Full text e-book collection on Terrorism in Google Books

Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Loan
Assistant Librarian,
Central University of Kashmir,
Jammu & Kashmir (India)
E-mail: drfayazlone@gmail.com

Abstract

Purpose – The main purpose of the present study is to identify the fulltext e-books in Google Books on "Terrorism" in general and "9/11" in particular.

Design/methodology/approach – The Google Book archive was searched using two search terms- "Terrorism and 9/11" in advanced search mode. All the hits (results) were retrieved and their bibliographical details were recorded to complete the present study.

Findings – The results reveal that the total number of fulltext books available in Google Books was 130 mostly written after 9/11 and dealing with political, business, economical, technological and religious aspects of terrorism. The findings also depict that the majority of the books are published by the DIANE Publishing, Darby USA and the prominent authors are corporate bodies of the United States like the US Government Accountability Office and the US House of Representatives.

Research limitations/implications – The study included only Google Book archive and the other archives/repositories should also be included in future studies.

Practical implications – The study is very helpful for worldwide social scientists especially political scientists, sociologists, lawyers, psychologists and media specialists conducting research on Terrorism and library and information professionals serving these scholars.

Originality/value – The study is original research highlighting the role of library and information managers in information discovery and identification on Terrorism.

Keywords E-books, Open access books, Google books, Terrorism, September 11

Paper type Research paper

Introduction

The Internet is used as an efficient medium for accessing, collecting, storing, communicating and disseminating information worldwide. The web is the largest treasure trove of information on the Internet. It is the "World Bank of Information Sources", containing information on any branch of knowledge. The modern information seekers visit the physical library less, rarely use library websites and mostly begin searches with a commercial search engine **(Kenneway, 2007)**. The study by Online Computer Library Centre in 2005 reveals that a majority of people use search engines rather than library resources for seeking information **(Online Computer Library Centre, 2005)**. Among all the search engines, Google has snatched the greater share of library users. **Bell (2004)** summarised this situation by stating that "Google has become the symbol of competition to the academic library". The information seekers often use Google for teaching, learning and research. **Mostafa (2005)** stated that "Googling has become synonymous with doing research". In USA, the total number of queries searched daily on all search engines was 200 million and 91 million queries was searched on Google alone **(Sullivan, 2006).** In April of 2010, Search Engine Watch noted that Google commanded 71% of the search market with the next closest rival, Yahoo!, only commanding 14% **(Search Engine Watch, 2010)**. Google is the tool of choice when it comes to searching online. It may surprise many marketers to learn that while 62

million U.S. searches are performed on core search engines like Google and Bing on the average day, an additional 33 million are happening on alternative search sites. In January this year, search engines accounted for 18.7 billion U.S. searches; alternative search sites produced another 9.9 billion **(Miller, 2012)**. Google holds the lion's share of search activity.

Google Books

Google Books (previously known as Google Print and Google Book Search) is a service from Google Inc. that searches the full text of books and magazines that Google has scanned and stored in its digital database. The service was introduced at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2004 **(Wikipedia, 2012)**. The *Google Books* archive is growing rapidly as it scans more and more books and adds more and more bibliographic records from libraries and publishers. **Sewell (2010)** reported that *Google Books* had digitised 15 million books by December 2010. Google estimates that there are 129 million published books in the world and aims to scan all of them by 2020 **(Jackson, 2010)**. Google continues to scan books to complete its mission.

Google Books are categorized as - no preview, a snippet view, limited preview and full view. No preview gives just details of books. Snippets display only a few words from one or two pages of a book. They offer little information other than indicating where the search term appears in the book. Limited preview is much more useful, because there are normally dozens of pages displayed depending on the wishes of the publisher. Links to libraries and booksellers such as *Amazon.com* allow people to choose to either borrow books from local libraries or purchase books. The full view means that fulltext of books are available online free of cost. These books are either out-of-copyright books from libraries or donated by various institutions free of cost. However, fewer than 10 percent have free full view, and about 15 percent have snippets and limited preview respectively **(Chen, 2012)**.

