

## Various Sources of Internet for the Quality Enhancement in Higher Education

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(H.O.D. English)

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### ABSTRACT:

*We are moving from the information age to the knowledge age and now we are running towards the innovative age. In such circumstances, Internet is a unique source of information for millions of surfers of the world. It has changed the outlook of the youth towards the world. With the invention of smart phones with internet facilities, the global world has become a small village and has come on people's finger tips and the globe has come in a single room as it has penetrated in houses and bedrooms. The power of internet has transformed the whole culture and society, business and commerce, entertainment and education, politics and science and also literature and arts. Thus, internet has proved a prestigious gift to mankind.*

### **Introduction:**

Some ten years ago, we did not know much about the internet. We could not think about such facilities and its usefulness in our life. Our forefathers were not aware of such facilities but for the younger generation it is in their palms. As far as education is concerned, internet is a large source of reference materials and data required for all types of educational activities for teaching, learning and evaluation process. It is a huge source for students trying to look up information for a college project or do homework.

People in different age groups and jobs, students and academicians who do research and prepare projects prefer using the internet because it is the easiest, fastest and cheapest ways of accessing necessary information. Many people think e-mail and World Wide Web are the only main constituents of internet, there is a lot more in store than e-mail, chat rooms, celebrity web sites and search engines. It makes more easy to teach any content using LCD player as it has both visual and audio visual effect. Internet has tremendous potential and a lot to offer in terms of services.

Now a days, we have a lot of different kinds of literature about internet telecommunication technologies for various purposes like instructions for teachers showing how to use it in teaching, learning and evaluation process, students' feedback, students' evaluation, showing result etc.

The biggest advantage of internet to mankind is its expanded use in education. All the information is available in the open source and almost anybody can access this information. Positive influence is found in all spheres of education from pre-school level

to the higher education. The use of computer technologies has given better result to the teaching and learning process.

In fact, using various techniques and tools of internet is not so easy. It demands special ability and training to use different kinds of intellectual skills which many of our students do not have; which means students should be able to analyze the information he deals with. Students are faced with so much information that it requires them to sort through the information and decide what is most important and relevant to their work. If teachers want their students to do successful searches on the internet, they have to teach them this skill and the students have to be very active and keep updated for instructions, deadlines, assignments and presentations. Instead of habitually receiving assignments and instructions in classroom form the teacher. For it, first of all it is necessary to orient everyone with the concept and the goal of education used in different educational systems. The level of technologies is sometimes so high that it needs highly qualified specialists. If we use them effectively, learners can acquire a lot.

So, Internet is a very democratic environment where every user can locate his information. It is quite obvious that the information that the students come across in the internet is not always helpful. A lot of educational materials do not undergo any examination, so it is difficult for the teacher also to select the material for educational purpose. First of all, the teacher should be able to analyze the material and then he can recommend his students.

Thus, for effective and quality education only internet information resources is not enough. It is necessary to prepare students to work with information. Besides, we should keep in mind that reading electronic texts in the net is not like reading printed texts. We have to look it through rather than read it thoroughly and make decision whether it is worth downloading and attentive reading material or not. So, students should be taught to look through the texts quickly, selecting the main ideas from the point of view of their task.

There are various resources of internet available on Internet. Students can enhance their quality in education by using the following various resources of internet.

### Audio – Visual Information:

Audio – Visual information is a digital form of information. The biggest exposure on the internet is in form of pictures, words , audio and audio visual content that students get exposed to by consuming content on video sites, social networking sites, blogging sites etc. The digital form of information on the internet has made it possible to process and distribute not only the texts but also various images, audios and video recordings. Modern children learn more through visual images than the older generation as the modern world is richer in visual stimuli.

The development of multimedia and information technologies, as well as the use of internet as a new technique of teaching has made radical changes in the traditional process of teaching. Development in information technology has generated more choices for today's education.



## Virtual Libraries/Electronic Libraries:

Virtual libraries have also become an important source of information to both the students and the teachers. The articles in libraries such as Wikipedia have become an official research tool. It can be compared with the information in other resources and this makes it more detailed and reliable. For this reason, the majority of subjects in Wikipedia are written by accessing official and private libraries, although the reliability of the article can only be judged, if the references have been well documented.

