to academics has increased tremendously during the last decade. The study will help library professional to develop effective library services with digital environment.

Key words: Internet/ Library automation/ Faculty members/ Uva Wellassa University

Introduction

The internet presents a challenge for the library to providing information services. The internet has many vast resources and anybody can access in anywhere in the world. Also in the global information environment and automation of library is very important. Because of users can search large quantities of information. A central union catalogue linked to article citation databases, full text resources and local library resources. Out of all libraries an academic library has difficult task of defining its mission and operating objectives. The automation programme will have to manage a wide range of literature associated with numerous department and educational programmes of the academic institution. The user group will also range widely, including faculty staff, students, scholars, researchers and administrators.

Traditional library work consisting of acquisitions, technical processing, serials control, circulation and reference services all entail time consuming manual work. Libraries must adopt new technologies and develop the roles and services. Library will have also come to recognized that users expect to be able to

access all the available information from search desk. Digital information resources are growing enormously and users are familiar with modern dynamic digital environment. Today libraries have become more efficient with proving access to global information.

Since the 1960s libraries have used technology in general, Information communication technologies (ICT) have changed the way Information is created and distributed. Library automation is the general term for ICT that are used to replace manual system in the library. The main purpose of the library automation is to free the librarians and library staff and to allow them to contribute more services regarding knowledge and information. The functions may be automated are any or all of the following: Acquisition, Cataloguing, Public access, indexing and abstracting, Circulation, Serials management and reference services.

University library is a vibrant learning resource in an institution of higher education for teachers and students. It provides continuously updated information on a variety of subjects. Teachers are facilitating and students learn from the library. Library also contributes to the students

pick up the updated information. Automated libraries will give them new life. Computerized catalogues give access to book as well as magazines. Library automation is beneficial to students, librarians, faculty members and administrators for various reasons. The library is the resource heart that supports and enhances the curriculum for the university. Students can expand their horizons more effectively with an automated library. Teachers can reinforce their classroom instruction with assignments that guide students to research opportunities within the university. Areas of library automation are Circulations, Acquisition, Cataloguing, Serial control, Reference Services etc. An automated library is seen as vibrant and alive. Automation can make the library an awesome place.

Literature review

Kumar and Kaur (2004) suggested that the use of internet among the teachers and students in Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of Engineering and Technology should be improved. They found that majority of the internet users used the internet for educational purposes. Luanbano and Nawe (2004) determined that the students used internet for communication with friends and relatives less than for academic purposes and the level of students access to the internet was low because at the time of the study, computers with internet facilities were inadequate. Bancroft A, et al. (1998) reported a user survey examining the library services, including electronic journals, at the Washington State University (WUS). This survey requested faculty members and graduate students to rank the internet, electronic resources as essential for their academic work. 37.5% Faculty reported that the library OPAC was the most important source for their work. However over 70% of faculty expressed "No opinion/never used" concerning online full text journals. As proved to be the case for our study, the results of the WSU survey were also useful in subsequent decision making involving journal cancellation.

Radcliff, et al. (1993) discussed the challenge internet presented to the reference service in academic libraries, saw text education as an issue of high priority but also recommended inclusion of the acquisition of electronic journals, local archiving of retrieved data and the provision of bibliographic access through the local library catalogue to resources available in the internet in a model of new age library services.

In the point of Das (1999), internet access was very useful for resource sharing among different libraries. Internet offered an innovative and rich electronic environment where users could

locate the information they need, quick and easily. In the words of Hopkins (2000), Internet is a major force for changing the role of libraries and information centers. Misra and Satyanarayana (2001) proved that internet is helpful service in the world wide information. The book by Laurence and Miller (2002) focused on the role, libraries and scholars have in the dissemination of internet resources. It provided a useful reference tool for researchers and libraries.

Mulla and Chandrashekara (2006) the teachers, research scholars and students of high education use internet to keep them shelves up to date knowledge.

Asemi did a case study of Medical Sciences University of Isfahan, Iran. The results of the study showed that all the respondents used Internet frequently because all faculties had an Internet connection. It was revealed that the researchers of the university were getting quality health information and patient care through Internet. Fifty-five per cent of respondents searched Internet for scientific health information because the university library provided access to databases and online journals to both students and staff.

