

Case study on operation of Iranian LIS (library & information science) group weblog during 2006-2008

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Abstract

At the present time, a new kind of internet communication has been created amongst librarians, libraries and users which makes the information evaluation, selection, dissemination and usage much easier. Actually, it is one of web 2.0 facilities. Users inquire information in web 1.0; in contrast, in web 2.0, information asks about users, being directly in their access. Libraries have found the value of web 2.0, its abilities and weblogs as an easy device for updating and communicating, swiftly. Librarian have accompanied in web developing and publishing informative articles via weblogs. Weblogs can lead either to a network of unbounded libraries or increased information portals. Some librarians may write about their own experiences on library science, sharing their information in this way. They can introduce anonymous informative websites which users refer them scarcely. The most successful weblogs are those offer the most recent accurate information in their special field. Reference librarians' weblogs have altered to the most popular weblogs among the results of search engines and in reference place; they are reminded as a new source

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of information and collections of ideas and comments. Iranian librarians have discovered weblog aptitudes. Their weblogs are used in updating the related knowledge amongst Iran library society; meanwhile, offering the proper services to users. Purpose of Current research is to survey bloggers operation of this weblog during 2006-2008. In this research all posts of Iranians librarians Group Weblog‡ will be analyzed, all comments for each post that recorded by users will be studied. Current research will evaluate partnership measurement of Iranian librarians blogger in Iranians librarians Group Weblog and finally 5 top bloggers will be introduced.

Keywords: weblog analyze – library and information science –Iranian LIS bloggers

1. Introduction

Appearance types of blogs, wikies, podcasts, RSS services etc. the world of libraries created a new concept. Combining web 2.0 and library lead to appearance of Library 2.0. (Houghton, 2007). In this sense, library can offer provide information for user in every time and every where. In fact main aim of using web 2.0 in libraries are fast connection between users and libraries, rapid response to user information needs and his or here satisfaction, he is attracting.

Using Blog has an indirect effect on librarians. This point blog implies that libraries and librarians go along with the advances in technology. In 2002 year, the first weblog about library and information science in Iran were created. From that year many weblogs in Iran in this filed were established. Iranian librarians used weblogs

‡ www.lisiran.blogfa.com

as reference tools. So, current research wants to study on Iran LIS group weblog.

2 .Aims of the research

The purpose of this research is to study number of group and individual weblogs in the field of Library and Information Science in Asia, and study on Iranian librarian bloggers actions. This research wants to survey posted notes by Iranian librarian bloggers to Iran LIS group weblog.

3 .Research questions

Current research wants to answer to these fundamental questions:

1. How many weblogs are active in the field of Library and Information science in Asia?
2. How many weblogs are group and how many weblogs are individual in Asia?
3. How many notes have been posted by Iranian librarian bloggers to Iranian LIS group weblog during 2006-2008 years?
4. What is Iranian LIS weblogs rank among other LIS weblogs in Asia?
5. Who has sent most notes to Iran Librarian LIS group weblog?
6. What is the average number of posted notes to Iran Librarians group weblog by female bloggers?

7. What is the average number of posted notes to Iran Librarians group weblog by male bloggers?

4 .Method

Iranian LIS (library & information science) group weblog[§] has 43 bloggers. This blog was established by of Ms. Tahereh Karami in August 2005. The first server of this blog was <http://www.Mihanblog>, but, this blog in August 2006 this blog was moved to <http://www.blogfa.com>.

This research was a case study with a descriptive method. In the first stage by referring to resources, related statistics to Library and information blogs in the Asia continent was extracted. Our resources in this research were LibWorld book that is a great directory of set of Library and Information blogs in the world. Other directories on LIS weblogs in the world were:

- http://liswiki.org/wiki/Weblogs_-_Non-English
- <http://www.libdex.com/weblogs.html>

At this stage, the numbers of individual and group blogs in the field of librarianship in Asia were extracted. In the next step, as a case study, Iranian LIS group weblog was selected. Notes that Iranian bloggers had posted to this blog were studied analyzed from August 2006 until January.

