

Computer and Internet Use: A Study of Undergraduate students of Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka and Users of Uva province Library Association Sri Lanka

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Abstract: The purposes of this study are undergraduate students and public library users toward educational use of the Internet and computers. This study also shows undergraduate and another users skills for social interaction and electronic environment. Both the category students were already using the internet for social interaction and developing digital content. Also paper is to study usage and library services of university library and public library. The library staff should know users information requirements and what are the factors motivate them to make best use of the library. The study respondents are from undergraduate students of Uva Wellassa University (UWU) and users of Uva Province Library Association (UPLA), Sri Lanka. Well-structured questionnaire were distributed to 100 respondents (50 each institutions). Sample was undergraduate students of UWU and library user of UPLA, selected in randomly. The respondent response rate was 100%. Data was analysis through excel software and APA style used for the references. This study showed the young generation have more knowledge and skilled about Information communication technology. Since the use of computers and internet helps students to increase computer literacy, gain their day today update information etc.

Key words: Undergraduates, Users, Internet, Computers, Public Library

Introduction

Internet has extremely remarkable in strength of facilitating access to a wealth of information on the web. It can be used to academic or research activities. Internet has become a global source of information resources available at anytime from anywhere in the world with anybody. It has enormous improved communication and interaction between among the society with enabled to them to access huge of latest information. The findings of such a study may be taken into consideration in the university plans for effective and efficient internet facilities for the academic work of users and simultaneous improvement of electronic information resources of its libraries.

The person used the Internet should have computer competency and information literacy. Those skills could consist of basic computer skills, database skills, presentation skills, networking skills, information retrieval skills. According to the Wikipedia "The Internet continues to grow, driven by ever greater amounts of online information and knowledge, commerce, entertainment and social networking. During the late 1990s, it was estimated that traffic on the public Internet grew by 100 percent per year, while the mean annual growth in the number of Internet users was thought to be between 20% and 50%. This growth is often attributed to the lack of central administration, which allows organic growth of the network, as well as the non-proprietary open nature of the

Internet protocols, which encourages vendor interoperability and prevents any one company from exerting too much control over the network. As of 31 March 2011, the estimated total number of Internet users was 2.095 billion (30.2% of world population). It is estimated that in 1993 the Internet carried only 1% of the information flowing through two-way telecommunication, by 2000 this figure had grown to 51%, and by 2007 more than 97% of all telecommunicated information was carried over the Internet. Igarashi and others 2008 said that currently, the potential negative impact of the Internet on people has been extended to the student population, examining how the ease of usage of modern technologies can predispose them to engage in disruptive behaviour. Technologies are ubiquitous and several educational institutions, especially universities, provide their students with free Internet access. (Nicolovic and others 2012). Leung and Lee 2012 studied University students, in particular, have a natural predisposition towards technological applications and their related skills are used to achieve academic goals but also for purposes of enjoyment. Hawi and others 2012 specified "Therefore, several investigations have examined the diffusion of Internet addiction among university students, since they are considered as the most vulnerable subjects".

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 employer needs and

professionalism. Uva Wellassa University 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. Universities are the higher intellectual hubs to transmit knowledge and understanding of ideas and values to students and research community through various intellectual means and library is an important agent in this process.

Uva Province Association Library Badulla, Sri Lanka can be defined as a library whose patrons are the general public in a community". It can also be defined as a public library. This is accessible by the public and is generally funded from government.

While defining the public library the UNESCO Manifesto for Public Libraries issued in 1949 and revised in 1972 states, the public library is a practical demonstration of democracy's faith in educational universal education as a continuing and life long process, in the appreciation of the achievement of humanity in knowledge and culture. It is the principal means whereby the record of man's thoughts and ideas and the expression of his creative imagination are made freely available to all. It is concerned with the refreshment of man's spirit by the provision of books for relaxation and pleasure (UNESCO, 1972).

Public library is a social body which is based on the concept of equivalence and it is an institution for the people, by the people and of the people. S.R.Ranganathan defined it as a library owned and maintained by the public of its area for the socialization of its books and kindred materials for free service to the people of the area. Librarians Glossary defines public library as a library provided wholly or partly from public funds, and the use of which is not restricted to any class of persons in the community but is freely available to all. Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science defines that Public Library is a public institution, supported by taxation, one that opens its collections, facilities and services, with distinction to all students. It always strives to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community by providing collection and services. Maximum utilization of library resources and services by the users is the main motive of a public library.