Objective of the study

The main objectives of this study are analyze the pattern of internet use, internet skills of professionals, the perceived impact of the internet on their academic efficiency and problem faced by them in using the internet.

- To identify the awareness of internet and its resources
- To find out the usefulness of library automation
- To discover the satisfaction level of internet facilities and library services
- To identify the purpose of using internet

Uva Wellassa University is the 14th National University and the first Entrepreneurial University in Sri Lanka providing education for the students with the focus on employee

needs with professionalism. UWU library is a collection of sources, resources, and services, and the structure in which it is housed, an academic library is serving the teaching and research needs of students and staff. The library serves two complementary purposes: to support the university's curriculum, and to support the research of the university students and staff.

Methodology

The study used a survey approach in collecting the data. The population of the study will be the

academic staff of the Uva Wellassa University. Based on the faculties all staff was taken to the survey. The study is confined to the library automation and usage of internet by the faculty members of Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka. The total numbers of faculty members are 120 and 98 members was responded.

Data will be treated most confidential and will be used for aggregation of statistical tables, analysis and interpretation of results leading to my research only.

Data Analysis

How long have you been using internet for the academic purpose

A large number of majority 41.84% of respondents indicated that they have been used internet more than 5 years. Secondly shows 30.61% that some of them used internet more than 3 years. Between 5-1 year's respondents' rate was 24.49%. 3.06% rate was for the less than one year used one. The results presented in Table 1 and figure 1.

Table 1

Status	Responses rate	Percentage
More than 5 years	41	41.84%
More than 3 years	30	30.61%
Between 5 _ 1 years	24	24.49%
Less than 1 year	3	3.06%
Total	98	100

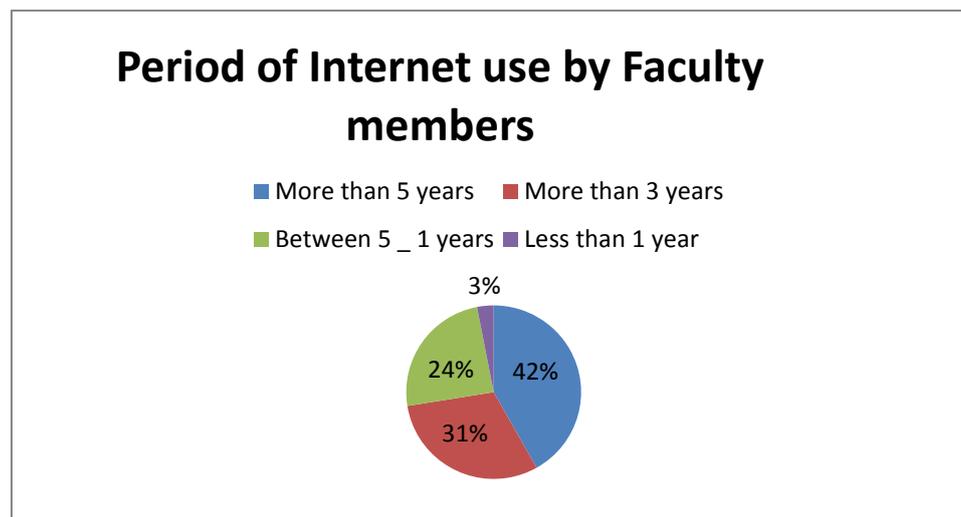


Figure 1

How did you learn to use internet

Below Table 2 shows on faculty members how they learn to use internet. Of the 40.82% respondents indicating that they had personal knowledge about the content of internet, some of respondents around 19.39% were use online orientation. 24.49% reported that they have taken assistance from colleagues or friends. The respondents of 11.22% used manual and hand books for learn to internet. Very few of them 4.08% was attended the formal training programs to learn the use of internet.

