

# EFFECT OF INTERNET USE ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: A FIELD STUDY ON STUDENTS (DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION) AT IMAM KADHIM COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY)

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## ABSTRACT

*The invention of the Internet has been one of the most important transformations in contemporary life. It has become the main feature of this era. It has transcended all geographic and temporal boundaries and has become part of every home in many countries. It has provided the world's population with a culture without barriers. Every person who navigates on the Internet knows how much freedom this network provides, how much information is available, how many options are available to communicate with the outside world, and the size and variety of news sources. It also made it possible to participate in various subjects and to express opinion, especially university students. But this new reality, which many people call the virtual world, is different in our lives. Is it possible to say that this generation is an Internet generation?*

*According to the theory of "technological determinism" of the Canadian view (Marshall McLuhan), which confirmed the influence of the means of communication in the formation of human societies psychologically, socially and culturally, each of the means of communication and according to the historical development of the emergence of means have a different social impact, the most recent of which was the appearance of the Internet and its social repercussions that led to the emergence of special features in its users not found in others, especially in this generation (university students), which grew up and used to use this medium. The availability of the means and the intensity of exposure also helped crystallize the characteristics of this generation.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Internet has dedicated a new culture that has changed the content of the culture we are used to. It is not the knowledge of traditions and customs and the acquisition of cultures from the stomach of paper books. It is an online culture that contains a digital world created by Internet users through interaction with each other and communication through the machine (computer) and this refers to education, trade, shopping, investment, media and the press, that the most important features of the "digital generation" from previous generations, as they

have undergone a change, even physically and chemically. This change is continuing through the electronic stimuli surrounding them (using the Internet, watching television, playing electronic games, etc.), and the advantages of this generation is their ability to perform multiple tasks at the same time, and enjoy the amazing visual abilities, and prefer the colorful backgrounds of the screen on the white background, the creation of a language for chat, and speed in the direct expression and reaction, and this "automatic culture" formed their own communities, which made parents

surprised by the capabilities of this generation and mental interaction with electronic devices and games. Several international studies have been conducted on the characteristics and orientations of the children of this generation. These studies have shown a number of important results, including that they have a great ability to adapt to the speed of events and the movement of change. They also have a desire to learn new and a great ability to absorb new concepts. The trends of the Internet generation are more progressive and more open than those of previous generations. They are more tolerant and more understanding of different points of view, more optimistic and more faith in the future, their role in making this future, and have a greater desire to participate positively in building society. The people of this generation also have a high degree of self-confidence, a desire to express their opinions and issues, not to suppress them, as well as the desire to face challenges. They are characterized by independence, self-reliance, but at the same time the ability to work through a team, work based on specific goals, and strive to achieve results of real and tangible value, as well as many other features, including the ability to do more than one task at a time, such as the ability to browse more than one site at a time by moving from one window to another, and the qualities of excellence with enormous visual capabilities by dealing with colors in a different way of traditional generation and its choice of colors and method of browsing. This generation is also distinguished by the reactions of quick reactions, interaction and communication due to its unique mental abilities provided by the method of dealing with the machine and its response to its wishes. Methodological Framework for Research

First: - Research problem:

The starting point in any scientific research is the sense of a problem. Without a problem that requires a study, there is no scientific research because scientific research does not arise from a vacuum. Therefore, the main characteristic of scientific research is that it is a specific problem and needs to be studied (). The scientific problem is a position, issue, idea or concept that needs to be researched and studied to find out about its premises, build relationships between its elements and its current results, and reformulate them through the results of the study and put them in the proper scientific framework. By identifying, formulating and evaluating the research

problem, the rest of the other research steps, such as determining the scientific method, tools and the nature of the information to be collected, are identified.

The research problem is (study the impact of the use of the Internet on university students) and get clear answers to the following questions:

1. How well are university students using the Internet?
- 2- What is the impact of the use of the Internet on the behavior of university students, and what are the most important characteristics gained by university students from this use?

Second: Research Community:

The importance of scientific research comes from its association with society and its contribution to solving its problems, as well as adding it to knowledge in the field of science and the field of specialization to which it belongs.

Due to the spread and availability of the Internet and the fact that it has become part of many individuals, especially university students, the community of this research was represented by students of the Department of Media at Imam Kadhim College. As a result of the difficulty of conducting research on all members of the society (students of the Department of Information College Imam Kadhim, the researcher chose (51 students) of the total number of students in the media department (510) representing the students of the second and third stage.

Third: Research Objectives

The objectives of the scientific research are basic indicators of which the researcher finds results that answer the questions raised in the research problem. Therefore, it is necessary for the researcher to define the objectives that he aims to achieve through scientific research. The research aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1 - Determine the extent of university students' use of the Internet?