In addition to the concern of student acceptance of internet, technological access and computer use seem to be major hurdles for educators to overcome. Many students who would like to take advantage of the benefits of internet are unable to do so or find it difficult because of limited

technological resources.(Wolt Howe.2014)The internet was the result of some visionary thinking by people in the early 1960s who saw great potential value in allowing computers to share information on research and development in scientific and military fields.

History of Internet

"Packet switching networks such as ARPANET, NPL network, CYCLADES, Merit Network, Tymnet, and Telenet, were developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s using a variety of communications protocols".(Google)

History of Computer

The progression of the use of computers

1. Almost impossible to use except by very patient geniuses (1950s)
2. Programmable by highly trained people only (1960s and 1970s)
3. Useable by just about anyone (1980s and on) (cs.uri.edu)

A computer is a machine that can be programmed to manipulate symbols. Its principal characteristics are:

- It responds to a specific set of instructions in a well-defined manner.
- It can execute a prerecorded list of instructions (a program).
- It can quickly store and retrieve large amounts of data.

Therefore computers can perform complex and repetitive procedures quickly, precisely and reliably. Modern computers are electronic and digital. (cs.cmu.edu)

Significance of Computer and Internet Use

Students' use computer and Internet activities for numerous reasons. Use of computers and the Internet has been associated with improvements in student's education and day today lives. Since these technologies have the possible to access to information, to help get tasks done better or more fast and to facilitate communication. Computer and Internet use rates are indicators of the standard of living. Since the use of computers and internet helps students to increase computer literacy, gain their day today update information etc.

Beard and Wolf (2001) defined problematic internet usage (PIU) as use of the internet that creates psychological, social, school, and/or work difficulties in a person's life. PIU is a multidimensional syndrome consisting of cognitive and behavioural symptoms that result in negative social, academic, or professional consequences.

Goals and Objectives:

Computer and Internet Use: A Study of undergraduate Students of Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka and Uva Province Library Association Library, Badulla, Sri Lanka

- To identify the popular web sites used by Undergraduates students and public library users
- To find out the status of internet on libraries
- To find out the awareness of using Internet resources
- To get to know use of various services of the internet by users
- To examine the computer skills of users
- To determine users satisfaction level about library services

Methodology

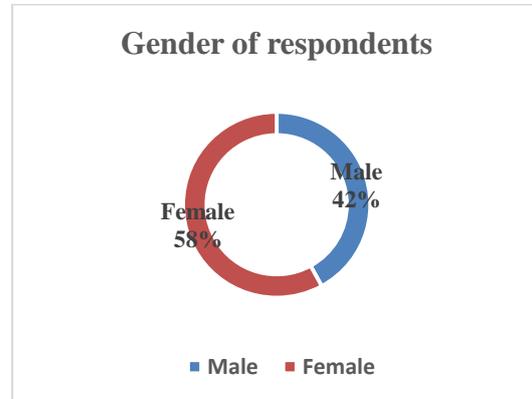
The researcher used the questionnaire method for the purpose of data collection for the present study. In order to better understand students and public library users' views and habits of using digital mechanisms. The survey consisted of 12 questions, two relating to the age and gender of the respondents and the remaining ten questions consisted regarding with internet and computer. The study respondents are from undergraduate students of Uva Wellassa University (UWU) and users of Uva Province Library Association (UPLA), Sri Lanka. Well-structured questionnaire were distributed to 100 respondents (50 each institutions). Sample was selected in randomly. The respondent response rate was 100%. Data was analysis through excel software and APA style used for the references.

Data Analysis

Gender wise Respondents

Another a question was asking about their gender. Majority was 58% of female and 42% was male. It shows below Figure 1.

