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The Role of Information and Communication Technology in Promoting Quranic Culture



Abstract:

The author begins this speech by examining the impact of information and communication technology on understanding the Quran, including: easy storage and retrieval of information, establishing communication in cyberspace, and preserving old manuscripts. After that, he points to solutions for optimal use of the Internet in promoting Quranic culture in two ways: one: referring to search engines. Second: referring to subject classification spaces on the Internet. Then, under the title of optimization solutions for recognizing and accessing Quranic information, he states four of these solutions. Pathology - communication of Quranic websites and blogs, including not being updated and biased, and then optimization solutions for these sites and blogs, such as audience-centered answering questions, paying attention to the global dimensions of the Quran, developing specialized and thematic (group) blogs, is another title; and finally, the author's specific suggestions conclude the speech.

Keywords: Quran in the contemporary world / Information and communication technology / Internet - pathology / Internet - solutions.

Introduction

Today, the role of computers and the Internet is not hidden from anyone; How many software programs have been used in Quranic research, and how many Quranic research educational software programs have been released to the market, or Quranic databases have been made available to various audiences? Compact discs have made it easier to teach Quranic concepts and pronunciation, and have made it possible to search for words in the Quran, and have made reference books that speakers and preachers need easily available to them. Internet sites make the most common translations of the Quran available to those interested and provide users with a multitude of Quranic articles and books, but what is more important is the impact that this medium can have on how the Quran is used and understood.

The effects of information and communication technology on how the Quran is used and understood:

1. Providing new interpretations of the Quran

With the expansion of the scope of Internet use and the ease of providing information in that field, the dissemination of different and possibly deviant interpretative views is facilitated. Currently, an Internet search on Quranic topics yields thousands of thousands of items, ranging from the simplest topics such as the method of converting to Islam to the most blasphemous topics. Internet sites publish interpretations and interpretations of the Quran not only from the perspectives of reputable scholars and well-known and Islamic religions, but also

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promote the views of deviant groups and individuals and false sects such as "Ahmadiyya" (Qadianiyya) and "Baha'iyya" and so on.

2. Preservation of old manuscripts

There are many old and unique manuscripts of the Quran in religious museums and libraries that are either out of reach of researchers or are subject to deterioration due to heavy use. However, with new developments, these valuable copies can easily be stored electronically and, while protecting the exclusive rights or intellectual property rights of these works, they can be saved from natural disasters and deterioration and easily made available to interested parties. For example, we can mention the Tebyan site, which has provided access to about 2000 manuscripts in full text on the Internet, or we can mention some compact discs that provide thousands of pages of manuscripts in the form of photographs to interested parties.

3. Organizing new Quranic research

Computers have shown that they are extremely useful and advanced tools for renewing and combining texts and presenting new research. Researchers can start writing using Quranic software or web-based Quranic databases and avoid going to libraries, and easily organize their Quranic findings with little time and expense.

4. Identifying, storing, processing, and retrieving information easily

Using a computer, one can accurately, quickly, and easily identify Quranic sources and store them in various forms, and in addition, one can process Quranic or Quran-related information and easily retrieve one's Quranic information in various ways.

5. Publishing information and sharing Quranic resources

Through computers and networks, one can not only store Quranic information but also share it on the web and seek the opinions of various users and experts. In addition, by sharing one's own information and that of others, one can provide access to a comprehensive database of Quranic study history and base one's new Quranic information on previous findings of Quranic researchers.

6. Establishing connections between Quranic centers and researchers in cyberspace

Helping Quranic research and accelerating access, storage, exchange and processing of information that provides a platform for Quranic researchers to communicate on the web to exchange ideas.

In this context, we can mention chat rooms on the Internet; a concrete example of this is the askquran database, which has more than 19,000 members and has been viewed about 300,000 times by different users. There are about 9,000 articles on this site on various Quranic topics; about 3,000 active users have played a role in producing these articles.

The Internet and strategies for its optimal use in line with Quranic activities

In the current world, the Holy Quran is not only respected by us Muslims, but every impartial researcher in the world is interested in a book that is respected by more than a billion people. Witnessing this claim is the fact that there are more than 70 Quranic Internet pages in English. Most of this information is from Sunni sources and less from Shiite sources, and only 17 of them are in Arabic and Persian. It is natural that the Internet, as a global medium, considers a global audience and English, as the most widely spoken language in the world, accounts for the majority of content about the Holy Quran.

The main focus of the discussion is Persian Quran databases and pages, and we will not mention content in other languages except in special cases.