Table 2

Status	Responses rate	Percentage
Formal training programs	4	4.08%
Online orientation	19	19.39%
Assistance from colleagues or friends	24	24.49%
Using manuals/ hand books	11	11.22%
Self _ instruction	40	40.82%
Total	98	100

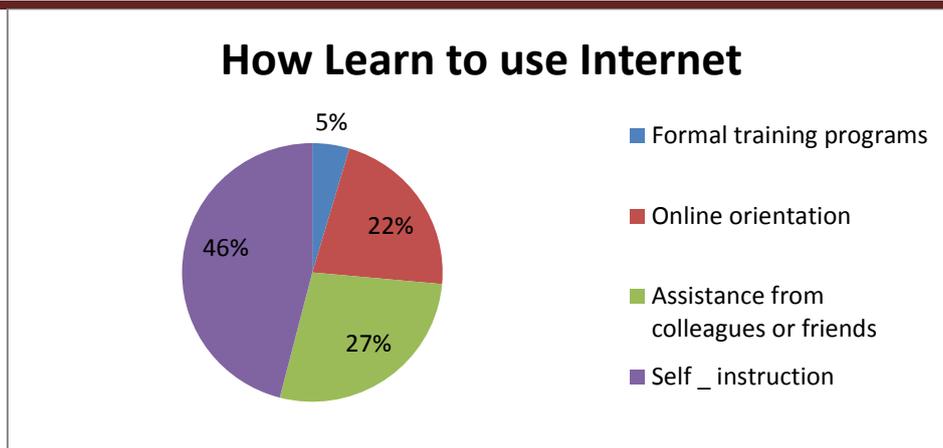


Figure 2

How frequently used Internet tools and resources

Table 3 shows, when the use of tools resources is analyzed, in respect of faculty used e-mails on every day, percentage is 91.84%. secondly search engines is 75.51%. when it comes to the online databases and electronic journals very few percentage was appearing. Al most every day they have been used the internet. Around 40.82% was not used online databases for their academic work.

Table 3

Tools/Resource	E-mail	Search engines	WWW resources	Online databases	Electronic journals	News group	Mailing list
Almost every day%	91.84%	75.51%	22.45%	7.14%	2.04%	0%	18.37%
About once a week%	6.12%	13.27%	10.20%	9.18%	18.37%	0%	7.14%
Once a month%	0%	7.14%	4.08%	5.1%	4.08%	9.18%	0%
Not used%	0%	1.02%	0%	40.82%	15.31%	33.67%	0%

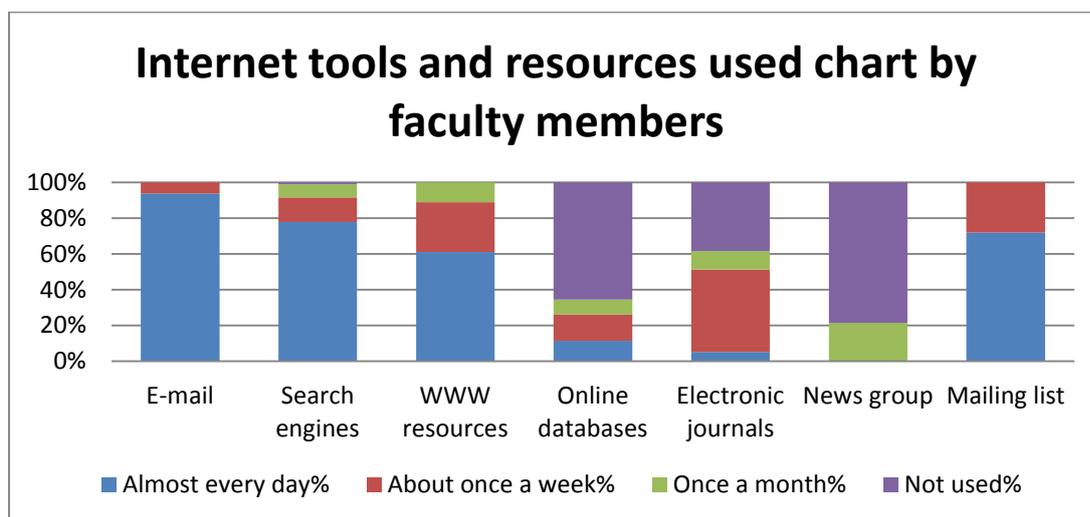


Figure 3

Main purpose is use of the internet resources

Another question was carried out to find the purpose of use of internet. The majority of users were reported higher percentage for to send & receive e-mail, to look for information for my research and teaching purpose and to communicate with others (Social networks etc). 7% is the read news. Table 4 and figure 4.