### *For example:*

VCIA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies (<http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/intro2.html>) conducted research among 4,00,000 students of the first year from more than 700 universities of USA and found that 82.9% students of them use internet library resources actively.

Thus, internet virtual libraries are gradually turning into multimedia or digital libraries.

The American Memory Home Page from the Library of Congress (<http://cweb2.loc.gov/ammem>) has offered more than 50,00,000 images, texts and video – recordings. Even the Perseus Project (<http://perseus.tufts.edu>) has ancient Greek texts –both original and English translations and maps, photographs and images.

## Blogs :

Many students are able to access the necessary information by using search engines for project assignments. The majority of subjects that are listed in search engines are written blogs and forums. The information provided in these links is often all that can be found and so is accepted by the readers. These open access resources are often personal studies of people who are interested the subject, no matter whether they are academicians or not, and therefore should be confirmed with other sources on the same subject written by people who are well qualified.

## E-mail Communication:

E-mail communication is also an important source of information. It is more useful to the shy students who can thus communicate without having to speak up in the class. E-mail communication is widely applied in the educational process. Email makes it possible for students to stay in touch with their peers and with the teaching staff where a loaded schedule may make this otherwise difficult. The figure of the lonely scholar, who can become isolated through increasing specialization or for more prosaic reasons of inadequate social or language skills, is one to whom email presents some interesting possibilities. With email students can have contact with other students around the world studying the same things they are.

## The World Wide Web :

The World Wide Web technologies are very helpful and beneficial for group learning and teaching. It is also a virtual library at one's fingertips. WWW was formed as an environment designed for collaborative work on the documents by collectives of researchers territorially remote from each other. The further development of internet



technologies has given an opportunity for joint use and edition of textual materials, schedules, audio and video – sequences.

The WWW provides teachers and students with the possibility to listen to radio programmes, television programmes, news etc. thus to listen to native speakers online. Besides, the internet gives students access to libraries and a lot of reading material and also the opportunity to familiarize themselves with many different cultures and people. They can access newspapers, encyclopedias, history sites, film guides, lyrics and broadcasting associations.

An online lecture or presentation of teaching material published on Net becomes accessible to many learners. Thousands of learners can use the same site at the same moment and enhance their knowledge and information. The WWW technologies have also allowed everyone to publish materials on the Net. In the last case, other learners can be the source of information for the learner. In education, the WWW provides big opportunities for the rapid response of the teacher to the needs of the learners like questions, queries, consultancy during the teaching course without interfering with other participants in the project. The WWW also contributes to the development of the collective work abilities like brain storm activities, case studies etc. mutual assistance and effective exchange of ideas helps the students to present the possible set of research alternatives and after the collective discussion to realize the best of them.

#### *For example-*

Under the project KIDLINK ( <http://www.kidlink.org> ), more than 50,000 school students from 77 countries participate in global projects and forums.

### **Distance Education:**

Distance education is very popular now a days. It is the most renowned and more useful in higher education than in the secondary education. The demand for distance education is strongly increasing day by day. Certain social, economical and cultural reasons are responsible for it. It is helpful to those students who are geographically distant. During the last two decades, the relevant literature shows that various authors and researchers use inconsistent definitions of distance learning and education.

The infrastructure of distance education is based on web – based training. Internet is a boon for those students who would like to learn but cannot attend schools, colleges or universities of their regions. Distance education is helpful to the people in different countries. It makes them able to get education in famous colleges and universities. Disabled children can learn at schools and colleges by distance education. Those who study at schools, colleges and universities can enhance their knowledge by referring various educational resources like encyclopedias, reference material, dictionaries, databases which are freely accessed in distance educational courses. Scholar students can communicate with international students and gain others' experiences and knowledge, participate in chat rooms, share ideas and solutions and learn more about diverse cultures.

Teachers also get the chance to be able to teach at more than one place simultaneously. They may be in a small village but through distance education and internet, they can be linked to students in more populated areas.

