

# Internet on Quality Research Research Scholars Put under Closed Surveillance

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**Abstract.** Over the last couple of years, we have been noticing a tremendous change on the academic front, due to the massive proliferation of internet. Armies of critics are calling their shots on internet, but so far none of them have produced any legitimate books on Internet and Research. Even though, few of the Internet critics and writers, like D'souza 2001; Martin 2006; Jan Nederveen 2009 etcetera have come up with books, yet they have not given any justification to this discourse. It would be a pertinent to know how the research scholars measured their sources of information from the traditional libraries, and the internet portals and websites. Whether the neophyte research scholars in universities were able to handle the sensitized nature of internet and its biasness of information and contents? Will this new wave of internet as a research tool be able to give a quality research environment? Or, rather this trend will hamper the research environment? These are the pivotal questions which are put forth in this paper, through triangulation and survey methods, carried out by employing questionnaires and interviews as research tools. The perspectives were drawn through the data and information collected from both the primary and secondary sources.

**Keywords:** Academia, Internet, New media, Sensitization, World Wide Web.

## 1. Introduction

Since its inception internet has taken the centre stage and has attracted many scholars around the world in shaping their research work. The 'Information Age' has made globalization, in its holistic view, possible through the use of 'Information Superhighway' such as internet and other ICTs. Earlier libraries, archives, and periodicals *etcetera* were the only reliable sources for the researchers; but with the entry of the 'New Media,' particularly the internet has changed this conventional way of doing research, changing the whole academic scenario. These trends, especially, internet becoming as the most preferred tool and source of research has become globetrotters superseding all existing mass medium.

In support to the above statement, let's try to understand what internet has been defined so far, "The internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP) to serve billions of users worldwide". It has no centralized governance and each constituent network sets its own standard.

Understanding the massive proliferation of the internet in the everyday life would also be worthy to look upon from the interpersonal communication perspective. Social theorist like Baxter argues that, "No relationship exists unless the parties sacrifice some individual autonomy however, too much connection paradoxically destroys the relationship because individual's identities become lost" (Baxter and Montgomery, 1988). The theory implies that the unbridled dependency on internet has destroyed the quality relation between the Researcher-Guide and the Researcher-Researcher, also the space of academic interaction seems to be diminishing. Is the internet proving itself to be creating a better research environment or hampering the quality of research? Are the resources available on the internet more credible than those in the libraries? These are some of the questions that need to be probe concerning the proliferation of internet in the research domain.

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Critique writers of internet like **Slevin 2000, D'souza 2001, Benjamin 2008**, and others have come up with books on Internet, but rather their works are mere collection of reviews or Internet biographies, which do not justify the discourse of internet *per se*. To justify these discourses, this study looks into the in-depth analysis with data drawn from both the primary and secondary sources, and carried out through triangulation method.

Since its inception in 1983 and with the introduction of World Wide Web (www) by *Tim Berners-Lee*, internet has been suffused to the world gaining its momentum in every field across the world. The issues of malpractices and abuse of internet have been increasing without any leaps and bounds within the last decades. In some cases, even in the cost of life, for instance the suicide case of **Megan Taylor Meier**, a case of cyber-bullying. In the research domain, perhaps the neophyte researchers are more prone and vulnerable as most of them abuse internet as it turn out to be an easy means in the preparation of their dissertation or theses. It is here this present study attempts to intervene and separate the wheat from the chaff. The credibility of the websites and its legitimacy of information provided were the pivotal discourse to be concerned in today's changing trends of academia.

## 2. Findings & Analysis

This study is an attempt to find out whether the uses of internet help in bringing a healthy research environment in higher studies or not. Data pertaining to this study were collected both from primary and secondary sources. Research scholars of Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU), Tamilnadu is the universe from where the samples of this research investigation are collected. The primary data were collected directly through questionnaire and schedule interview method from the internet user students of the campus. The analysis of the impact of internet on research study is presented as follows. The analysis is based on the data collected from the 50 randomly selected samples from the various schools/departments of MKU.