Table 4

Purpose	Responses rate	Percentage of responses rate	Final percentage
To send & receive e-mail	95	96.94%	29.78%
To look for information for my research and teaching purpose	80	81.63%	25.08%
To read news	22	22.45%	6.9%
To communicate with others (Social networks etc)	93	94.90%	29.15%
To look for software	17	17.35%	5.33%
To read personal & corporate web pages	12	12.24%	3.76%
Total	319		

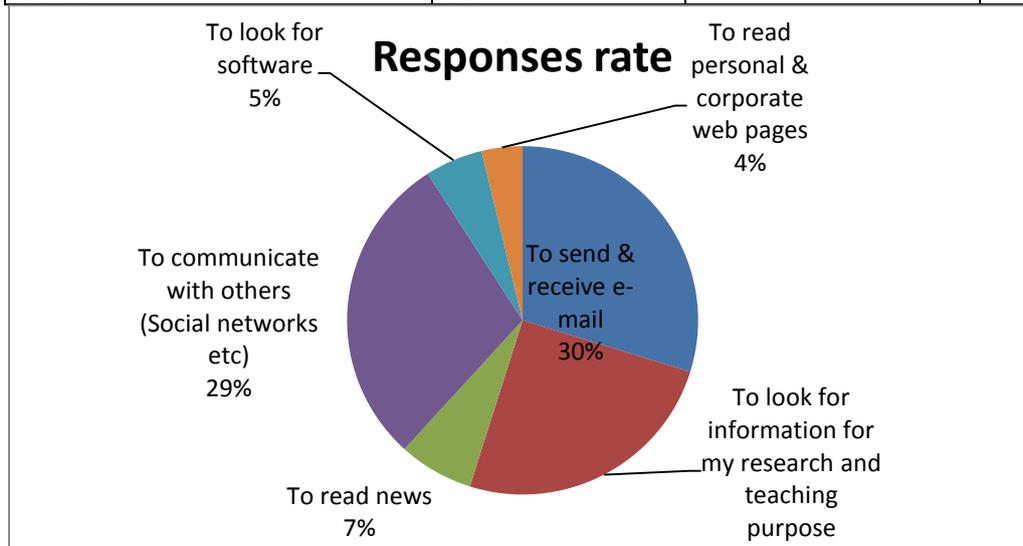


Figure 4

Purposes of use retrieval information

It observed interestingly on table 5 that the most of the faculty members was use retrieval information for their personal. 33.58% for the research and publications, rest 23.36% were for teaching purpose.

Table 5

Purpose	Responses rate	Percentage	Final
research & publication	46	46.94%	33.58%
personal interest	59	60.2%	43.07%
Teaching	32	32.65%	23.36%
Total	137		

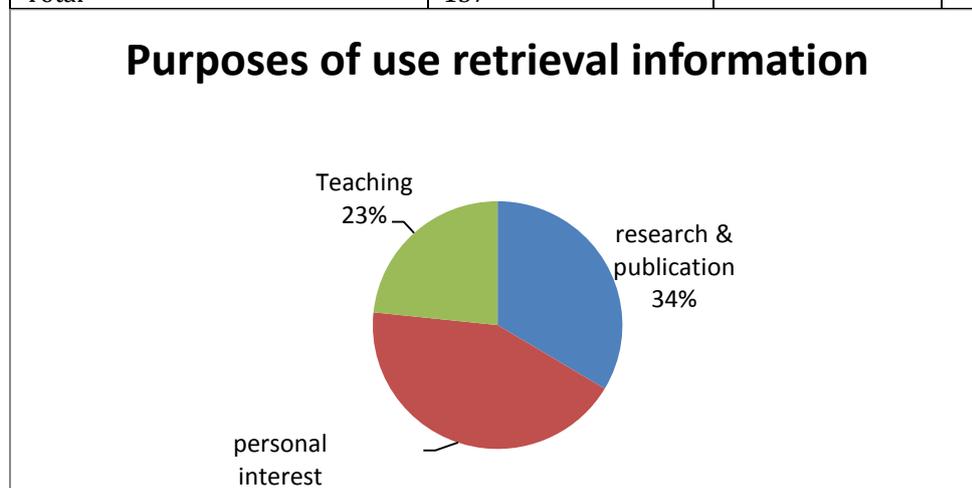


Figure 5

Internet search engines use

Faculty members were further asked to indicate which search engines use for the find the information. From the indicated Table 6, it is found that 25.48 per cent used Google, 24.66 per cent for the yahoo, 22.74 per cent for the MSN and ask com was about 4.9%. Entire web was used by 22.19%.