§ . <http://lisiran.blogfa.com>

5 .Literature review

Studies that have been carried out on the blogging in library and information science field are as follows:

Clyde (2004) in his study entitled "library weblogs" using search engines and Internet directories identified 55 library blogs in three countries USA, UK and Canada. He studied on them using content analysis techniques. His findings showed that most library weblogs for this study were in USA. Public libraries and university libraries had more intend to post notes by blogs. The main goal of blogging were explained link to internet recourses by them

Karami (2006) reviewed Iranian LIS blogs and their role in the information society. The results showed that most of these blogs created with the goals of informing and updating knowledge of librarians. A few blogs work about classification, Reference services and Knowledge Management.

Nikkhah (2008), in his thesis founded that group weblogs are more update than individual weblogs. Users pay attention to subject such as information systems, information centers and using technologies in libraries.

Asnafi and Moradi (2008) in their research evaluated Iranian LIS blogs using Webometrics methods. They found that weblogs entitled: Future Librarians, Notes of a Informationist and Iranian LIS group blog are the best blogs in LIS in Iran.

6. Research findings

Research findings showed that in total, 85 blogs are active in the field of library and information science in Asia. On the basis of Table 1, Iran, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, Japan, India, Kuwait, South Korea and Philippine have active blogs in this field. So, Iran, Australia, Singapore and Newzeland have ranks 1 to 4. Table 1 shows that 35 LIS blogs in Asia are in group and 50 LIS blogs are individual. Among them, Iran with 19 LIS individual blogs and 17 LIS group blogs is the first country in Asia. After this country, Australia with 11 LIS individual blogs and 2 LIS group blogs and Singapore with 6 LIS individual blogs are in the next ranks. Findings indicate that collaborative activities in blogging have some advantages that some of them are exchanging of ideas and updating blogs. Asian LIS bloggers understood importance of collaborative activities and pay attention to this point.

Tabl.1. Rankings Asian weblgos in library and Information Science field

rank	Country	Individual weblogs	Group weblogs	Total
1	Iran	19	17	36
2	Australia	11	2	13
3	Singapore	6	5	11
4	New Zealand	5	6	11
5	Japan	4	5	9
6	India	2	-	2
7	Kuwait	1	-	7
8	Philippines	1	-	8
9	South Korea	1	-	9

Table 2. Posted notes to Iranian librarians group weblog during 2006(Agust)-2008

Notes	Year
802	2006
762	2007
512	2008

Studies on Iranian LIS group weblog indicated that in 2006, 802 notes were posted by Iranian bloggers. So, in every month in 66.8 notes were sent. 501 notes were posted by females, namely they share their notes every month 41.75 and males posted 301 notes namely 25.08 notes every month. Research findings showed that Ms. Zohreh Gholam Zadeh posted 153 notes in this year. Namely she posted 19.13 notes in every month.

On the basis on table 2, in 2007, 762 notes were posted to this blog. Namely in every month, in average 63.5 notes have been posted. 444 notes by females and 318 notes by males were posted. Ms. Tahereh Karami posted 96 notes in this year. She was the best blogger.

Finlay findings indicated that in 2008, 512 notes were posted to Iranian LIS group weblog. Namely in every month in average 42.6 notes have posted to this blog. 269 notes by females and 243 notes by males were posted. So, females in every month posted 34 notes and males in every month posted 42 notes. Mr. Abbas Rajabi with 98 posted notes in this year was the best blogger.

7. Conclusions and Discussion

This study revealed that weblogs are not entertainment tools. They are important sources of information and are considered by Librarians. They use blogs for interaction with their colleagues and respond to their clients' information needs in information society.

This study indicated collaboration and teamwork is very important in blogging field.

By teamwork in blogging, bloggers always can keep update their blog and exchange their ideas together. Studies on LIS blogs in Asia showed that librarians in this continent must pay attention to blogs more than past. They must participate in blogging for send needed information to their users.

Findings showed that female bloggers had more roles in updating Iranian LIS group weblog. They wanted to participate in social networks and scientific collaboration.

Current research indicated that Iranian librarian's bloggers interested to scientific collaboration and they tended to share their notes to other librarians.

Finally, current research revealed that Iranian LIS blogs have a great problem. It is related to language of them. Most of these weblogs are in Persian and just Iranian can use them. In Iran, LIS bloggers produce lot of news and information and other librarians in the world must be able to use Iranian LIS blogs. Emergence of Google translator and its facilities has caused that other librarians in the world can use Persian LIS blogs content.

the world to other users to be able to take advantage of Persian content وبلاگهای Library.

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