Given below is the percentage-wise distribution of various impacts of Internet towards the research students in MKU, Tamil Nadu.

Table 1 Percentage distribution for the Impact of Internet on Research

| SL/NO.       | STETEMENT TO IMPACT OF NET ON RESEARCH       | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------|--|------------|
| 1            | Dilutes and Weakens the quality of Research  | 4          |
| 2            | Give access to vast updates around the World | 26         |
| 3            | Globalization                                | 16         |
| 4            | Helps in making Research easier              | 38         |
| 5            | Sharing of knowledge among Intellectuals     | 16         |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>100</b> |

We can infer from the results that the impact of the internet varies according to the nature and area of their study or research. We can conclude that internet “helps in making the research easier” contributes a maximum thirty-eight percent of the impact of internet on higher study and research in the study conducted in MKU.

The following survey report with regard to this issue will give you a clear picture of sensitizations on internet.

Table 2 Percentage Break-up of Internet Sensitization on Research

| SL/NO.             | NET SENSITIZATION IMPACT STUDY | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1                  | Agree                          | 38         |
| 2                  | Average                        | 36         |
| 3                  | Strongly Agree                 | 30         |
| 4                  | Disagree                       | 16         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |                                | <b>100</b> |

We can infer from the above survey that all the respondents i.e., agreed the above statement of sensitization in any form or factor has given a negative impact, and hence it affects the higher study and research.

Table 3 Getting Information Easier on Internet than the Library Sources

| SL/NO.             | ACCESS INFO EASIER ON NET THAN LIBRARY | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------------|--|------------|
| 1                  | Agree                                  | 48         |
| 2                  | Strongly Agree                         | 38         |
| 3                  | Fair                                   | 8          |
| 4                  | Disagree                               | 6          |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |  | <b>100</b> |

Whether the popularity of internet and websites has really taken over the old and traditional sources of research, like libraries, newspapers etcetera should put under closed surveillance through scientific approaches. The above Table-3 displays this discourse clearly. We can conclude that a whopping ninety-four percent responded their acceptance on the above statement that “getting information on Internet is easier than the library sources”.

### 3. Suggestions and Recommendations

Keeping in view the above findings, some of the key suggestions should be taken into consideration while designing the improvement of internet as a tool of research and impact of internet on higher study/research in MKU. The research students were found using Internet services as important tools for their research study and majority of them considered providing good information. Hence, a carefully designed internet content including both technical and theoretical study should be introduced in the Research Curriculum. In the issue of sensitization and other malpractices, most of the students were found aware of these, however “Little knowledge is a dangerous thing”, so they should be given orientation to aware about both the advantages and disadvantages of the use of internet through frequent interaction with resource personalities and experts.

### 4. Conclusion

Internet and Research cannot be discussed in isolation in today’s ‘*The Information Age*’, where internet is considered as the backbone of ‘*The Information Superhighway*’. However, the irony is that, the bombardment of unauthenticated information on internet has given an unconstructive research to the neophyte Research Scholars. Indeed, how to tackle the rampant of plagiarism, as well as internet sensitization and malpractices, should be given high consideration.

The introduction of digital library, digital archives, e-books etcetera gives a profound impact towards the higher study and research. No doubt, India is catching up with this new trend of communication and technology at a very fast pace. Throughout our interaction with the Research Scholars in all the corners of the country, using ‘social networking’, we have found the use of internet as a basic raw material to the high-end research institutes. Subsequently, the quest of bringing and maintaining a high standard research environment ends here.

### 5. References

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- [2] According to *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia* the ‘Information superhighway’ is a popular term used through the 1990s to refer to digital communication systems and the Internet telecommunications network.
- [3] TCP stands for Transmission Control Protocol and is one of the core protocols of the Internet Protocol Suite. TCP is one of the two original components of the suite, complementing the Internet Protocol (IP), and therefore the entire suite is commonly referred to as TCP/IP.

- [4] Coated from the website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission\\_Control\\_Protocol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission_Control_Protocol)
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