In a general view, two methods can be presented to users. These two methods are:

The first method is to refer to search engines and use them to access the desired content.

The second method is to refer to the subject classification spaces on the Internet, which include information highways, directories, and subject categories in Quranic and Islamic databases.

About the first method:

Search engines are a tool; a tool that automatically collects information from databases and sorts and displays Internet pages based on our wishes.

This method is optimally used when you choose the right search engine and choose a good search. You also choose good keywords. If your research topic is a new, up-to-date, and detailed topic, it is better to use search engines and start working with them because the search engine databases are very vast. The research topic and the related keywords that are entered in the search box must be completely specific and detailed. Because by trying a general topic in a large search engine, countless results will be presented and certainly there will be many irrelevant results in them. Currently, the best and most suitable tool for this is the Google search engine, which is known today as the most famous and powerful web search engine and, in a sense, has become the first page of the Internet for many users around the world.

To access better and more appropriate resources, use Google's advanced search section. In this section, you can define the words and phrases you are searching for in different ways and limit the search scope to the language of the format of each file (file), the time of presentation on the Internet and the position of the article on web pages. In addition, you can also limit your search to a specific address on the Internet.

But in the second method, you can reach the desired article by following the topic tree. For this, several axes are considered as the main axes of our desires. The general axes that are envisaged in such research and studies are:

Quranic text and translation;

- Quranic interpretation;

Quranic sciences;

Quranic magazines and articles;

Quranic News

- Quranic Questions and Answers

Solutions to Optimize Knowledge and Access to Quranic Information

1. The Internet provides information about everything; but this does not mean

that the Internet is the best and most complete reference and source for every subject; For example, some Quranic magazines from the world and Iran have not yet been placed on the Internet; or the Quranic books and resources available in libraries and research centers in our country are much more than the Islamic resources available on the Internet, so we should not expect the Internet to have everything in full; although in some subjects, the volume of Internet resources is greater than non-Internet resources.

2. Not everything on the Internet is free. To access and use some Internet resources, especially new scientific resources, you must pay a fee as a subscription fee. Some universities and libraries in the world provide access to such databases to their students; but in our country, most abstracts of Quranic works are accessible, and most articles are not new and complete.

For example, we can mention the specialized database of Iranian publications, Magiran, Namamtan, or Normags, which contains a significant number of Quranic publications; however, to access its Quranic articles, you must pay a subscription fee.

3. Statistics show that most searchers are satisfied with the 10 to 30 results displayed on the first pages and in fact trust the engine's evaluation and classification. In this regard, it is important to be careful not to always go to the right place, because the ranking materials in men are not the best results of the initial results; because the criteria for classifying and sorting results in search engines are different from each other and from the criteria desired by the searcher.

Therefore, to get better and more results on the Internet, the following solutions are recommended:

Try to examine at least the first 50 results of searching for Quranic topics, especially in in-depth research.

Change the number, combination, and order of your words, use synonyms. Use Boolean logical operators as well as search ranges.

4. Be sure to use several search engines and examine their initial results.

Pathology of religious sites and blogs with an emphasis on Quranic sites and blogs

Lack of access to Quranic blogs in terms of subject matter

Although this deficiency exists to some extent in other parts of the world, in Iran there is still no Internet guide to introduce Iranian blogs in a general or specialized manner. Most users, due to their lack of familiarity with global guides and failure to register their blogs in these guides or facing the problem of recognizing the Persian language in these guides, refrain from registering their blogs in such guides, and as a result, information related to Persian blogs cannot be found anywhere else except through general search engines such as Google and Yahoo. Lack of updating of blogs, so that in the world the ratio of registered blogs to active blogs is 60 to 85. This ratio reaches 70 to 80 in Iran; that is, about 80% of registered blogs are not updated. Regarding blogs: In the case of new blogs, there is a small percentage of blogs that are still updated after a long time or have not changed their address without entering a new address or in the system, a large number of religious blogs have been registered; but no content has been entered in them for a long time. In this case, about 820 Quranic blogs have been registered, about 50% of which only use the word Quran but are not Quranic, and about a third of them are mostly in the aspect of informing and informing Quranic news.

One-way communication and Quranic blogs

More than 80% of Quranic blogs have one-way communication and it can be said that they do not interact properly with their users, this is determined by recording user comments and the number of visitors, and this is very weak in Quranic blogs.

Lack of group Quranic sites and blogs

In Persian, group Quranic sites and blogs are less common, and there are only a few group blogs. Quranic science students can easily expose their research to criticism and opinions of others through group sites and blogs and add to its content.

