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Students appreciate using the Internet but up to 70% do not know how to use it effectively.



70% of Vietnamese students don't know how to exploit Internet resources.

- A survey conducted by Prof. PhD Nguyen Quang A, shows that
- Vietnamese students do not employ the most important functions of the Internet.

Internet is a powerful and effective communication aid to search for information. While Asian populations are four times higher than Europe, the rate of Internet users is equivalent to just one seventh. In Southeast Asia, Vietnam is only above Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and the Philippines in Internet usage.

The concept of the Internet and its values has changed. Initially, the Internet was only considered an information resource, but now it is understood as a service.

Vietnamese students lag far behind the world in using the Internet, even if only the old view is considered. They only exploit the Internet passively via available web tools, thus the information they receive from the Internet is too large and difficult to use. Instead of exploiting information from the Internet efficiently, students are flooded with piles of documents.

"We are not taught skills to exploit the Internet at university. We learn them ourselves because the Internet is something new," said Nguyen Huyen My, from the National Economics University.

Internet exploitation skills are not taught at any university in Hanoi. Even at Hanoi Polytechnic University, top in the capital for IT, students only have a chance to study MsDOS and Pascal, which have been outdated for nearly one decade. The Internet is still strange to students, most of whom know it only as a tool for 'chat' and sending and receiving email, not as a powerful tool for seeking information. In journalism, an area that requires students to have qualified skills in searching, selecting, and updating information, students are also weak.

"I simply imitate my teachers and students in searching information on the Internet to serve my essays. But I often search hundreds of pages of information and don't know how to deal with them," said Nguyen Lam Kieu, a student of the Press Faculty at the University for Social Sciences and Humanity.

Prof. Nguyen Quang A said that the first thing he was taught as a university student was how to search information and books at the library. This is the starting point for self-study. One university that has begun to teach Internet exploitation skills is Hanoi University of Technology; however, the lessons

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are only part of its basic IT subject, with only two classes.

“Students must be experts in using and exploiting the Internet. Vietnamese students have to develop searching machines in Vietnamese and to master search technology to solve the problem at the roots. To reach that level, students must have access to skills to exploit the available potential of the huge databank on the Internet,” said Truong Xuan Nam, Director of Hanoi-Aptech Programmer Training Centre.

According to Prof. Quang A, to solve the problem, it is necessary to help students access the Internet, learn exploitation skills, and raise their English.

(Source: SVVN)

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VASC Software and Media Company, 99 Trieu Viet Vuong, Hanoi
Tel: +844 7722729; Fax: +844 7722733; E-mail: evnn@vasc.com.vn (Editorial); kd@vasc.com.vn (Business)