

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN : A STUDY

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Abstract

Internet is now accessible by each sections of society and nobody is spared from it. Children are also using internet for various educational purposes. There should be a check from the teachers and parents side regarding their use of internet content. It is estimated that children waste their valuable time in surfing internet so it is very important to guide children about the proper use of internet resources. This article gives an account about various links of the online resources which will definitely help them to enhance their knowledge by using them side by side with their regular study in the school. Some of the links are also helpful to those who want to learn from home. This study traces out the important online resources related to all major course of study meant especially for school children and the role of school librarian to offer his /her services while educating the children about online resources.

Key words:- online resources; internet resources; children's use of internet; internet as teacher

INTRODUCTION

Digital age has affected all age group of people and the internet technology has enabled every individual to access educational materials from any part of the world. Since school children are also using internet so there is a need to guide them for using online resources judiciously. The teachers can teach their subjects with using online resources. These online resources make the teaching and learning more interactive and interesting. The students can themselves learn as these resources are user friendly and available round the clock in almost their entire course of study. A lot of online resources are available for the school children and their teachers. Here comes a role of the School Librarians to promote the use of online resources among the students and teachers to make teaching and learning the most interesting one. Use of online resources will definitely help the school students to enhance their knowledge in different subjects. Online resources may prove helpful for self learning at the convenience of students. Online resources may also be used for recreational purpose. Online

resources are available 24x7 and the users can access them with a PC with internet connection. Online resources save the time of users and can be opened by a simple click on the prescribed link. Internet has paved the way for using online resources for children but this must be done under the surveillance of their parents, teachers or the elder people.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Students waste their valuable time in surfing internet without any specific purpose. It is necessary to guide them about the importance of online resources related to their school's curriculum so that they can start subject specific self learning. Librarians can play a very important role in helping the students regarding the proper use of online resources by giving demonstration. School library can be used as a digital space for the school children to explore new things and enhance their knowledge.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To explore online resources related to all classes and all subject for school children.
2. To know about the importance of online resources for school children.
3. To assess librarian's role in spreading awareness about the proper use of online resources.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study will help students of different schools to know about online resources available to support their educational curriculum. There can be further study in the same area to add more and more online resources for children.

METHODOLOGY

Online resources have been scanned using URL of various educational websites. Scholarly journals are also consulted for supported information.

DATA COLLECTION

Data has been collected from various educational websites.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

There are so many websites which are available for school children to help in their studies. Some sites are so delicately designed to make children understand about basic concepts in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology etc. Diagrams, pictures, maps and illustrations when taught by using these online resources make the students understand these concepts clearly by 3D effects in them. Today, many children spend their time on internet for playing games or surfing websites. Some children find materials to complete their project work given

by their schools. Some online tutorials are also available. It is very important to make them understand to use internet for educational purpose only.

CONTENT OF ONLINE RESOURCES

1. Subject specific websites meant for self learning of students.
2. Online Tutorials.
3. Online Dictionaries and Encyclopedias.
4. Repositories of maps and geographical facts.
5. Collection of biographies.
6. Readymade assignments of various subjects and levels.
7. Blogs written by various educationists.
8. Online Books.
9. Online Magazines.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY SCHOOL CHILDREN ON INTERNET

Some of the activities they carry out while using internet are mentioned below:-

1. Downloading a movie into their system
2. Downloading songs
3. Searching material for their school assignments
4. Playing online games
5. Sending e-mail to their friends, voice messages, broadcast messages
6. Using social networking sites like face book, twitter and whatsapp for chatting, photo uploading, grouping and liking and disliking comments.
7. Watching movie trailers and live streaming of cricket matches on You Tube
8. On line shopping and banking
9. Updating themselves for latest news

NEED OF EVALUATING ONLINE RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

In today's time school children are also spending a lot of their time on internet. There is a need to evaluate online resources meant only for the school children so that they can be motivated to use right kind of resources to utilize their spare time in enhancing their academic skills. Such types of resources should be thoroughly checked and used by teachers first and then put in front of the students. Online resources are easy to use because they are available round the clock.

IMPORTANCE OF ONLINE RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

1. Homework can be easily co-related with these resources and the students can be guided about those resources accordingly.
2. It decreases the use of paper and can be accessed from anywhere.
3. Some of the resources are a kind of self tutorial thus omitting the need of a teacher and thus enabling the students to boost up their skills without the help of a teacher.
4. Online submission and correction of assignment helps the children to know the results at the same time thus saving their precious time.

ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

1. To enhance their knowledge and competencies by using digital resources.
2. To utilize their time in meaningful search and not just to waste their time by playing games and watching movies.
3. Quick and easy reference tools where there is no need to turn the pages of printed dictionaries and encyclopedias.
4. Creating their interest in meaningful resources thus this will become their routine work throughout their life.
5. These resources can be accessed from their school as well as from home.
6. Sharing of links can be possible between their friends.
7. Skype or Facebook helps to connect teachers/ students as like face to face learning and carry on teaching and learning programmes without space barriers.

LIMITATIONS OF ONLINE RESOURCES

1. They are Technology dependent and are not accessible without necessary infrastructure.
2. Without a proper URL one cannot reach up to the desired site. This will lead to the wastage of precious time.

ESSENTIALITY FOR ACCESSING ON LINE RESOURCES

1. Automated and networked library
2. Links of various resources may be given at library's website
3. Students to be encouraged to use open access resources
4. Internet connection
5. Trained manpower
6. School's orientation regarding the use of resources among students
7. Children must be trained and supervised in this regard. This may be a duty of parents to supervise their child's activities on internet

DETAILED OVERVIEW OF ONLINE RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

There is a list of major online resources for the school children and for their teachers as well and even for home schoolers.

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

1. Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org>)

Khan Academy is an organization with the goal of changing education for the betterment of students by providing a free world class education for anyone anywhere. Students can make use of their extensive library of content including interactive challenges, assessments and videos from any computer with access to the web.

2. Teach Next (www.teachnext.com)

Teach Next is a digital learning eco- system which makes the end to end process of teaching and learning more engaging and easy. At the core of Teach Next is rich multimedia based, pedagogically appropriate content mapped to school curriculum.

3. Learn Next (www.learnnext.com)

Learn Next is a computer based interactive, independent and intelligent learning solution for students for the students of classes 6 to 12. Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English lessons of CBSE, ICSE and all other state boards of India have been covered in an interesting animated format. It is based on the revolutionary i- learning concept and its features like tests, study planner, notes, calendar and reports make it a one stop solution to learn better at student's convenience following his/ her own schedule and pace.

4. Yahoo Kids (www.yahoo.com)

This site deals with online dictionary and encyclopedia, which enables the school children to find the meaning of words easily. This dictionary is backed up with "The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language- Fourth Edition and the Encyclopedia is backed up with Columbia Encyclopedia. This Interface is quite easy for the school children for searching the meaning and other details of a particular word thus enhancing their language proficiency skills.

5. <http://www.dmoz.org/kids-and-teens/school-time/english/literature/classics> :-

If you are interested in reading famous classics like Aesop's fables, this site is just for you to have the pleasures of reading literature.

6. <http://www.eduplace.com/kids/mhm>

This site provides keyboard and mouse practice for small children for enhancing their maths, science and language skills.

7. <http://www.superkids.com/aweb/tools/math>

This site provides readymade worksheets which can be down loaded to one's system. These worksheets are available in different subjects like math and science. This site has created a collection of easy to use, free educational resources for home and school like:-

- a. Math worksheet.
- b. Games of logic and reasoning.
- c. Vocabulary builders etc.

These vocabulary building tools with help to develop vocabulary with different words and their meaning.

8. [http://www.onlinecolleges.net/2009/:-](http://www.onlinecolleges.net/2009/) This site is ideal for home schoolers. It provides specialized dictionaries and encyclopedias, from stories to facts. These reference sites will open up a world of information and easy way to acquire knowledge.

9. Language building tools

The following mentioned websites can be used for increasing language efficiencies of the children.

1. Bartleby.com (www.bartleby.com)
2. Online Etymology dictionary (www.etymonline.com)
3. Dictionary.com (www.dictionary.com)
4. Library spot grammar/ style (www.libraryspot.com/grammarstyle.htm)
5. Internet Public Library (www.ipl.org)
6. Awesome stories (www.awesomestories.com)
7. Fact Monster (www.factmonster.com)
8. Federal resources for educational excellence (www.free.ed.gov)
9. Refdesk.com (www.refdesk.com)

10. Online Story books

Children like stories very much. Stories enhance their moral skills as a good human being. Whether the children are beginners, struggling older readers, or accomplished readers, following websites will definitely help them to find their favourite stories online.

