

Online Research Tools and Survey Method - A Review

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Abstract:

Information and communication technology is growing rapidly. Researchers are making more and more use of it as an important tool. Internet research is an open source for the researcher to collect data free and speedily. Typically web can search thousands of pages in a fraction of a second. As well as researchers use other services like e-mail, forums, social networking sites, instant messenger for the purpose of research. Internet research has its own Pros and Cons depending on the credentials of data. This paper focuses on the strengths and weakness of this new trend. The role of ethics in relation to this technology has also been focused in relation to various tools for finding information.

Keywords: Internet Research, Surfulator, Google

I. INTRODUCTION

Internet research is useful in collecting data by using various tools like Google, Surfulator, Web research Professional. All tools have their significance. As long as the concern is with speed and bulky information using internet is the best choice for researcher. Authors like to highlight some of these available tools, as well as internet research ethics and cloud computing and research.

II. INTERNET RESEARCH TOOLS

2.1 Google

Google is very commonly use application to gather information easily it's allow user to Just type few words and get more than hundreds of link and on one click you find thousands of pages.[1]

2.2 Surfulator

Surfulator is a software used to save any text or images found on the web and you can retrieve those information instantly which allow you to edit, trim, highlight or add comments to any of your saved content.[2]

2.3 Web research professional

WRP is powerful software for internet research. It allows capturing relevant material easily while doing research. Powerful features of software helps you structure and evaluate the collected material. WRP is capable to handle comprehensive knowledge bases and is prepared for network usage. [3]

III. INTERNET RESEARCH ETHICS

Internet research ethics is related to computer and information ethics and includes such ethical issues as data privacy and confidentiality; integrity of data; intellectual property issues, and professional standards. Throughout the Internet's evolution, there has been debate whether there are new ethical dilemmas emerging, or if the existing dilemmas are consistent across research or despite technological influence. [4]

These debates are similar to philosophical debates in computer and information ethics. For example, many years ago, Moor asked "what is special about computers" in order to understand what is ethically unique and the same question applies to Internet research. [5]

While researchers and review boards across the world work without formal guidance on point, many REBs have developed guidelines for Internet research. While many such guidelines exist, AOIR (Association of Internet research) provide the guide lines, you can view on the website of AOIR. [6]

IV. FINDINGS

Data not reliable:

The information collected through the internet in the form of a questionnaire contains all the limitations that the questionnaire method suffers. Not only that the limitation aggravates because there is no person to help the respondent. As the data would not be reliable the findings of the research could go wayward.

Cannot reach to rural areas:

In certain research work, it becomes necessary to dig out the data from the rural people. Here again there comes the limitation of technology which inherits the limitation of the research. As the people in the village could not be accessible through technology, they can not be covered in the perview of research.

Research ethics not adhered to:

There is no moral check on the respondent. He may be tempted to give the wrong answers for the sake of fun. The researcher may also know that the responses that he/she is collecting are not credit worthy, but still he/she may not take any action and would complete the research, just for the sake of doing it.

V. CONCLUSION

Though there seems to be a lot of difficulty in the field of internet research, one can not stop thinking about its wide benefits. It is the most convenient and the easiest of the way to reach a wide stratum of respondents in no time. The problem of adhering to ethics is not created due to the use of internet. If a proper culture is developed and the researchers start adhering to the ethics on their own without any force from external agency, the quality of research work would improve tremendously.

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