2 - To know the extent of the impact of the use of the Internet on the behavior of universities, and what the most important characteristics acquired by this generation through the use of the Internet.

#### Fourth: Research Methodology:

The scientific method is defined as the general set of rules that govern the practical procedures and mental processes that the researcher uses to reach the truth in relation to the various phenomena(1). In the light of the methodology, it is possible to start collecting, categorizing, tabulating and analyzing information and data, and then formulating the results that the researcher seeks to interpret(2).

Determining the type of approach depends on the objectives that each research seeks to achieve. Therefore, the researcher used the survey method, as it describes and aims to portray and document the facts and current realities, and interested in studying the audience of recipients to describe the size and composition of this audience,

The classification of motives and needs, cultural and social norms, as well as patterns of behavior, degree or intensity, and levels of interest or preference.

The researcher believes that the survey method is best suited to collect data and information from the sample of the research sample (students of the Department of Media in the College of Imam Kadhim on their use of the Internet and the impact of this use and the characteristics that are encapsulated as a result of this use of the written result of this use. The survey methodology included the adoption of a questionnaire for obtaining, unloading and judging information.

#### Theoretical framework:

##### Internet :

The Internet is so important and vital to our time that even in many societies it is considered a fundamental tool of modern life. It is the result of the integration of computers and communications, through which it can get many advantages, removing the barrier of time and space and the difference of languages, made the man familiar with the world and what is happening in it).

The term Internet was first used in 1983 and Internet is a term derived from the International Network, which linguistically means interconnected networks. With so many labels on the Internet, everyone agrees that it is the most important revolution in the development of means of communication, and revolutions were the development of language, then the media, and finally the fifth revolution, which is represented by the Internet) and the Internet has several names including:

- Network of Networks: It connects large numbers of computers and people around the world, and provides information covering various areas, whether commercial, political, social or other fields.

- The World Wide Web: Being connected to computers in the world by means of communication technologies, including satellite, telephone lines, to provide services to all members of the community.

- Information network: a source of information complementary to other media including movies, video 3), as well as the speed, spread and exchange of information and ease of use 4).

- New media: because of their ability to contain the media (Journalism, radio, television) through the dissemination of news, radio and television broadcasts.

- Cyber Space: "refers to the virtual worlds created by global information networks.

- Window of the world: through which we look at the world to learn about its latest developments and participate in events, which transformed the world into a global village.

"The highway is very similar to the highway in terms of traffic, feeding and branching. As in the highway, which is constantly connected to other road networks and is extended to new locations. The same is true for the Internet, which continuously includes new networks, users and new computers.

The Internet is the most famous name in the world and the label used in the West, East and Arab countries. It includes "individuals, communities, institutions, schools, universities, business services, corporations and public authorities, and free networks that use TCP / IP and are usually in touch with Network Clock "

The most common language of the Internet is English, in addition to free navigation, but for the service it requires payment. The Internet is a network of computers distributed around the world. It is a single system managed and funded by a number of private organizations, and government agencies.

There is a high turnout in the world in the rate of Internet reception 1), and this is due to their characteristics, including:

- 1- A large and fast source of information in various fields as well as an update on the latest developments.
- 2. Freedom is promoted because the space of freedom is greater for other means.
- 3. Contain Hyper Text (which allows the recipient to obtain additional information about a word or term specified in Document 2).

4 - a great source of entertainment because it provides the beneficiary of entertainment programs mostly free of charge, as well as the opportunity to travel around the world, through which you can visit museums or get information about countries for holidays.

5. The Internet has penetrated the geographic and political boundaries of countries so that it is possible to communicate with any part of the world and learn about its cultures.

6 - Its use is not limited to a certain segment, but can be used by the student, professor, researcher, administrative, and others.

**Field study**

The questionnaire was distributed to the sample of the research and then collected and subjected to statistical work to obtain quantitative results of the responses of the sample members of the questionnaire The results were as follows:

Table (1) shows the distribution of the sample members in terms of gender and school stage.

**Table (1)**

Sequence	Stage	Males	Females	Total
1	Second	16	12	28
2	Third	15	8	23
3	Total	31	20	51

**Table (2)** Explains respondents' answers to the first question (Do you own a computer or other smart devices?)

Type	Yes		No	
	Repetition	%	Repetition	%
Males	31	100%	0	0
Females	20	100%	0	0
Total	51	100%	0	0

The above table shows that all students have access to the Internet and 100%, which indicates the interest of the respondents in having devices that enable them to access the Internet either by computer or by other smart devices (iPad)

**Table (3)** Demonstrates the use of the Internet by type

The use of internet		Yes		No	
Type					
Males	Repetition	%		Repetition	%
Females	31	100%		0	.%
Total	19	95%		1	5%
	50	97.5%		1	2.5%

The results of the table indicate that the percentage of students who use the Internet reached 97.5% of the total number of respondents, which reflects the interest of this generation to the Internet as an important feature of the technological age we live in this time, while the percentage of respondents who do not use the Internet number (student Only one), or 2.5% only. The researcher found that the reason for not using the Internet is due to the economic situation of the student.