- a. Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org)
- b. Daily lit. (<https://www.dailylit.com>)
- c. Open Book Project (www.openbookproject.net)
- d. Google Books (www.books.google.co.in)
- e. Reading Rockets (www.readingrockets.org)
- f. All Info about reading (www.allinfoaboutreading.com)
- g. Children's storybooks online (www.magickeys.com/books.org)
- h. Open Library (<https://www.openlibrary.org/>)

11. Mathematics

Mathematics is a subject which requires constant revision. Following are some of the websites given which help the children to learn concepts of mathematics easily and make this subject interesting to them.

- i. The Math forum : Ask Dr. Math (www.mathforum.org/dr.math/)
- ii. A plus Math.com (www.aplusmath.com)
- iii. Math Playground (www.mathplayground.com/)
- iv. Curious and useful math (www.curiousmath.com)
- v. Maths.com- world of math online (www.math.com)
- vi. Algebra Homework Help (www.algebra.com)
- vii. Free Math Help (www.freemathhelp.com)
- viii. Virtual Math Help (www.virtualmathlab.com)

12. Science

Science is an interesting subject and which can be made more interesting by the teachers when they use online resources to teach this subject. Some of the following web support/online support facilities are available to create interest of children in Science.

1. E- nature.com (www.enature.com)
2. Chem4kids (www.chem4kids.com)
3. Dynamic Periodic. Table (www.ptable.com)
4. Exploratorium (www.exploratorium.edu)
5. CELLS alive (www.cellsalive.com)
6. The Science Page (www.sciencepage.org)
7. Climate zone (www.climate-zone.com)
8. Online Conversion (www.onlineconversation.com)
9. Try Science (www.tryscience.org)

13. History

History helps us to know about the past. This subject can also be made interesting by using online tools while teaching. Some of the websites available to aid this subject are-

1. The Biography maker (www.fno.org/bio/biomaker.htm)
2. Biography.com (www.biography.com)
3. World History timelines on the web (www.timemaps.com/history)
4. History Help (www.schoolhistory.co.uk/historyhelp)
5. The History Place Homework help (www.historyplace.com/homework)
6. Eyewitness to History (www.eyewitnesstohistory.com)
7. Scholastic News Online (www.scholastic.com/news)

14. Geography

Geography can be taught effectively by using following websites. Students find these sites as a solution for their problems in geography.

1. NASA Visible Earth (www.visibleearth.nasa.gov)
2. Maps.com (www.maps.com)
3. Countries of the world (www.infoplease.com/countries.html)
4. Destination: Himalayas-where earth meets sky
(www.schoolnet.org.zg/COL/ACE/course/webs/1013/lynxmenu.htm)
5. Kids Web Japan (www.web-japan.org/kidsweb)

15. Ask. Com (www.ask.com)

Ask.com helps the children to know about the answers of their specific query regarding their studies.

16. Mobile apps can be used for educational purpose:- Mobile applications can also be downloaded from the following website for the children to support their study.

- a. www.education.yahoo.net/articles/best_mobile_apps_for_students.htm
- b. www.higheredtechdecisions.com/article/apps_for_education
- c. www.teachthought.com/.../the55best_free_education_apps_for_ipad
- d. www.classroom_aid.com/educational_apps/
- e. www.cc.mlearnopedia.com/application/education/

17. Google translator (www.translate.google.co.in)

Google's free online language translation service instantly translates text and web pages

18. Extremepapers.com (www.xtremepapers.com)

This website helps the students to revise their syllabus for examinations by solving past papers.

19. Some specialized search engines

These search engines are helpful for the children to search about all their study related problem and find solutions by their own.

1. Kids click! (www.kidsclick.org)
2. Google Scholar (www.scholar.google.co.in)
3. Ask Kids (www.askforkids.com/web)
4. Met aGlossary.com (www.metaglossary.com)
5. Education Planet (www.educationaltoysplanet.com)
6. Awesome e Library for Kids (www.awesomelibrary.org/)
7. Info mine (www.infomine.ucr.edu)

20. E- Paper- Various national newspapers are available in electronic format. Students can access them by a simple log- in facility for daily news updates.