### E- Learning :

E-learning is considered among the best methods of education. It focuses on the needs of individual learners. One of the most powerful benefits of the internet in higher education is its role in e-learning. E-learning uses course material that exists entirely on a computer or in the internet. Some scholars offer courses that are entirely e-learning based, meaning all texts, assignments, quizzes and tests are accessible online and no face to face meetings are required between the learners and the instructor. E-learning allows students with limited mobility or inflexible schedules to take courses and study at times that are convenient for them. E-learning also allows students to learn at different rates; one student could go through a certain course and finish it in half the time of another student.

E-learning has come to be more and more important in higher education and expansion of a range of e-learning tools has been initiating several changes in higher education. E-learning has its ability to focus on the needs of individual learners. Every student has the luxury of choosing the place and time that suits him. E-learning provides the learners and the institution much flexibility of time and place of delivery of information. It enhances the efficiency of knowledge and qualifications of the students. E-learning motivates students to interact with others to exchange their ideas from different point of views. E-learning eases communication and also improves the relationship that sustain learning.

There is no need for the learners to travel. It takes into consideration the individual learners differences. Some learners prefer to concentrate on certain parts of the course, while others are prepared to review the entire course. The use of e-learning allows self – pacing. It permits each and every student to study at his or her own pace and speed whether quick or slow. Thus, it increases the satisfaction level of the students and decreases the stress. The very important characteristic of e-learning is that it centers on the students or learners.

Web 2.0 brings new opportunities for e-learning by associating with web applications that facilitate participatory information sharing, interoperability and user – centered design and collaboration on the World Wide Web. The Web 2.0 allows students to interact and collaborate with each other in a social media dialogue as creators of user – generated content in a virtual community. Some of the leading examples of Web 2.0 include social networking sites, blogs , wikis, video sharing sites, hosted services, web applications etc.

### Advantages of Internet:

- ❖ The advantages of internet are immense. Unlike the popular media, the cost of owning a website on the internet is remarkably low. This enables more people to own website. In most state run schools, particularly to acquire the necessary quantity of printed copies of reference material and publications are limited. Some online publications are very beneficial to them like the encyclopedia Britannica Online (<http://www.eb.com> ), the dictionary Miriam Webster Online

Dictionary (<http://www.m-w.com/netdiet.htm> ) and the atlas Altapedia Online ( <http://www.eb.com> ) etc.

- ❖ The biggest advantage of internet is that it has given a global outlook to the youth of recent times.
- ❖ India is a diverse and widespread country both geographically and culturally. Internet binds this diversity.
- ❖ Increased accessibility of reference materials and data for the users is one of the most advantages of the internet. It is a truly open technology allowing users with any hardware and software to diverse the necessary information from the network.
- ❖ Quickness of information is also an important advantage of internet.
- ❖ It offers a world information in one place. It is a helpful tool in communication and research. But it is necessary for the students to use computer with proper supervision.
- ❖ It helps students develop their computer skills. It can also help them to develop their four skills – Reading , Writing, Speaking and Listening. It helps students in developing their critical thinking skills.
- ❖ It is possible to find a great deal of information related to course or syllabus online. If we talk about the advantages of the internet for English language teaching, students can study any topic in English independently and improve their proficiency in English.
- ❖ It is an added bonus for teachers looking for more information on subjects for giving lectures. The internet allows students to read the latest news of a certain subject they are studying. If they are studying Indian politics, they can do a news search and find out what is happening in the world of politics at that very moment. This can help them connect what they are learning to the real world. It can also keep them interested in a subject.
- ❖ Videos related to syllabus on You Tube are helpful to the students as students can easily remember everything through audio visual effects.
- ❖ Internet is a powerful tool for assisting students and educators with conduction research. Going to the library and searching through a card catalog by hand can be a laborious task compared to searching for the same information on a computer. Many colleges offer online library systems which allow students to find information.
- ❖ While the internet does a lot for students, it is beneficial to the parents also. Parents can become more involved in their children’s education by connecting the school with homes, libraries or other access ports.

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