

Chapter Four: Results

4.1 Review of bittorrent website features

4.11 Introduction

The following information was collected in July 2006 when fifteen different websites were visited and information recorded. A key to the features looked at on the websites is presented below:

Membership: Whether the website requires registration to upload or download torrent files.

Documentation: Any existing documentation or help on the website relating to finding and using bittorrent material. Some documentation is described here as being site-specific or not; site-specific documentation describes the website and its features rather than dealing with bittorrent generally.

Upload Guidelines: Details of any guidelines on the website relating to the entering of torrent files and their information onto the website by its users.

Moderated: Whether there is any moderation of the torrents and information that is entered onto the website by users.

User Comments: If there exists a method by which users can add comments to existing torrent information on the website.

Categories: Details of any categories used to organise torrent files on the website. Unless otherwise stated, the top tier of categories is displayed, each category on a separate line. If a category has further subdivisions then the *information used in determining* any subcategories is displayed in parenthesis immediately following it.

For example the entry „movies (genre), TV show (series), music would mean that there are three main categories of torrents on the website: movies, which has subcategories within it based on different genres of films, TV shows which has

subcategories according to individual series title and finally music, which has no subcategories.

Torrent record fields: This lists the fields of information stored along with the torrent file. Fields are formatted as follows:

- Any field that is mandatory when entering the information is displayed in italics.
- Fields that the user can search within are in bold.
- Fields that are not entered by users but rather determined by the website (such as number of times downloaded) are underlined.

The names of the different fields have been standardised in their presentation to aid comparison – for example fields relating to when a torrent was uploaded may be labelled on the websites as „age or „date uploaded but are all referred to here as „date added. Where necessary an explanation of a field's purpose is noted in parenthesis immediately following it.

Unless mentioned otherwise, all websites are assumed to display the size of the material and the number of seeds and leeches.

Search features: This briefly describes any features available through the website search facility. Features tested for were Boolean operators, truncation, wildcards, stop-words, searching within results, case sensitivity and searching for specific phrases. If any of these features were present¹ they will be listed here along with any further characteristics.

Community: This entry describes any feature on the website, excluding user comments, that allows users to communicate with each other.

Other: Any further relevant aspects of the website are presented here.

¹ Due to the lack of documentation regarding search features on these websites, there is a chance that some of these features were available but not apparent. Effort was made to avoid this by using a variety of different commonly used syntax and operator characters in testing the search facility.

4.12 Larger bittorrent websites

	www.mininova.org	www.torrentspy.com	www.demonoid.com	http://thepiratebay.org	http://torrentportal.com
Membership:	Public to upload and download.	Public to upload and download.	Registration required to view, upload or download torrents.	Public to download, registration required to upload.	Public to upload and download.
Documentation:	FAQ dealing with general bittorrent queries – not site-specific. Small pop-up window for help using the site's search facility.	Link to FAQ on site forum. Some links here to site-specific information on other forum threads.	FAQ dealing with site-specific technical issues and site policies as well as general bittorrent queries.	Page describing how to get started with bittorrent. Information is minimal and not site-specific.	Basic help guide available through forum that is not site-specific. More technical help linked to from this.
Upload Guidelines:	Some types of material prohibited. Release and quality information should be included and password if applicable.	None.	Some types of material prohibited. Text file to be included with any submitted torrent files.	None.	Some types of material prohibited. Description field and nfo file to be used and password to be supplied if applicable.
Moderated:	Non-complying torrents can be removed by site administrators.	None apparent.	Users may be warned or banned if they break site rules.	None apparent.	None apparent.
User Comments:	Yes - registration required.	Yes – registration required.	Yes – registration required.	Yes – registration required. Also the ability to rate torrent quality on a scale 1-5.	Yes – registration required. Also the ability to rate torrents on a scale 1-5.
Categories:	Anime (series) Books Games (platform) Movies (genre) Music (genre) Other Pictures Software (platform) TV Shows (series)	Adult (medium and genre) Applications (purpose or platform) Assorted (various) Games (genre or platform) Handheld (platform or media) Latest Music (genre) Non-English (medium and language) Videos (genre)	Anime (genre) Applications (genre) Audio books (genre) Books (genre) Comics (genre) Games (genre) Miscellaneous Movies (genre) Music (genre) Music videos (genre) Pictures (genre) TV (genre)	Audio (various)* Video (various) * Games (platform) Other (various) Applications (platform) *Subcategories loosely based around <i>type</i> e.g. (music, audiobook or sound clip) but with some exceptions.	Games Movies Audio TV Apps Anime Comics Unsorted Porn

