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**ABSTRACTS**

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# A Study on Usage of Internet by Undergraduates in Faculty of Humanities: Special Reference to University of Kelaniya

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Information is the most important item in the present society. Man in present society always tries to get more information. To fulfill his information need, man uses various kinds of media for collecting information. The internet plays a significant role through information media. Internet is used as an information tool from adult to small kids. Universities show the correct path to students and teachers for their education and research work. Undergraduates of the universities who do research work refer to various kinds of information media. In this regard, the Internet occupies the first place. The study is based on the usage of Internet by undergraduates of Faculty of Humanities. The main objective of this study was to identify the usage, purpose and needs of searching Internet of undergraduates in Faculty of Humanities. Other objectives are to identify the major obstacles they face while searching Internet and to assess the efficiency and effectiveness in searching internet.

135 undergraduates were selected as sample among a population of 1356 undergraduates in the Faculty of Humanities. The sample size was 10% of the population, and it was divided according to the academic year and sex. The primary data for the study was gathered from responses to a detailed questionnaire distributed among the respondents. Observation methods were also used to gather primary data. Secondary data was gathered from dictionaries, encyclopedia, periodicals, text books, web sites, etc. Data was analyzed using SPSS to tabulate and graphically interpret the data. Results indicate that the undergraduates use the Internet for education needs, research work, upgrading knowledge and other leisure activities. The majority of undergraduates tend to use the Internet more than books to get information. The majority use Google, and Yahoo as their search techniques. But they lack sufficient knowledge about Internet searching.

In order to fill these deficiencies, a few major steps are suggested. Increasing internet facilities in the university premises, organizing workshops and programmes to educate undergraduates about Internet searching, including new subject areas related to information technology are suggested as steps.

**Keywords:** Internet, Internet Searching, Undergraduates, Internet Searching Techniques, Information Needs

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