

**Title** : **Use of Internet to Access Information Sources by Faculties and Students of Suranaree University of Technology.**

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### **Abstract**

The main objectives of this institutional research are to study the use of the Internet to access information sources by faculties and students of Suranaree University of Technology. The number of the sample group was 783 including faculty, and graduate and undergraduate students of Suranaree University of Technology. A set of questionnaires was used for collecting data concerning the status of Internet users, the status of using Internet, the required information from the Internet, and the users opinions involving benefits, problems, and suggestions for Internet usage. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze data representing frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation.

The results of the study are as follows ;

Concerning the status of Internet users, it was found that faculty who had Internet experience more than 5 years was 81.4 percent, while graduate and undergraduate students were 31.6 and 49.2 percents, respectively. The majority of the users obtained Internet knowledge mostly by self-learning.

Concerning the status of using Internet, it was found that the majority of the users made a very high use of www and e-mail. Faculty and graduate students had a very high level of use of Internet for academic purposes, while undergraduate students had a high level of Internet use for both entertainment and academic purposes. Faculty got access to the Internet mainly in their office, graduates from their school laboratories, and undergraduate from the university library. In terms of duration of time used, faculty spent most of their free time as well as graduates, while undergraduates preferred to start from late afternoon.

Regarding the Information required from the Internet, it was found that faculty and graduates acquired information to enhance their academic knowledge, followed by news; undergraduates acquired information for enjoyment, followed by academic knowledge. Information sources mostly accessed by all users were the university library, and public and private organizations, respectively.

The majority of the users used Yahoo and Google as their search engines, and preferred information from full-text databases. Most of the users were highly satisfied with information provided from the Internet.

Regarding the benefits of using the Internet for learning and teaching, both faculty and graduates very highly agreed, while undergraduates highly agreed. Concerning the benefits of communication, helping to solve insufficient materials in the library, and helping to improving language skills, all groups of users highly agreed. The problems of overall using were too many sources to select, and information overload.

The problems and obstacles of the Internet were the following ; 1) the network ability was slow and often had technical difficulties 2) computers for Internet services were inadequate and with low capability, and 3) software were not up to date and with limitation, and 4) allowed time and service time were short.