Figure 1

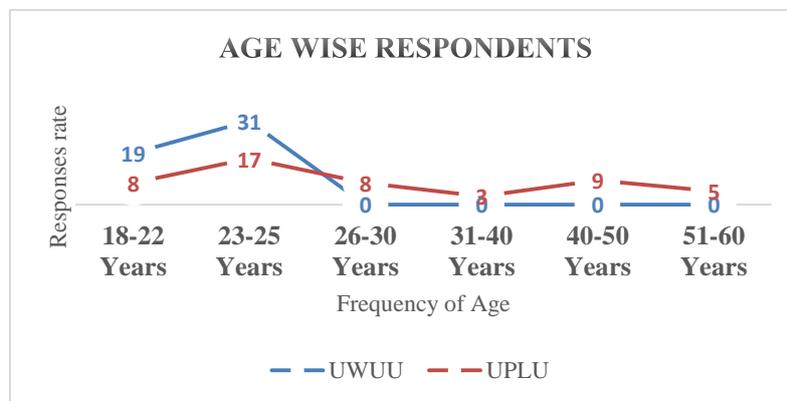


Age wise Respondents

The Figure 2 shows that the age wise responses rate. It is very clear that the UWU undergraduate students all are below 25 years and 5 respondents under 51-60 years category form UPLA. Questionnaire was distributed in randomly. Therefore many age categories came out from the UPLA. Below Figure 2 shows respondents age. There are six categories and majority respondents came from under age category of 23-25 years. 31 respondents from UWU and 17 from UPLA. Secondly 18-22 years category, 19 respondents from UWU and 8 from UPLA.

Responds are in the age group of 18-22 years 7 responses, 23-25 years 9 responses, 26-30 years 14 responses, 31-40 years 3 responses and 41-50 and 51-60 years responses was 9 for each group from UPLA.

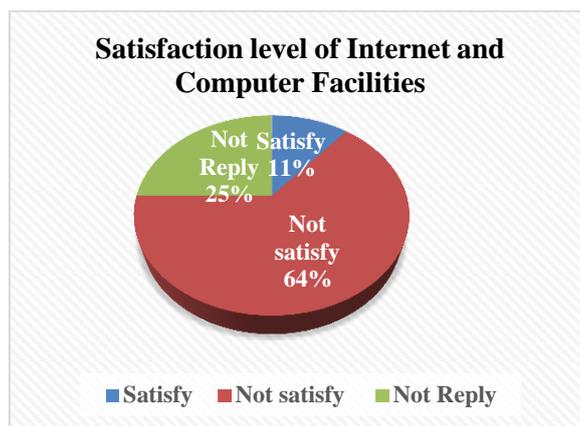
Figure 2



Availability of Internet and computer facilities

A Question was asked regarding internet and computer facilities provide by those two libraries. Majority of responses rate was not satisfactory level. Below Figure 1 shows majority of 64% percentage was not satisfy with internet and computer facilities. Also not reply percentage was 25 and satisfy level was 11% of total responses. It is shown by Figure 3.

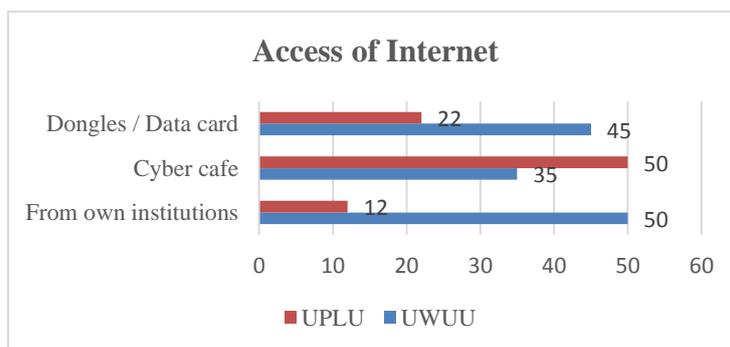
Figure 3



Access of internet

A question were asked regarding the access of internet and majority response rate was 50 for “own institutions” from UWU. Very less respondents 12 said that they access from “own institutions”. Another majority responses 50 for the “cyber café” from UPLU and 39 responses came from UWU. Also “Dongles/Data card” used 45 of UWU respondents and 32 respondents of UPLU. It is show below Figure 4