**Table (5)** Demonstrates how to access the Internet

Category		Repetition		Percentage	
1	Through mobile	27		54%	
2	Through computer	0		.%	
3	Both of them	23		46%	

The above table shows that the majority of the respondents use the mobile phone (54%) and the number of repetitions (27) of the total respondents. The second category is the access to the Internet by computer only, the percentage reached 0%. This indicates that most of this generation prefer privacy in the use of the Internet on the grounds that the mobile is for personal and individual use. The third category is the use of both types (telephone - computer) that received a percentage of 46% and the frequency of 23 recurrences.

**Table (6)**

Shows the place where the Internet is being used.

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Home	45	90%
2	Coffee shop	4	8%
3	Friends	1	2%
	Total	50	100%

The results of Table (6) indicate that the percentage of Internet users in the home increased to 45% by 90%, followed by the percentage of those who use the Internet from coffee shops by 4% and 8% who use the Internet from friends. On the frequency of only one of the respondents and by only 2%, the results of the table above indicate that respondents are seeking to connect to the Internet at any time allowed by the overwhelming majority of them preferred to have contact from home as most spend their time at home due to the security conditions in the country.

**Table (7)** Shows how long respondents have used the Internet

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Less than one year	1	2%
2	From 1-2 years	17	34%
3	From 3-5 years	23	46%
4	From 6 years and more	9	18%
	Total	50	100%

The data of the previous table indicate a rise in the use of the Internet since 3 to 5 years and a repetition rate of 23 times and a percentage of 46%. When the researcher realized that most of them are students of the third stage as they entered the college 3 years ago or more. They started using the Internet because their parents were preventing them from using the Internet in the middle school days as they were still not mature or the second place was won by a class of 1-2 students, most of them were students of the second stage. For the same reason mentioned for the third stage and by 34%, the number of repetitions was (17) times or the third rank was the highest category (6 years and more), with a percentage of (18%) and the number of recurrences reached (9) The researcher found that most of them have one His family members work in the Internet field. The latter category is less than one year old and obtained a percentage of 2% and only one recurrence. The above table shows the commitment shown by the members of this generation to strong family ties.

**Table (8)** Demonstrates the language used by respondents in the Internet

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Arabic Language	46	92%
2	English Language	0	0%
3	Both of them	4	8%
4	Other Language	0	0%
	Total	50	100%

The study found that most of the respondents use the Arabic language, which is their language when dealing with the Internet, and by 92%, which is high. The researcher found that the reason for this is that they do not know any language other than Arabic and English) together with a percentage of 8%. When they were asked how their proficiency in English is, it was showed that one parent was an English teacher in secondary school.

**Table (9)** The number of times they enter the Internet

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Everyday	41	82%
2	Twice a week	7	14%
3	Once a week	2	4%
	Total	50	100%

The results of the study indicated that the sample preferred exposure to the contents of the Internet on a daily basis, as evidenced by the percentage obtained by the category of daily exposure to the Internet that was 82%, while (twice a week) came in second place and with a percentage of 14%, and accessing once a week reached only 4%. We note from the table that most respondents use the internet on a daily basis. This indicates that Internet has become an important part of the daily life of the children of this generation.

**Table (10)** Time spent by the members in hours

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Less than one hour	3	6%
2	From 1-2 hours	7	14%
3	3 hours and more	40	80%
	Total	50	100%

The above table shows that most of the respondents (80%) use the internet from 3 hours or more and the second category comes from (1 - 2) hours per day and by 14% and the third rank is less than one hour per day and obtained 6%. These percentages clearly indicate the importance of the Internet in the life of this generation by dedicating this great time to the daily use of the Internet, which is evidence of the love of this generation to communicate and overcome geographical and social constraints.

**Table (11)** Demonstrates the motivation of the sample to use the Internet (select more than one category)

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Because I am fond of using the internet	2	1.5%
2	Because it is very useful	23	16.8%
3	Because my study requires to learn the internet skills	20	15%
4	To communicate with others	31	23%
5	To learn and achieve new skills	35	26%
6	To learn about local and international news	24	17.2%
	Total	135	100%

The results of the study indicate the diversity of the sample uses of the various applications provided by the Internet and this is clear evidence that the generation aspires to obtain from different knowledge and science and all the possibilities that develop the person at the scientific, personal and social level.