Lack of documentation, especially in thematic and specialized blogs, disregard for visual and artistic capabilities

Presenting raw texts; ordering, categorizing, and headings, exaggerating or writing at length; saying little and quoting will prolong the presence of readers.

Writing and typographical errors, Ah Alavi on Humanity and Frigid Studies, presenting irrelevant and scrolling material

Using inappropriate and non-standard fonts in the blog space, inconsistent spacing between posts

The writers of the blogosphere try to keep the time they leave between each post almost the same. Therefore, they update their blog regularly, for example, every week or every ten days or every two weeks and at most, monthly

Solutions for optimizing Quranic works in the electronic space

1. Organizing and informing Quranic databases

We always witness budgets being allocated at the community level for implementing Quranic projects. A deficiency felt in the country's Quranic activities and projects is the lack of an executive organization that is specific to such activities; for example, to follow up and learn about the functioning of sports projects, one should refer to the Physical Education Organization; but to learn about various Quranic activities, there is no specific organization whose approvals are binding so that centers and individuals producing Quranic works are required to comply with them.

All-out efforts of scientific and cultural centers

To increase the share of the Quran in cyberspace and to make the Quran the center of attention, all centers that operate on the Internet in some way should take action in this regard. Special websites of educational and research

centers affiliated with universities, seminaries, and education should dedicate one of their fixed options to the Quran and reflect Quranic activities and publish their books, articles, and theses on the Internet. News agencies and news sites should dedicate a section to reflecting Quranic news and avoid placing Quranic news under the general heading of cultural news.

One of the duties of the custodians of the Quran in the country is to definitely dedicate a portion of their Quranic activities to activities in cyberspace. Therefore, all organizations that respect their audiences need to consider a portion of their Quranic activities in cyberspace so that users can be informed and benefit from these concepts in cyberspace.

3. Motivating young users

Young people are the most numerous Internet users. To increase the share of the Quran in cyberspace and real space, we should go after young people and not wait for them to enter cyberspace on their own and engage in Quranic activities. In fact, creating motivation for users should be done by Quranic websites. One of the effective methods in this regard is to present attractive Quranic content that is in line with the interests of young people. The Virtual City website, Quran, IKNA News Agency, Quranic News Agency of the Students of the Country, etc. are good examples that have shone in the field of attracting young people.

4. Audience-oriented
A successful media is a media that establishes a two-way communication with its audience and actively and continuously identifies and meets the needs of the audience and receives feedback.

Quranic activists in cyberspace should update them by considering the level of interest of the audience in the concepts raised in their website and, in addition, try to raise the awareness of the audience in different fields and ultimately increase feedback in different fields and ultimately have more.

The Quran should be removed from being specialized and inaccessible.

5. Special attention to Quranic questions on the Internet

Setting up websites that can answer questions and doubts raised in Quranic concepts online is one of the necessities of cyberspace today. By receiving Quranic questions from the audience and responding promptly, these sites can play an important role in increasing the share of the Quran in cyberspace.

To increase the share of the Quran on the Internet, in addition to general sites, sites should also specifically respond to questions from different segments of society, such as students, teenagers, and children.

6. Paying attention to the global dimensions of the Quran

Since the Quran is a common foundation for all Muslims, anyone who wants to research and study Islam will refer to the Quran before any other source.

If we want to pay attention to the global dimensions of the Holy Quran, we must try to provide access to Quranic findings, especially in different languages, and we must deal with discussions from an extra-religious or transnational perspective that will also answer the questions and needs of different segments of society outside the country. Unfortunately, most Quranic sites in the country are only in Persian, or if they have another language, they mostly deal with general Quranic discussions; not specialized and interdisciplinary content.

7. Support for Quranic blogs

Just as Persian bloggers were able to promote Persian to the third language of the world on the Internet in a short time, religious bloggers can also improve the status of the Quran on the Internet compared to other religious books by redoubled efforts. They can help increase the share of the Quran in cyberspace by setting up Quranic discussion forums, expressing their opinions on Quranic topics, providing free interpretations of Quranic verses, informing about the latest Quranic books and articles, and publishing some Quranic articles.

8. Innovation in presenting Quranic resources

One of the best ways to increase the Quranic content on the Internet is to present books and authoritative interpretations of the Quran on websites. Quranic website managers should strive to discover unexplored valleys, present unexamined topics, and publish useful and neglected books, and show their creativity and initiative in

increasing the share of the Quran on the Internet, and demonstrate the richness of the unparalleled Quranic topics and concepts.