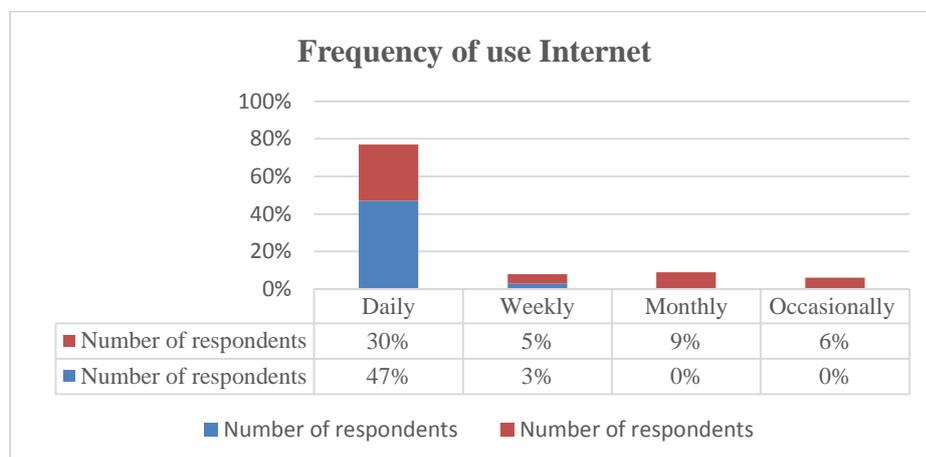
Figure 4



Frequency of Internet usage

A Question were asked about frequency of internet usage by them. The responses percentage was 47% ‘use internet daily’ in UWUU and responses percentage 30% was used in UPUU. Only respondents percentage 9% were use internet monthly in UPUU, 6% percentage of respondents used occasionally and 5% percentage respondents used weeklyin same institutions. Actually present scenario all the students are used internet daily. Because global information has become within second in front of your face. Even University students are very much familiar with information communication technologies.It shows Figure 5

Figure 5



Know about electronic information resources

A question was asking mention with few electronic resources, and asked their knowledge. Below Table 1 shows majority of the respondents used emails, responses rate was 78. Also 37 respondents know about Electronic cards/images. Only 19 respondents know about Electronic data bases, Electronic journals, Electronic books and Web Sites.

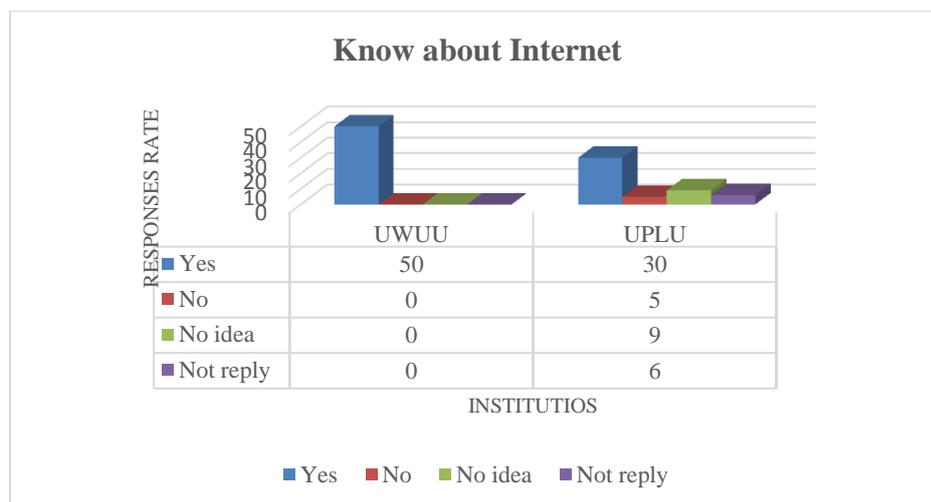
Table 1

	Yes	No	No idea
Electronic data bases	19	32	49
Electronic journals	19	39	42
Electronic books	19	22	59
Web Sites	19	39	42
Electronic cards/images	37	31	32
Emails	78	6	16

Know about Internet

A question was asked “Do you know internet?” Below Figure 6 shows all the respondents of UWUU “Yes” and only 30 responses from UPLU said are “Yes”. 9 Responses of UPLU said “No idea”, 6 were not answer the question and 5 Responses said that “No”

Figure 6



Use of Technology tools

Below Table 2 shows how they used technology tools. The most highly used tools are “Google” and “Facebook” by UWU. And also 47 respondents used “You tube”, 44 respondents used Yahoo. From UPLU respondents’ majority (44) used Facebook. Also Google and You tube used 39 respondents from same institutions.