Table 6

Search Engines	Responses rate	Percentage	Final %
Google	93	94.90%	25.48%
Yahoo	90	91.84%	24.66%
MSN	83	84.70%	22.74%
Ask Com	18	18.37%	4.9%
The entire web	81	82.65%	22.19%

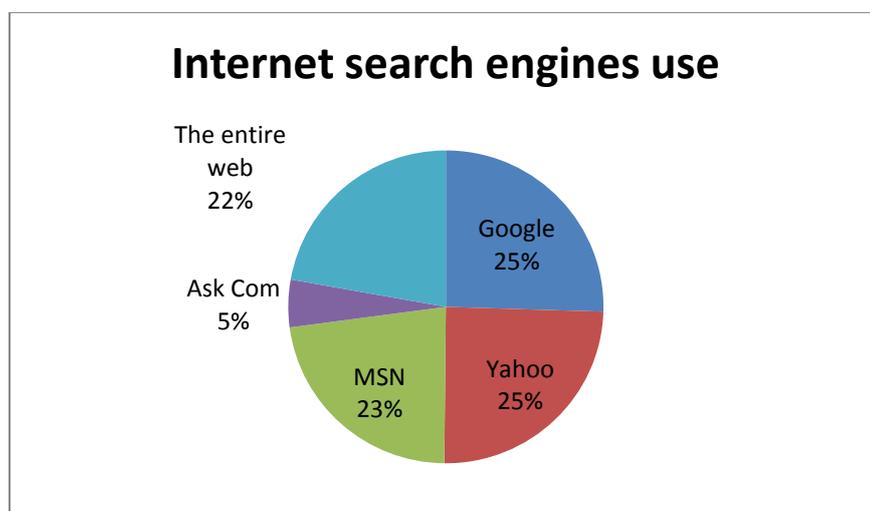


Figure 6

Opinion about bellow given internet facilities

Further Table 7 indicates the percentage of faculty members who prefer various internet facilities and status of those facilities. Emails 96, external library catalogue 12, electronic databases 56, electronic journals 58, electronic images 8, www resources 78, social network 91 and downloading software 18 members said very important.

Although Emails 2, external library catalogue 43, electronic databases 30, electronic journals 20, electronic images 13, www resources 17, social network 6 and downloading software 70 members said important. Fairly Emails 0, external library catalogue 13, electronic databases 12, electronic journals 19, electronic images 47, www resources 3, social network 0 and downloading software 5. Similarly emails 0, external library catalogue 10, electronic databases 0, electronic journals 1, electronic images 30, www resources 0, social network 1 and downloading software 5 members said not important.

Table 7

	E mail	External library catalogue	Electronic databases	Electro nic journals	Electr onic image s	www resou rces	Social networ k	Downloa ding software
Very important	96	12	56	58	8	78	91	18
important	2	43	30	20	13	17	6	70
fairly	-	13	12	19	47	3	-	5
Not important	-	10	-	1	30	-	1	5

