

CHAPTER 3

Methodology

The research methodology used in this study was online research and a survey. The study was carried out on MIIRM in the Internet. The hundred Islamic sources in the research sample are identified as genuine because they presented the Islamic doctrine and the Islamic education system. The study monitored their content for the period from June to October 1998.

The MIIRM sources in this study delivered their information in English. All of them had approximately more than one year experience in presenting Islamic instructional materials via Internet.

Sample

The research sample consisted of 70 Islamic educational WWW sites, 6 electronic books sources, 5 electronic periodicals sources, 7 online databases providers, 2 encyclopedias online and 10 Islamic Newsgroups (one of them IRC). The information sources were chosen from 105 whom agreed to participate in this study and answer the questionnaire. The study excluded 5 because of unstable existence of their sources in the Internet.

The rationale is that these sources are covering all the current types of Internet multimedia information sources. The number of each category of the sample selected were based on the total sources of each category in the Internet.

Procedure

Seventeen search engines have been used in this research to search the Internet, 12 for WWW, 3 for Newsgroups, 1 intelligent agent software and 1 multi-search engine. Internet usage monitor software had been used in this study to monitor the online research. WWW site general statistics and facts have been monitored also by using Alexa® WWW navigation service software as intelligent agent.

This study monitored 2834 Islamic information sources situated in 58 countries around the world by the search engines and Internet usage monitor for two periods, first from April to June then from June to November 1998 (1060 hours on line).

Base on validity criteria 270 MIIRM sources have been selected. Email questionnaire with briefing about the study have been sent to 270 Internet sources of Islamic Information around the world on 2nd of June 1998. The selected sources were given 15 days to complete the questionnaire. 105 completed questionnaire were received by 18th of June 1998.

Data Analysis

The research data was analyzed using the "Statistical Package for Social Sciences" (SPSS) on the Windows 95 system. The following methods were used to analyze the data with SPSS system:

1. Frequency count

A frequency count was used to determine the validity and the instructional design quality of the Islamic multimedia instructional material in the Internet.

Frequency count were also used to identify the percentage of the Islamic Internet information sources:

1. Who are using multimedia materials;
2. Who provide Islamic value added materials to the Internet;
3. Who are using instructional design approaches in delivering the multimedia instructional materials;
4. What is the evaluation of the material presentation; and
5. What is the evaluation of the information contain.

The data was analyzed to obtain descriptive statistics for the sample as a whole in terms of frequencies, percentages, means, modes, medians, standard deviation, minimums and maximums.