Scope of the study

Google Books archive, being one of the richest repositories of e-books, is selected for the study. The terms "Terrorism" and "9/11" (and its related terms 9-11, September 11) were used because the scholars have shown greater interest in the phenomenon of terrorism and it has become an attractive topic of study for social scientists, especially political scientists, sociologists, lawyers, psychologists and media specialists.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the present study is to identify open access e-book collection available in Google Books on "Terrorism" in general and "27/11" in particular.

Methodology

The terms "Terrorism" and "9/11" were submitted to the Google Book search box using advanced search features during June-July 2012. The search was restricted to titles, fulltext and English language only. All the hits (results) were retrieved and their bibliographic details were recorded to complete the present study.

Limitations

The study included only Google Book archive and the other archives/repositories should also be included in future studies.

Analysis & Discussion

1. Quantitative analysis

a) Search hits information

The search hits show that 13,500 open access e-books are available in Google Book archive on "Terrorism". However, the actual number of hits on Terrorism was 122 in which 04 were duplicate hits, decreasing the number to 118. The search term 9/11 retrieves 3,210 hits but actually 33 hits were available in which 19 were false hits and 02 duplicate thus restricted the number to 12 only (Table 1). The total number of relevant open access fulltext e-book available in Google books on "Terrorism" was 130 only.

Type of Hits	Terrorism	9/11	Total
Hits shown	13,500	3,210	16, 710
Actual Hits	122	33	155
False Hits	00	19	19
Duplication Hits	04	02	06
Relevant Hits	118	12	130

Table 1: Google Book Search Hits (Fulltext) on Terrorism

b) Date wise information

The data shows that 27 e-books were published before 2000 and 97 between 2001- 2011 and 06 books don't have publishing date (Table 2). However, the maximum number of books available is published after 9/11, 2001.

Date	Terrorism	9/11	Total
No date	6	N/A	06
>1990	3	N/A	03
1990-1995	9	N/A	09
1996-2000	15	N/A	15
2001-2005	37	02	39
2006-2010	39	07	46
2011	9	03	12
Total	118	12	130

Table 2: Date Wise Publishing Trends

c) Subject wise information

The subject-wise information discloses that most of the e-books deal with political (94), business & economical (16), technological (05) and religious (05) aspects of Terrorism (Table 3).

Subject	Terrorism	9/11	Total
Political Science; Law	88	06	94
Business & Economics	12	04	16
Information Technology	04	01	05
Religion	04	01	05

Military Science	03	00	03
Sociology	03	00	03
Library & Information Science	02	00	02
Agriculture	01	00	01
Literature	01	00	01
Total	118	12	130

Table 3: Subject wise information

d) ISBN information

Among the available books most of them have ISBN (122) whereas only 08 books don't have ISBN (Table 4)

Type	Number	9/11	Total
ISBN	110	12	122
Non ISBN	08	00	08
Total	118	12	130

Table 4: ISBN versus Non ISBN Books

2. Qualitative Analysis

a) Authorship information

The results reveal that the maximum number of books is written by single author (67) followed by corporate body (46) whereas 06 titles are anonymous (Table 5).

Author	Terrorism	9/11	Total
Corporate Body	44	02	46
One author	59	08	67
Two authors	04	02	06
Three Authors	04	00	04
More than 3 Authors	01	00	01
Not available	06	00	06
Total	118	12	130

Table 5: Authorship trends on Terrorism

b) Prominent authors

The prominent authors are corporate bodies of the United States like US Government Accountability Office (19) and US House of Representatives (08) followed by individual authors like *Charles Michael Johnson* (05) and *Jim Saxton* (03) (Table 6).

Author	Terrorism	9/11	Total
US Government Accountability Office	18	01	19
US House of Representatives	7	01	08

Charles Michael Johnson	5	00	05
Jim Saxton	3	00	03
Human Rights Watch	2	00	02
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	2	00	02
Raphael F. Perl	2	00	02
Sharon L. Pickup	2	00	02
United States Air Force Academy Library	2	00	02
World Bank	2	00	02
Others	71	10	81
Total	118	12	130

Table 6: Prominent authors on Terrorism

c) *Publishers information*

The research brings into light that the majority of the e-books (109) are published by the *DIANE Publishing* followed by the *World Bank Publications* (04) and *OECD publishing* (03) respectively (Table 7).

