

Scientists' use of visible and invisible Web: an analysis based on Max Weber's ideal type

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Abstract: Using the Web has become ubiquitous and an indispensable part of scientists' daily life. Although there are many studies dealing with the use of the Web, few studies have focused on how different user groups including scientists make use of visible and invisible parts of the Web for educational and research purposes. This article first introduces the visible and invisible parts of the Web, and then examines scientists' use of these parts of the Web based on a usage typology. The study is a qualitative one and uses interviews as data collection tools. The research population includes 75 PhD students, researchers and lecturers in Grenoble (France) who are active in natural sciences. The sampling was done using stratified random sampling method. Max Weber's ideal type is used for the data analysis.

Keywords: Web usage, invisible web, scientists, Max Weber's ideal type.