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Assessment of Personal Information Management practices among College Students in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract:- This study analyzed the personal information management methods of college students in Tirunelveli district, Tamilnadu. The study adopted a survey method and structured questionnaire was distributed to the respondents. The findings of the study revealed that students preferred mobile phones for accessing internet and they also found difficulties in organizing the personal information. Further, the study used descriptive statistical and simple percentage to analyze the data.

Keywords:- *Personal Information Management, Survey, Descriptive Statistics, E -Mail, Bookmarks.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The actions the people carry out in order to obtain, classify, preserve, retrieve and use personal information items such as documents, web pages for to accomplish various tasks in day to day life is known as personal information management. In other words, personal information management is the skill of accomplishing things through information. Personal information management mainly deals with how people categorize and sustain personal information collections, and methods that aid them in doing so. People may administer information in a variety of situation, for diverse reasons and with diverse types of information. Hence, this paper analyses the personal information management methods of the college students in Tirunelveli district, Tamilnadu.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are:

- To identify the gender wise distribution of respondents to assessing the personal information management among college students in Tirunelveli district
- To find out the types of computer used by the respondents regularly
- To make out the preferred use of operating system by the respondents
- To recognize the preferred web browser
- To discover the preferred medium for accessing the internet
- To find out the desired method of file transfer
- To identify the favorable information storing pattern on the web
- To find out the number of bookmarks and e-mail folders stored by the college students in Tirunelveli district.

III. METHODOLOGY

Research type: The study adopted a survey methods and structured questionnaire was distributed to the college students in Tirunelveli district.

Sample Size: A total of 160 questionnaires were distributed to different college students throughout the district. The research was able to get back only 148 duly filled-in questionnaires.

Tool for data collection: The questionnaire is the tool selected by the research for collecting data from the chosen sample.

Method of data collection: The data was collected from the sample user in college students. The questionnaires were distributed college students of college students in Tirunelveli district. The duly filled-in questionnaires were collected back from them immediately after they were filled. Out of 160 questionnaires distributed to the respondents, the research was able to get back only 148 duly filled –in questionnaires.

IV. ANALYSIS

The data collected was simplified by means by tables – single column and double column or triple column tables – prepared with the help of coding with tally marks. The data collected through the questionnaire was tabulate accordingly and analyzed using simple percentage tool.

A. Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents

S.No.	Gender	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	Male	82	55.40%
2	Female	66	44.59%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 1:- Gender wise distribution of respondents

Table 1 Present the gender wise distribution of respondents to assessing the personal information management among college students in Tirunelveli. It is clearly seen from the table that out of 148 respondents 82 of them are male and 66 are them are female contribution to 55.40% and 44.59% respectively.

B. Computer Usage

S.No.	Type of Computer you use regularly	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	Desktop	57	38.51%
2	Laptop	72	48.64%
3	Palm top	08	5.40%
4	Notebook	04	2.70%
5	Others	07	4.72%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 2:- Computer Usage

Table 2 shows the type of computers used by the college students in Tirunelveli. It is clearly observed from the table that nearly half of the respondents use laptop regularly which is followed by desktop with 38.51%.

C. Type of Operating System

S.No.	Preferred Operating System	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	Windows	92	62.16%
2	Linux	36	24.32%
3	Unix	07	4.72%
4	Mac	10	6.75%
5	Others	03	2.02%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 3:- Type of Operating System

Table 3 reveals the preferred operating system used by the college students in Tirunelveli. It is clearly noticed from the table that 62.16% of the respondents used windows and 24.32% of the respondents prefer Linux operating system.

D. Type of Web Browser

S.No.	Preferred Web Browser	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	Google Chrome	61	41.21%
2	Internet Explorer	43	29.05%
3	Mozilla Firefox	29	19.59%
4	Opera	10	6.75%
5	Others	05	3.37%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 4:- Type of Web Browser

Table 4 displays the preferred web browsers used by the college students in Tirunelveli. It is visibly seen from the table that majority of the respondents (41.21%) use Google Chrome which is followed by internet explorer and Mozilla Firefox with 29.05% and 19.59% respectively.

E. Preferred Medium for Accessing Internet

S.No.	Preferred medium for accessing internet	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	Mobile Phone	71	47.97%
2	Tablet	12	8.10%
3	Notebook	08	5.40%
4	Computer	53	35.81%
5	Others	04	2.70%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 5:- Preferred Medium for Accessing Internet

Table 5 shows the preferred medium of the students for accessing internet. It is observed from the table that nearly half of the respondents prefer to use mobile phone for accessing internet and 35.81% of respondents prefer to use computer for accessing internet.

F. Method of File Transfer

S.No.	Preferred Method of file transfer	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	E-mail	67	45.27%
2	USB Drive	41	27.70%
3	FTP to Server	07	4.72%
4	DVD	28	18.91%
5	Shared Network Drive	05	3.37%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 6:- Method of File Transfer

Table 6 depicts the method of the file transfer by the college students in Tirunelveli. It is clearly seen from the table that majority of the respondents (45.27%) prefer e-mail to transfer files which is followed by USB drive and DVD with 27.70% and 18.91% respectively.

G. Information Storing on the Web

S.No.	Preferred method of information storing	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	Bookmarking the page in the browser	42	28.37%
2	Storing the URL in the file	21	14.18%
3	Sending the URL to mail	32	21.62%
4	Writing the URL on paper	11	7.43%
5	Copy the web page into external disk	27	18.24%
6	Storing in official bookmark in sites	15	10.13%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 7:- Information storing on the web

Table 7 provides the details regarding information storing method of college students in Tirunelveli. It is clearly seen from the table that majority of the users prefer bookmarking the web page in the browser which is followed by sending the URL to mail and copying the web page onto an external disk with 21.62% and 18.24% respectively.

H. Bookmarks

S.No.	How many bookmarks do you have in your computer?	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	None	05	3.37%
2	Less than 10	21	14.18%
3	11-50	47	31.75%
4	51-100	55	37.16%
5	More than 100	20	13.51%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 8:- Bookmarks

Table 8 analyses the number of bookmarks saved by the students in their computer. It is clearly seen for the table that majority of the respondents (37.16%) have more than 51 to 100 bookmarks in their computer which is followed by 11 to 50 bookmarks with 31.75% of the respondents.

I. E-Mail Folders

S.No.	How many folders do you have in your e-mail?	No. of Respondents (n=148)	Percentage
1	None	20	13.51%
2	Less than 10	43	29.05%
3	11 -50	55	37.16%
4	51-100	19	12.83%
5	More than 100	11	7.43%
	Total	**148**	**100**

Table 9:- E-mail Folders

Table 9 examines the number of e-mail folders saved by the respondents. It is observed from the table that majority of the respondents (37.16%) have 11to 50 folders in their e-mail and 29.05% of the respondents have less than 10 folders in their e-mail.

V. CONCLUSION

Personal information management deems not only the technique used to store and organize information, but also is deals with how people reclaim information from their collections for re-usage. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the users prefer mobile phones for accessing the internet and many respondents prefer e-mail to store web based information. The study also found out that students are not properly managing their personal information and are facing difficulties in retrieving the same. Hence, it is recommended that personal information management (PIM) tools should be made familiar to the users so that they can organize and retrieve information easily.

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