



Date : 07/08/2006

The Internet Age – Journalists’ information power is changing

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Korea

Meeting:	79 Newspapers
Simultaneous Interpretation:	No

WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 72ND IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL
20-24 August 2006, Seoul, Korea
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>

Abstract

Table 2 ranking international index

	ITU's DOI(2005)	UN's e-government index	IDC's ISI(2004)
Sweden	5	3	2
Denmark	4	2	1
Canada	6	8	-
Korea	1	5	8
US	11	1	3
Japan	3	14	18
Singapore	7	7	13

It groups eight ICT indicators, such as the percentage of population covered by cellular telephony, into the five categories (Infrastructure, Affordability, Knowledge, Quality, and Usage). About Internet index of Korea is not ended here. In 2005, Korea also ranked fifth in United Nations' evaluation for e-Government readiness among 191 countries, thanks to its advanced information technology and nationwide broadband network. Korea's e-participation index which assesses government efforts to reflect public opinion in its decision-making process, ranked fourth up from sixth in 2004 and 12th in 2003.

According to the 'Survey on the computer and Internet usage 2005' from MIC (Ministry of Information and Communication) in Korea, Internet users are estimated to be 33.01 million of persons, which have increased by 1.43 million persons, and the Internet use rate is 72.8% increased by 2.6% point since December 2004.

Since year 2000, Korean Internet users have grown steadily. Thanks to the government supporting broadband high speed Internet network, we made world best information society infrastructure in a short time.

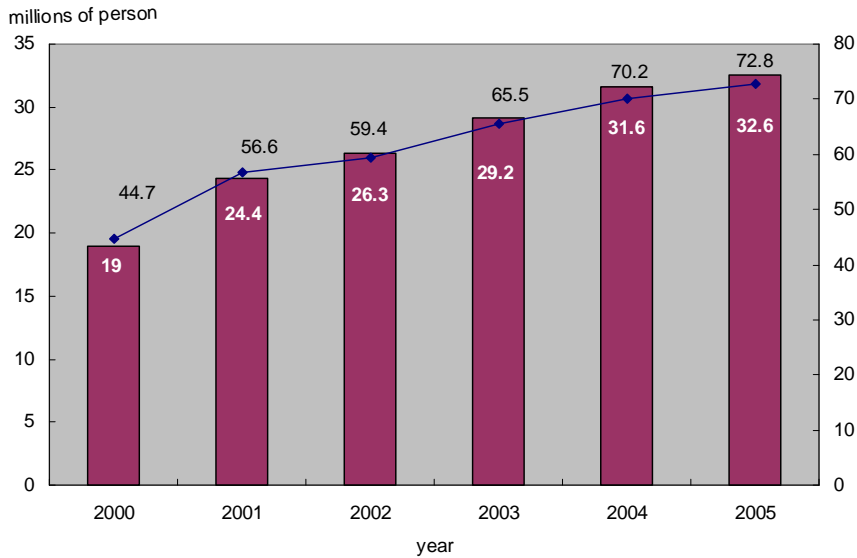


Fig. 1 Annual Internet users and trend of usage(unit:millions of person, %)

Those figures show roughly that how much Korean society is Internet-oriented. It can be possible to people more intended to information into Internet. The first tool for gathering information in Korea is Internet. Therefore news consumer in young generation read articles not by paper but by accessing Internet.

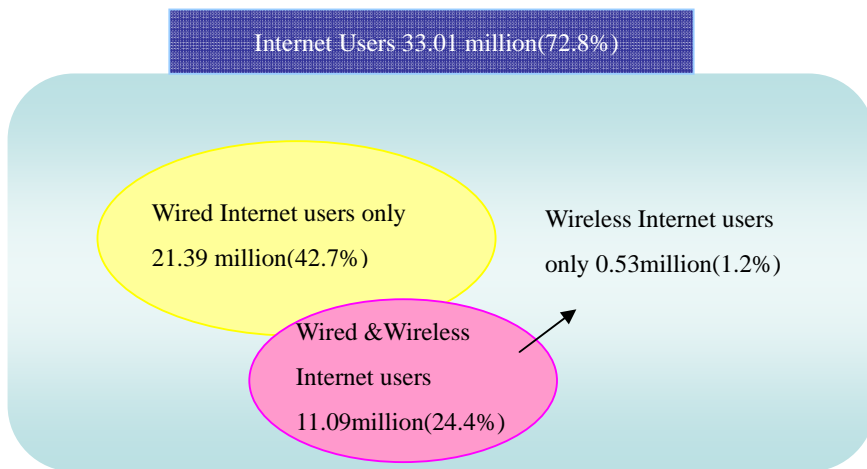


Fig.2 Korean Internet usage by access type(unit:%, million presons)2005

Table 3 Dailies: countries of top 100 dailies

Ranking	Country	No.top dailies
1	Japan	20
2	China	19
3	USA	18
4	India	17
5	United Kingdom	7
6	Germany	3
7	Korea, Republic	3
8	Thailand	3
9	Italy	2
10	Australia	1

However the recent situation of newspapers has reached a critical situation. The overall media environment turned less favorable for the print media sector. The rapid rise of other media outlets, including the Internet has served to diminish the credibility and popularity of newspapers, resulting in a state of crisis for the print media. According to a biennial consumer survey in 2004 by the Korea Press Foundation found that only 48.3 percent of Korean entire household subscribed to newspapers, making the first time the rate drop below the 50 percent level. Responsible for the decreasing popularity of newspapers are the rise of the Internet as a new form of media outlet, which has caused more young people to distance from newspaper. In adopting the internet era, newspaper companies are digitizing news content and providing news bundles to the Internet portal service companies.

One of the known digital news contents service is KINDS(Korean Integrated News Database System) which is served by Korea Press Foundation since 1991. It connects from 181 media organizations and 10,883,357 articles up to April 2, 2006.

KINDS is the largest service of news articles. KINDS provides full texts from 14 major national dailies, 7 financial dailies, 8 English 19 internet news. It also provides articles from television network news programs, news bulletins, local dailies, magazines and professional newspapers. KINDS service contributes to the quality of reporting with its vast quantity of articles on many specific topics. Magazine articles provided by major weekly and monthly news magazines and professional newspapers articles are included in our online services.



Fig. 3 KINADS Homepage

Special features of KINADS are followed:

1. The Largest News Database System in Korea: KINADS has more than 10 million articles from 181 companies that composed of national dailies, economic dailies, TV news, English language dailies, Internet medias, local dailies, professional newspapers, and news magazines; especially articles from 10 major national dailies that were begun after January 1, 1990.
2. Convenient and Accurate Search Service: Users may search articles from 181 medias by typing key words and operators(see chart below), the specific name of newspaper, date of publication, name of writer, column title and/or subjects. For 10 major national dailies, there is an advanced search service available, which utilizes published section, and/or just articles from the front page.
3. Diverse News Contents: KINADS covers articles from a wide range of media covering a period of several decades. Our database covers articles not only from national dailies

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