UWU 39 Responses said that they used Skype and WhatsApp. Responses rate was low for 22 Viber, 21 for MSN, 10 Twitter, 4 Google Earth and 2 Google Maps.

UPLU 22 Responses said that they used Skype, WhatsApp and Yahoo. Responses rate was low for 11 for MSN, Viber 9, 5 Twitter, 2 Google Maps and no responses was for Google Earth.

Below table 3 shows still public library users are aware of technology tools using in the internet. But undergraduates are skilled about those technology tools.

Table 2

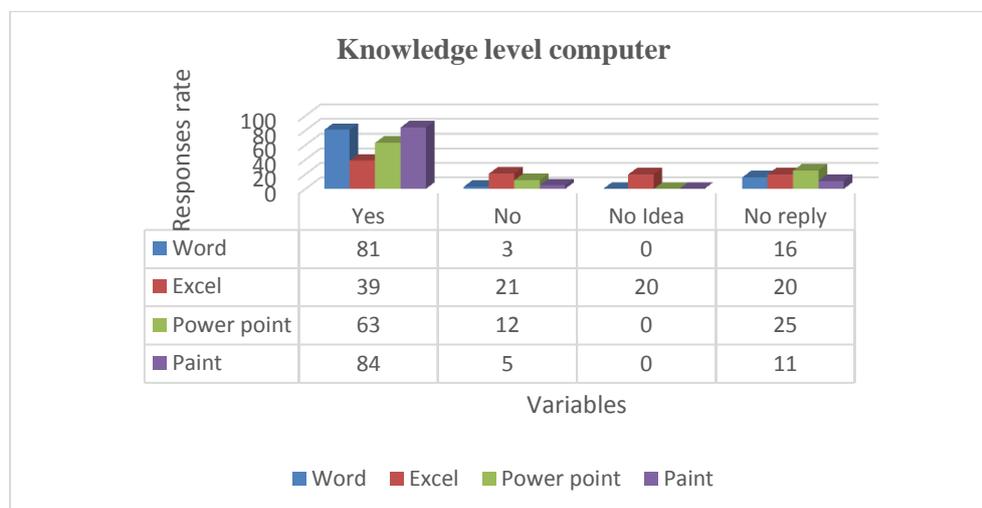
Technology tools	Number of respondents UWU	Number of respondents UPLU
Google	50	39
Yahoo	44	22
MSN	21	11

Technology tools	Number of respondents UWU	Number of respondents UPLU
Facebook	50	44
Twitter	10	5
Skype	39	22
Viber	22	9
WhatsApp	39	22
YouTube	47	39
Google Maps	2	2
Google Earth	4	0

Knowledge level of Computer

Below Figure 7 shows their knowledge about word, excel, Power point and paint of the computer. Majority of 84 respondents know about paint. Similarly 81 respondents know about word and 63 know power point. Less number of 39 respondents know excel package of computer. Even there are number of respondents they do not know about word, excel, power point and paint of the computer. It is shown by Figure 7.

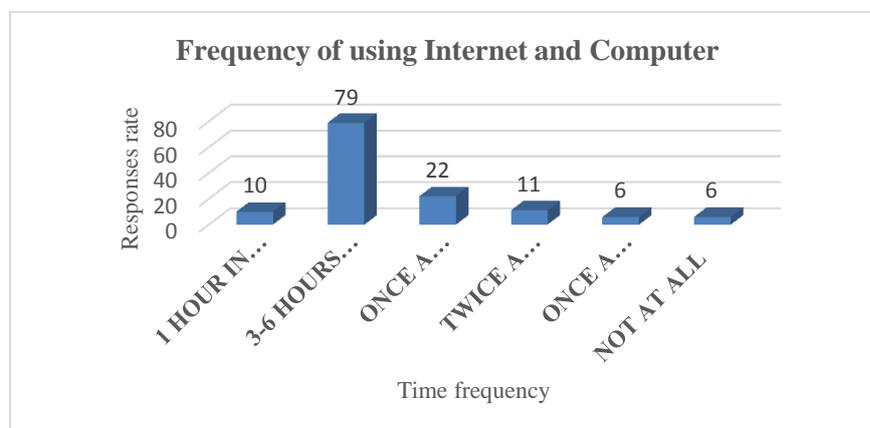
Figure 7



Frequency of using Computer

A Question was asked about their frequency of using Computer. Below figure 8 shows majority of 79 respondents used 3-6 hours in daily. Also some the 6 respondents said the “Not at all”. 22 respondents said that “Once a Week”, 11 respondents “Twice a week” and 6 respondents said that they use in once a month.