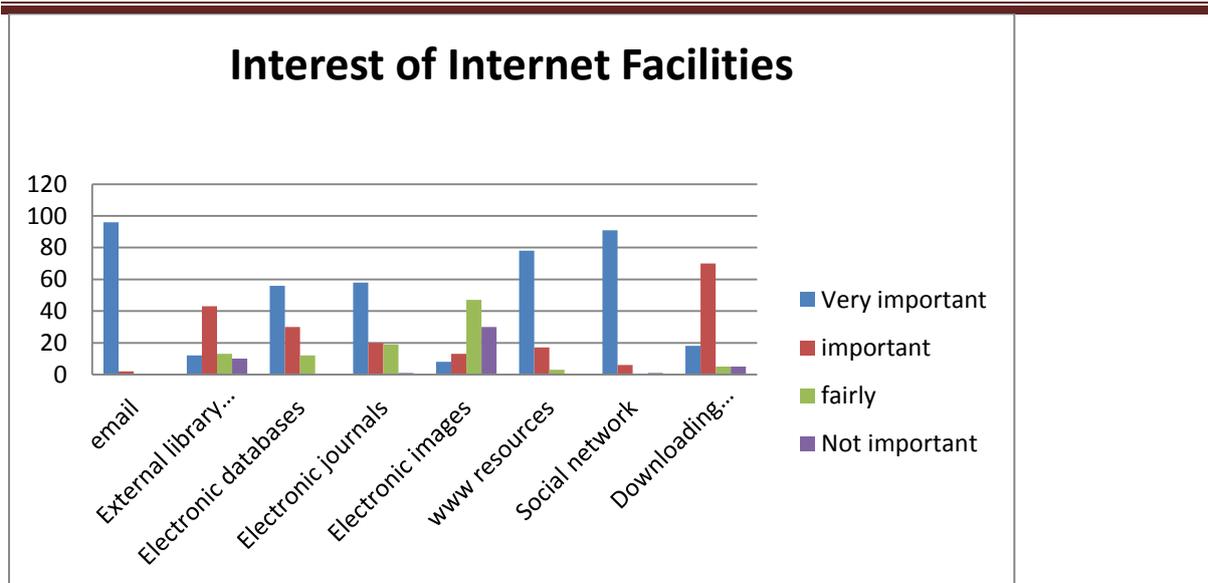


Figure 7

Impact of Internet

Internet has impact on the competence level of an individual and improves the intellectual activity necessary for academic purpose. 95.92% of faculty members said Yes and 4.08% are No. Table 8

Table 8

Status	Responses rate	Percentage
Yes	94	95.92%
No	4	4.08%

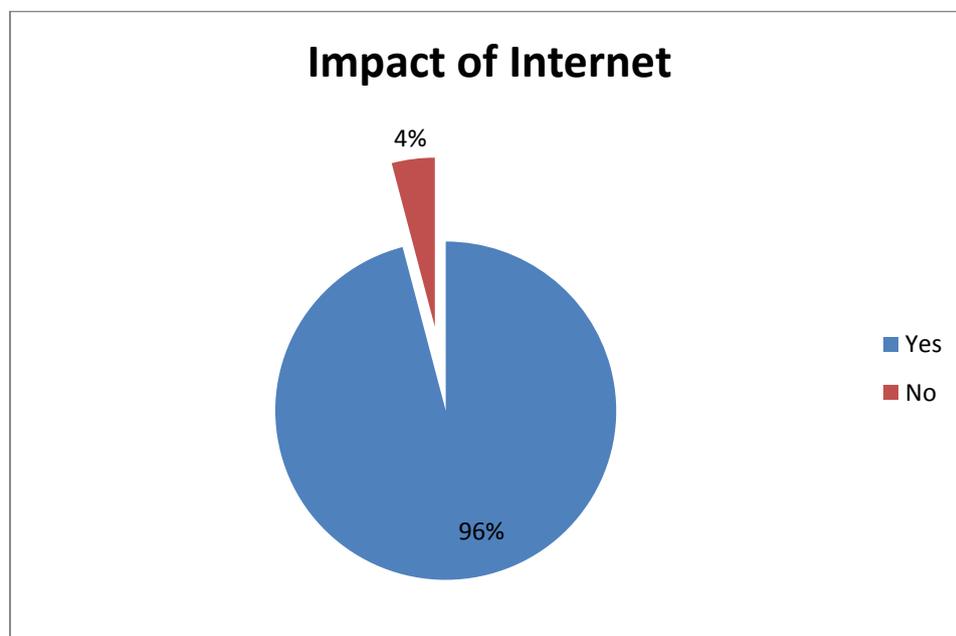


Figure 8

Problem of using internet

There are various problems to access and to use the internet. The faculty members were requested to clearly provide details regarding the issues faced by them whenever the access and use of internet. Table 9 identifies that issues faced by the faculty members. It is shown in majority of users (45.92 per cent) face

the common problem of lack of time. A total of 19.39 per cent state the problem of slow access speed and lack of proper training. Another problem of 4.08% was poor access for remote areas.