A systematic and audience-oriented view of the Quran requires that we have a comprehensive view and develop Quranic discussions with a comprehensive view and a comprehensive audience, and along with that, we should not forget to keep the discussions up-to-date; therefore, it is necessary for the centers in charge of Quranic affairs to think more about the pathology of Quranic activities than before, so that in addition to trying to eliminate the damage, they also think about needs assessment so that they can depict a roadmap for Quranic activities. Using book-making software, especially for use on mobile phones, using more sending and receiving Quranic text messages, forming Quranic chat rooms in cyberspace, answering Quranic questions through the short message system, etc. are some of the things that can be used in this regard.

9. Launching Quranic group blogs Bar and Mataliya NK

These types of blogs, which have the advantage of multiple voices, can actually be small conferences and discourses that are based on diversity and proliferation. The views in this group of blogs are not limited to a specific perspective, and there is also room for opposing or approving the opinions of others.

Blogs that open their doors to multiple authors can be created as a family, or a group of friends in a region or city or university, or even several cities and several associations. By registering a link, they can also increase the scope of the group's activity and by providing up-to-date content, they can increase the attractiveness of their blog for occasional views and visits.

In Quranic topics, we only know of a handful of environments with this feature, which are usually supported by some centers that will also stagnate if their budget for services or human resources is cut, and...

In this section, we can mention the askquran database, which has provided a relatively good group work in the field of Quranic group collaboration in cyberspace.

10. Development of thematic and specialized blogs

Although thematic and specialized blogs are attractive to a smaller and more limited group of readers, they have deeper and more continuous benefits; Because many readers like to see and read selected and abstracted materials on one page to increase their general information, so that they no longer have to retrieve several newspapers, book articles and tapes to obtain these selected materials.

Each blog can be a terminal for traveling and browsing sites, blogs and other areas of the Internet. Links are addresses that, when clicked, take us to other spaces and lands in the vast world of the Internet. If the links in the original footnotes in the traditional publisher only show the address, the links will show you the original source and source. Most specialized Quranic blogs are managed by Quranic experts or Quranic professors, who unfortunately are either technically or up-to-date or only have an informational aspect. Special suggestion: Launching a comprehensive directory of Quranic topics on the Internet, preparing specialized lists of Quranic databases in order to motivate users and Quranic activists in order to increase the share of the Quran on the Internet. Extensive information on Quranic content on the web. The Internet consists of three parts: data, video, and audio, and through these three parts, a platform is provided for users' activities in all fields. To increase the share of the Quran on the Internet, it is necessary to inform about the Quranic content of the cyberspace in all three sectors using scientific and up-to-date methods.

Web survey of Quranic sites in terms of content, management style, especially centers such as Jihad Daneshgahi, Radio and Television, seminaries, etc.

Forming a Quranic bloggers' association and providing them with services or consulting through communication with different levels of managers and related experts. Introducing sites, comprehensive blogs, Quranic software, etc. in Arabic, Latin, etc. in order to inform the web space to refute the suspicion that Shiites have done little about the Quran.

Creating the possibility of conducting opinion polls and behavioral impact assessment (behavioral change) of users of Quranic sites to determine how much the content on the sites and communication with Quranic experts in the web space have had an impact on users.

Creating book-making software for Quranic books and publications and providing free access to it in order to further expand access to Quranic resources, which we see a lot in the case of special mobile software.

Suggested solutions for optimizing Quranic blogs Personal blogs It is important to pay attention to several points.

First of all, it must have first-hand content to present.

Never copy content from anywhere; if they do this, it should be with the address; they should try to make the writing their own originality and creativity; or a selection of other people's initiatives and innovations, looking for new words that have a buyer; or words that meet the needs of the community.

If it does not have new content, at least it should inform well; it should write in simple language that everyone can understand.

If you do not have a new topic to present, write the content with a new perspective so that the reader is encouraged to read.

Adjust the size of the blog so that its size is not heavy and use the entire page size appropriately and optimally.

Unfortunately, most Quranic blogs do not have these features or if they do, they are very few.

This article is a summary of the evaluation section of Quranic sites and blogs under the research of selective evaluation of Persian Quranic works in the years 2002 to 2007 commissioned by the Wala Montazer Institute by the author using some articles and conferences and interviews that were conducted with some Quranic managers and experts. For more information, you can also use the following resources

1 About the capabilities of group blogs, see Book of the Month (General) No. 79-80 (Specially for blogging)

2 Reza Babaei, Book Magazine, Methodology of the Center for the Management of the Sisters' Seminaries, Pre-Issue No. 4, Digital Pulpits Article, p. 71

Noor Computer Research Center, Noor Rahavard Magazine