**Table (12)** This table indicates how much the members Communicate with people from outside the country

Sequence	Category	Yes		No	
		Repetition	%	Repetition	%
	Males	31	100%	.	.%
	Females	15	75%	5	25%
	Total	46	87.5%	5	12.5%

The results of the table showed that (46) respondents (87.5%) have contact with others from other countries and this indicates the love of communication with the world and participation in various issues and events.

**Table (13)** Explains the topics covered by the sample with others in other countries  
(Choosing the effect of the class)

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Policy	26	23%
2	Economic	11	9.6%
3	Scientific	27	23.7%
4	Artistic	17	15%
5	Sports	23	20%
6	Other	10	8.7%
	Total	114	100%

The results of the table indicate the interest of the respondents in various aspects of life, whether political, scientific, economic, artistic or sporting. This interest indicates that this generation is not an isolationist or timid generation but rather a generation that aspires to participate in public life with different people in the world. Which claims that the Internet user is someone who is not interested in anyone else or what is going on in the world and is even an active and active person in the Internet world.

**Table (14)** Explains the characteristics of students exposed to electronic journalism

Category		Yes	No	
Repetition		%	Repetition	%
Males	31	100%	0	0%
Females	18	95%	1	5%
Total	49	97.5%	1	2.5%

From the table above, the majority of the sample and 97.5% have an account in the social networking sites. These sites provide the possibility of communicating with people who have not been known for long time, meet with old friends, meet new friends, ask different ideas and download various videos and other possibilities. This indicates the status of participation owned by the sample members.

**Table (15)** Demonstrates the most social networking sites used by the sample

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Facebook	49	98%
2	Twitter	0	0%
3	Youtube	1	2%
4	Other	0	0%
	Total	50	100%



Note from the above table that 98% of the sample members use the site (Facebook) because of this site features distinguish it from other sites and also because it is one of the largest communication sites used in the world as the table did not use the sample to the site (Twitter). When asked about the reason, the researcher found that they feel that it is difficult and complicated as most of their friends use Facebook.

**Table (16)** Explains the best times in the daily use of the Internet

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Day	8	8%
2	Night	42	42%
3	Total	50	100%

The results of the study revealed that a high percentage of those who use the Internet prefer to enter the network by evening and by a percentage of 84%. Those who prefer to enter during the day were 16%. The respondents said that the reason for their preference for evening time is because they have free time or who prefer to enter the day This is due to their association with work in the evening and also because there is no internet coverage in their workplace. This indicates that the respondents are interested in organizing time and prioritizing.

**Table (17)** Illustrates the impact of using social networking sites on social relationships in daily life

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Yes	21	42%
2	No	3	6%
3	To some extent	26	52%
	Total	50	100%

In the above table, 52% of the study sample believe that their use of social networking sites has affected their relationship with others. 42% say that social networking sites have affected their relations with others, while only 6% believe that I have not affected them. During these percentages, the respondents divide their time between the virtual world and the real world. This is evidence that the Internet has created a new kind of relationships and ties that have greatly influenced relations in everyday life.

**Table (18)** It deals with the possibility of dispensing the sample using the Internet

Sequence	Category	Repetition	%
1	Yes	4	8%
2	No	46	92%
3	Total	75	100%

The above table shows the interest of the respondents in the Internet and their unwillingness to dispense with them.

92% of them said that they can not do without the internet while 8% said they can leave the Internet. In this high percentage, the sample can be considered as a generation that uses the internet and can not do without it.

## CONCLUSIONS

The most important findings of this research conclusions can be included in the following points:  
1 - the members of the sample are characterized by

possessing computers or smart devices to communicate over the Internet, that is they use the digital equipment provided by modern technology.

2 - The study proved that the sample to the desirous of the desire to allocate things and personalization by confirming the majority of the use of private phones to access the Internet.

3- The members of the sample like to deal with various political, scientific, sports and other topics and discuss them with others in other countries, so they are a generation who like to participate and communicate with others.

4- The members of the sample like freedom and and to be free from social constraints, and thats why we see them staying for long hours within the network as it provides them with freedom and cross borders and restrictions.

5 - The members of the sample must develop their abilities to learn another language, allowing them to communicate more.

6. The members of the sample respect family ties, organizing time, arrange priorities and provide the most important to the important.

7- The members of the sample are characterized by a spirit of communication and cooperation with others and knowledge of what is happening in the world and see it through the various sources of news provided by the network.

8- The virtual world they have accessed through the Internet has become part of their daily lives, which has created a new type of relationship within this world.

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