

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Higher Education
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The Use of the Internet by Female Researchers at Saudi Arabian Universities to Obtain Information

**A Thesis submitted to the Department of Library & Information, Faculty
of Social Sciences, Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University in
fulfillment of the requirements for the Masters Degree**

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Academic year 1424AH / 2003

Abstract

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This study covers the subject of the use of the Internet to get information by female researchers in Saudi Arabian Universities. The purpose of this study was to find out about to what extent the Internet was used to get information by female researchers in Saudi universities, to what extent the Internet was available to them, to identify which services provided by the Internet were mostly used by the female researchers, to determine the statistical significant differences in use of the Internet and the following variables: educational degree, place of getting the degree, major, place in Saudi Arabia, age, and nationality. Further more, the purpose of this study was to identify strategies followed by the female researchers in Saudi universities in finding data in the Internet, to identify their motivation of using the internet, and to identify constraints and obstacles facing the female researchers in Saudi universities from using the Internet, and finally, to determine the researchers' satisfaction on the information they were getting from the Internet.

Nine research questions were formulated and analyzed in pursuit of the study's purposes. This study used descriptive method to answer these research questions. The questionnaire was distributed to a sample size of 340 female researchers in five Saudi Universities (Imam, K.S.U., K.A.U., Umm Alqura, and King Faysal .Univ.), 251 (74%) usable questionnaires were returned. Collected data were treated and analyzed through using proper statistical methods, such as, frequencies, means, percentages, t-test, and One way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).

The study reveals the results: Most of the respondents (75.3%) of this study use Internet, and most of them using it from their home, and using it daily; in addition, most of the Internet services utilized by the respondents was the Electronic mail. This study also found that there were statistically significant differences between the use of the Internet and some of the variables included in the study. Moreover,

findings of this study indicate that Yahoo was the most search engine utilized by the respondents, and getting updated information was the most important motivating factor of the respondents to use the Internet, furthermore, this study concludes that the most significant constraints and obstacles hindering female researchers from using the Internet was delay in connecting and responding of the Internet, and Finally , most of the respondents participated in this study were found to be satisfied with the results they got from using the Internet.

Finally, recommendations and suggestions were put forth to utilize the Internet more efficiently and effectively by the female researchers in Saudi Arabian Universities. In addition, further research studies were suggested.