1. The Indian Express (www.indianexpress.com)
2. The Telegraph (www.telegraphindia.com)
3. The Times of India (<https://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com>)
4. Hindustan Times (www.hindustantimes.com)
5. The Hindu (<https://www.hindu.com>)
6. Nav Bharat Times (Hindi) (<https://www.navbharattimes.indiatimes.com>)
7. Hindustan (Hindi) (<https://www.hindustandainik.com>)

21. Digital Public Libraries

Digital Public Libraries help the students to get full text of digitized materials to read and preparing notes for their examinations. These libraries don't charge membership fee from the users and are available globally.

- i. National Library of India (www.nationallibrary.gov.in)
- ii. Rarebooks online- State Central Library, Kerala
www.statelibrary.kerala.gov.in/rarebooks)

22. Blog spot. Com (<https://www.blogger.com>)

It helps for creativity action service programmes and share views in form of blogs

23. Smart learning. in (<http://www.smartlearning.in/demos.php>)

It helps for the children of classes 5th to 12th to prepare for their course without a teacher and at their home.

SUGGESTIONS

Online resources are quite useful for children. Students should be guided to use these resources. Children are not left alone with internet. Parents must ensure that their children are using internet judiciously. Online resources are to support children in their school's study. Students can find solutions of their doubts and confusions by their own with the help of different websites designed to aid students related to different subjects. School librarians can explain and demonstrate the children about online resources in libraries and spend time with the children to train them so that they can use these resources at their home instead of wasting their valuable time in surfing internet.

LIBRARY'S ROLE IN HELPING STUDENTS FOR ACCESSING ONLINE RESOURCES

Librarian may give some orientation session to the children regarding the use of selected online resources for their choice. Certain publishers provide their URL's as resource link to access and expand the subject knowledge of students by acquiring extra knowledge.

Children who opt Library and Information Science as an elective paper at their +1 stage should be encouraged to work as student Librarian and help Library and Information teacher to spread awareness for judicious use of online resources and develop a sense of responsibility and inculcating a habit of "search and learn".

Various Digital Public Libraries which often do not restrict online access to their resources link. Those libraries can be linked to the Home page of Library's site.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TEACHER/ LIBRARIANS' ROLE IN PROMOTING ONLINE RESOURCES AMONG THEIR SCHOOL CHILDREN

The librarian who has the responsibility of handling the print as well as of digital resources should play his/her part with utmost care and enthusiasm. The Library and Information teachers should think about new ways and not only find new resources to get their students involved in knowledge search process but also alert them about misuse of internet. Some of the responsibilities which must be carried over by a school librarian for promoting online resources to the children are as under:-

- Encouraging the children to utilize online resources judiciously.

- Making the library a full resource center for using online resources.
- Helping them out to use these resources within the library using system and internet facility.
- Providing links to various online resources at the official website of the school library.
- Publicize the URLs of various websites among the students with different means of communications.
- Encourage them to be careful while moving from one page to another.
- A sort of subject directory to be made in this regard with proper URL.
- There is a need to pinpoint the particular website or resource to save the time of children.

ANALYSIS

In today's digital environment nobody is left without affected by multifaceted uses of Internet technology. School children who are at most important stage of their lives where they are going towards their career building process need extra guidance to use online resources and enhance their knowledge so that they will not waste their time by just searching for them. Here there is a need to guide them so that they can reach up to their desired resources without wastage of time.

In this way students usually waste a lot their precious time. Here is a need of guidance from their teachers as well as from their parents about utilizing their time by using online resources which are specifically designed for them and thus enhancing their knowledge and skills. Here few major sites and online services are given that will definitely guide the students in this regard. Some of these services are general in nature like sites referred for consulting a dictionary or encyclopedia but many of them are subject specific services like online tutorials of different subjects related to school children like Mathematics, Sciences and Social Sciences. Information and Communication technology has bridged the gap between the sources and the users of these resources and the school curriculum is not an exception to it. School children are also becoming aware of the technology. So it is very important to shape up their knowledge and divert their attention in utilizing their time accordingly.

CONCLUSION

Some online resources are very much necessary and useful for the school children. In today's scenario online resources definitely work wonders because these resources are easy to use and self explanatory in nature. Thus they will be a substitute for a teacher and the children can learn from them without the time boundation of a school or of a coaching Institute. Librarians can also contribute in this task by guiding the students about the utilization of online resources without wastage of their time.

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