Publisher	Terrorism	9/11	Total
DIANE Publishing	97	12	109
World Bank Publications	4	00	04
OECD publishing	3	00	03
Human Rights Watch	2	00	02
US council on Foreign Relations	2	00	02
Others	10	00	10
Total	118	12	130

Table 7: Prominent publishers on Terrorism

d) *Reviewed versus Non Reviewed*

The results depict that only 02 books are reviewed by the users so far whereas 128 books aren't reviewed by any user at all.

Type	Number	9/11	Total
Reviewed	02	00	02
Not Reviewed	116	12	128
Total	118	12	130

Table 8: Reviewed versus Non Reviewed Books

e) *Google Rank wise information*

The results reveal that as per the Google ranking only 04 books have given the highest rank of 5 star followed by 02 books four star, 02 books three star and 01 book two star respectively whereas 121 haven't any star at all.

Star	Number	9/11	Total
Nil	109	12	121
One	0	0	00
Two	1	0	01
Three	2	0	02
Four	2	0	02
Five	4	0	04

Table 9: Rank wise Books on Terrorism

Findings & Discussion

1. There is a huge difference between the hits shown by the Google Books and actual number of hit available. The total number of hits is less than the hits shown by Google. It puts a big question on the Google count estimation.

2. The total number of fulltext books available in Google Books was 130 and was mostly published after 9/11, 2001. However, the usage of other related terms, broader terms and narrower terms can fetch more results.

3. The subject-wise information discloses that most of the e-books deal with political, business, economical, technological and religious aspects of terrorism. It shows that the Google books cover all the major effects of terrorism.

4. The results reveal that majority of the books are written by authors belong to the United States and published by the *DIANE Publishing,* Darby, United States. The prominent authors are corporate bodies of the United States like US Government Accountability Office and US House of Representatives followed by individual authors like *Charles Michael Johnson* and *Jim Saxton*.

5. The results depict that only 02 books are reviewed by the users so far whereas 128 books aren't reviewed by any user at all. However, it includes books reviews written by users after reading these books on Google and excludes book reviews published in any other source. As per the Google ranking only 04 books have given the highest rank (5 Star) and 121 books hasn't been assigned any rank at all. This is a big question mark on the qualitative aspect of the Google books on terrorism.

Future Plans

Google Book project is yet in the developing phase. It should include more and more fulltext books in its database to satisfy the information needs of academic and research communities. Moreover, its present partners mostly belong to the United States; it must expand its network to other countries as well.

References
Bell, S. J. (2004). The infodiet: how libraries can offer an appetizing alternative to Google. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 50(24), 15
Chen, X. (2012). Google Books Assessments: Comparing Google Books Content with WorldCat Content. *Online Information Review*, 36(4), 507-516.

Jackson, J. (2010). *Google: 129 million different books have been published, PC World, 7 August.* Retrieved September 15, 2012 from: http://www.pcworld.com/article/202803/google_129_million_different_books_have_been_published.html

Kenneway, M. (2007). Marketing the library: using technology to increase visibility, impact and reader engagement. *Serials,* 20(2), 92-97.

Miller, M. (2012). *Beyond Google: Tap Into the Alternative Search Engine Data Opportunity.* Retrieved September 15, 2012 from: http://searchenginewatch.com/article/2183204/Beyond-Google-Tap-Into-the-Alternative-Search-Engine-Data-Opportunity

Mostafa, J. (2005). Seeking better web searches, *Scientific American*, 292(2), 51-57

Online Computer Library Centre (2005). *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources: A Report to the OCLC Membership.* Dublin, Ohio. Retrieved September 24, 2012 from: http://www.oclc.org/reports/2005perceptions.htm

Search Engine Watch (2010). *Google Grabs 71% of U.S. April Searches, Up 2% from March; Bing, Yahoo & Ask Lose Ground.* Retrieved September 24, 2012 from: http://blog.searchenginewatch.com/100511-083648

Sewell, A. (2010). Google Books adds tool. *The Los Angeles Times*, 17 December. Retrieved September 24, 2012 from: http://articles.latimes.com/2010/dec/17/business/la-fi-google-book-search-20101217

Sullivan, D. (2006). *Search per day.* Search Engine Watch, 20 April. Retrieved September 24, 2012 from: http://searchenginewatch.com/2156461.

Wikipedia, (2012). *Google Books.* Retrieved September 24, 2012 from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Books