Table 9

Status	Responses rate Yes	Percentage Yes	Responses rate No	Percentage No
Slow access speed	67	68.37%	19	19.39%
Lack of time	24	24.49%	45	45.92%
Lack of proper training	65	66.33%	19	19.39%
Poor access for remote areas	89	90.82%	4	4.08%

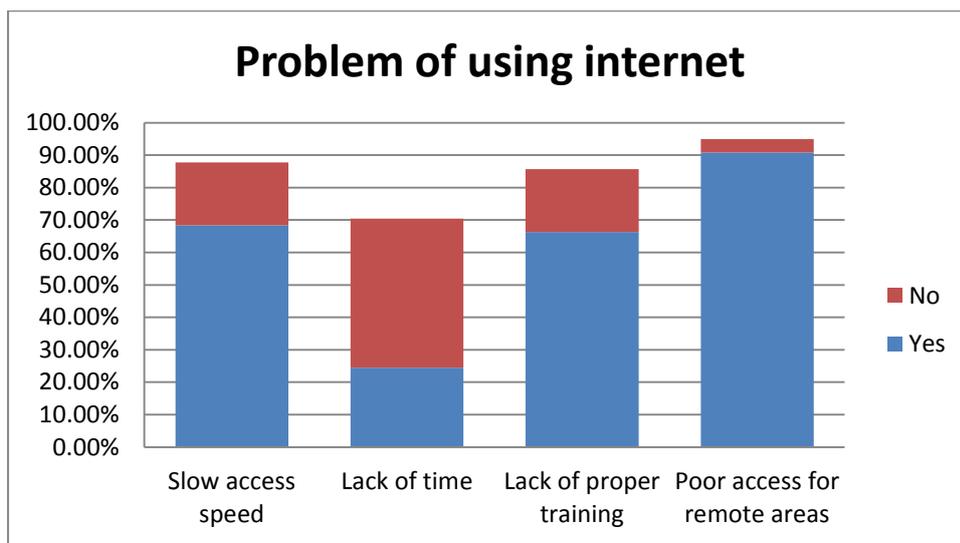


Figure 9

Training for Internet

Another evaluation was undertaken to know about training for the internet. 94.9% of respondents' rate was marked yes because they need proper training for use of internet.

Table 10

Yes	No
93	5
94.90%	5.1%

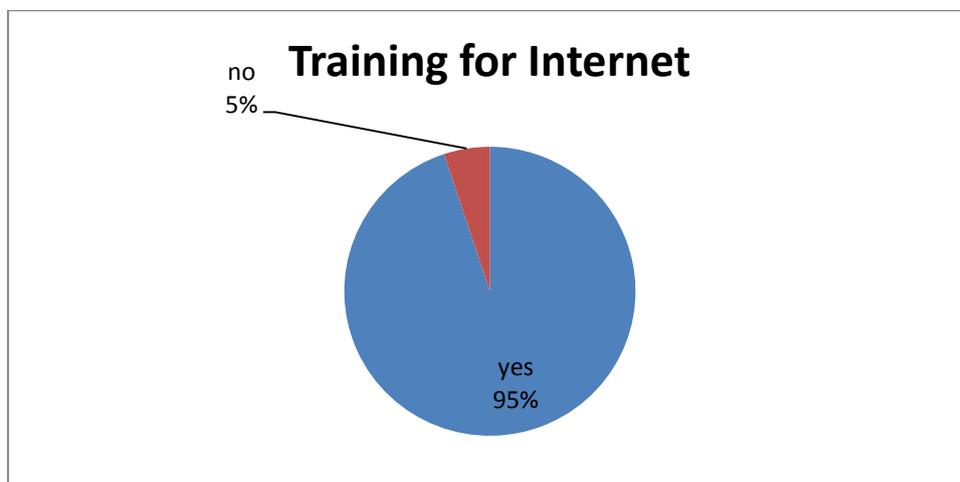


Figure 10

Below Table 11 shows most of them use internet for the communication and responses percentage was 83.67%, for their research purpose 78.57%, entertainment 70.41%, 81.63% was for the education and very less 8.16% was the sales marketing etc.