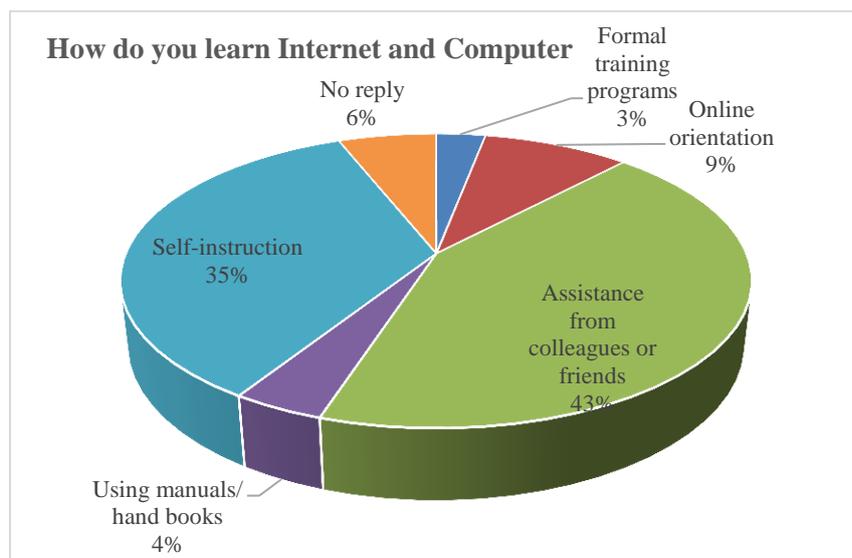
Figure 8



How do you learn Internet and Computer?

Figure 9 indicated Majority percentage of 43% respondents they learn internet and computer from their colleagues and friends. Also 35% of them learned its own. Very few of them learned through online orientation (9%), using manuals and hand books (4%) and formal training programs (3%). 6% was not reply.

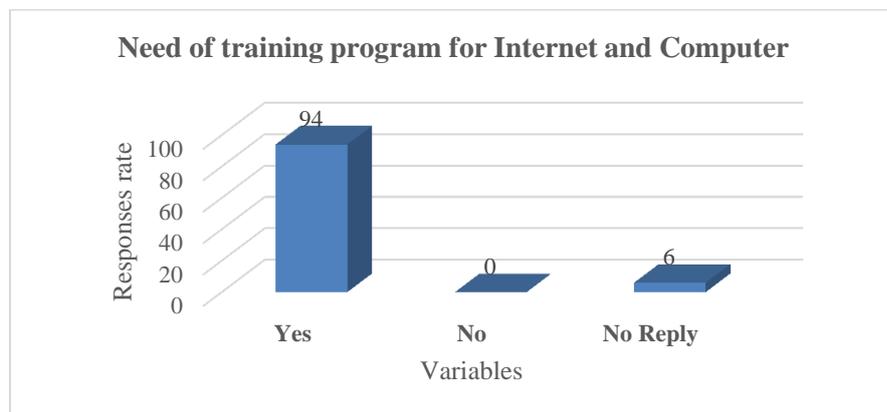
Figure 9



Need of training program for Internet and Computer

Last question was asked about need of training program for Internet and Computer. Below figure 10 shows, Majority of the 94 respondents they said yes. Few respondents (6) was not reply.

Figure 10



Conclusions

Computers and the internet have become a part of everyday life. Staying in touch with friends and family, sharing photographs, booking holidays and doing shopping online. But there are people they do not know or used such kind of things. This study showed with a better understanding of how students interact with digital documents. Especially teachers and librarians can be guide better directions. Similarly they should have orientation

or training programs regarding internet and computer skills. Because study showed there are lack of knowledge about internet and computer. Still university students are little visible than public library users. Moreover, internet especially for university students plays an important role in their education and research life. Otherwise that will only grow in prominence in the years to come. The possibilities for further research in this area are numerous.

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