Table 11

Purpose	Responses rate	Percentage
Research	77	78.57%
Entertainment	69	70.41%
Education	80	81.63%
Sales/Marketing/Public relation	8	8.16%
Communication	82	83.67%

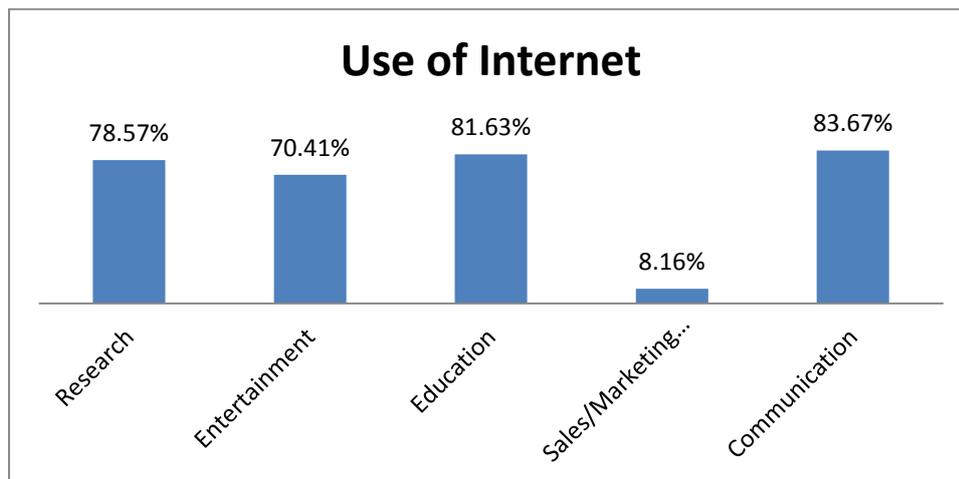


Figure 11

Need of Library automation

Uva Wellassa University was yet start the library automation system and faculty members they really need to have library automation responses rate was 99% for Yes. Table 12

Yes		No	
97	98.98%	1	1.02%

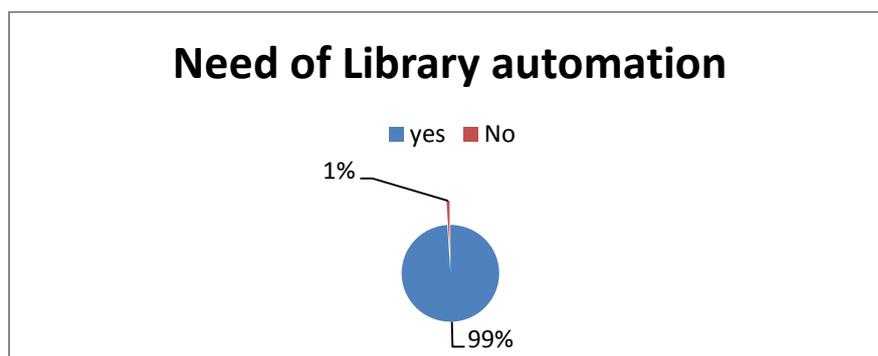


Figure 12

Suggestions

Based on the study the following suggestions are put forward to improve the need of library automation and use of internet among the faculty members.

- The internet facilities should be increased to all the university premises
- Information regarding popular and latest websites with their address should be displayed on the places where users could easily be seen.

- Library automation system should start soon in the Uva Wellassa University library
- Need to provide training programme or integration programme for faculty members

libraries and virtual learning resource centres. A large portion of user populations in the university are aware about the Internet, but they do not know all its techniques and applications. For this purpose, there is need for effective orientation programme to develop awareness and knowledge of the users. Moreover librarians at Uva wellassa University and faculty members are needed to effectively use the Internet and its techniques and applications. The result of the study also shows ongoing development of the library automation system in Uva Wellassa University library.

Conclusions

The Internet is a most important source of communication and dissemination of information in the new generations. Libraries in Sri Lanka are quickly transforming into digital

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