	www.mininova.org	www.torrentspy.com	www.demonoid.com	http://thepiratebay.org	http://torrentportal.com
Torrent record fields:	<p>Name Description Category IMDB or Gamez numbers (these are third party websites that catalogue films and computer games respectively) Size Requires registration (whether the tracker is private) <u>Times downloaded</u> <u>Date added</u> <u>Date changed</u></p>	<p>Name Category <u>Uploaded by</u> <u>Size</u> <u>Trackers</u> <u>Filenames</u> (of material being downloaded using bittorrent) <u>Date added</u> <u>Date refreshed</u></p>	<p>Name Description Category Quality* Language* <u>No. of comments</u> <u>Uploaded by</u> <u>Times downloaded</u> <u>Tracker</u> <u>Last seeder activity</u> (if torrent is active or not) <u>Filenames</u> <u>Date added</u></p> <p>*these are selected from choices dependent on the category.</p>	<p>Name Description Category <u>Quality</u> (see user comments) <u>Uploaded by</u> <u>Times downloaded</u> <u>No. of comments</u> <u>Filenames</u> <u>Date Added</u></p>	<p>Name Description Category <u>Rating</u> (see user comments) <u>Uploaded by</u> <u>NFO File</u> (see glossary) <u>Tracker</u> <u>Flag</u> (a flag can be applied relating to a torrent's quality, veracity or if it is password protected) <u>Filenames</u> <u>Date added</u></p>
Search functions:	<p>Boolean „NOT operator available, „AND is automatically applied. Wildcards applied automatically. Phrase searching available. Results can be sorted by many of the fields above.</p>	<p>Boolean „NOT operator available, „AND is automatically applied. Some stop-words used. Phrase searching and wildcards available.</p>	<p>Boolean „NOT operator available, „AND is automatically applied. Phrase searching and wildcards available. Can also filter on whether seeded or if the tracker is external (not run by the website) or not.</p>	<p>All Boolean operators available. Proximity searching, truncation, wildcards, phrase searching and „fuzzy searching available. Results can be sorted by some fields.</p>	<p>All Boolean operators available. Truncation and phrase searching available. Some stop-words used. Results can be sorted and filtered according to some fields.</p>
Community:	<p>Associated blog, forums and IRC (chat) channel.</p>	<p>Forums.</p>	<p>Personal messaging, forums and IRC (chat) channel.</p>	<p>Blog.</p>	<p>Personal messaging, forums and IRC (chat) channel.</p>
Other:	<p>RSS feed for new torrents. „Searchcloud feature - displays most popular searches in graphical format.</p>	<p>RSS feed.</p>	<p>Automatically records download to upload ratios. „Freeloaders can be banned. RSS feed.</p>	<p>RSS feed.</p>	<p>RSS feed. Also indexes torrent information from other websites. Links to related torrents displayed on record page.</p>

4.13 Specialised bittorrent Sites

	www.filmp3.org	www.legaltorrents.com	http://tlm-project.org	www.gameupdates.org	www.xTVi.com
Membership:	Registration required to view or download torrents. Only designated users can upload material.	Public to download. Torrent files and information are provided by site owners.	Public to download. Select users alone can upload torrent files at present.	Public to download. Registration required to upload.	Public to download and upload.
Documentation:	FAQ covering site policies and some technical issues, mostly not site-specific.	Single link to external page regarding bittorrent in general.	Wiki document in development but is very sparse at present.	FAQ covering site policies and some technical issues, mostly not site-specific.	FAQ covering some site-specific information and a lot of general bittorrent issues.
Upload Guidelines:	Must be genuine scene releases (see glossary) and less than seven days old.	N/A	N/A	None.	Should be correctly named and relevant material.
Moderated:	Through using trusted users to upload. Users can be banned and torrents removed by assigned moderators.	Material exclusively uploaded by site owners.	Material exclusively uploaded by site owners.	Through using trusted users to upload. Users can be banned and torrents removed by assigned moderators.	Users can be banned from uploading by checking their IP address.
User Comments:	Yes – registration required.	External links to forum topics on a few of the torrents listed.	No.	Yes – registration required.	In the forms of a ,problems reported field – see below.
Categories:	A total of 29 categories, all consisting of different genres of music (blues, country, jazz etc.) with the exception of one for music videos and one for movie soundtracks.	Latest Movies Games Books Audiobooks Music Netlabel music	Three main categories – distributions, kernels and applications. Each has a many-tiered directory structure in place, where different organisations and versions typically determine different subdirectories.	Addons Beta Demo / Trials Free Games Maps Misc / Other Models / Skins Mods Movies Server Update / patch	Over 90 different categories each relating to a different television series.

	www.filmp3.org	www.legaltorrents.com	http://tlm-project.org	www.gameupdates.org	www.xTVi.com
Torrent record fields:	Name Description Category <u>Times downloaded</u> <u>Times page viewed</u> <u>Last seeder activity</u> (if torrent is active or not) <u>Date added</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Description</u> <u>Times downloaded</u> <u>Keywords</u> <u>External link (to official page for material if it exists)</u> <u>Date added</u>	<u>Name</u> Category is determined to an extent by its position within the directory structure.	Name Description Category <u>Uploaded by</u> <u>No. of comments</u> <u>Date added</u>	Name Category <u>Tracker</u> <u>Filenames</u> <u>Date added</u> <u>Problems reported</u> (any user can choose to add to this field from a wide range of choices)
Search functions:	Boolean „OR is applied automatically. „NOT or „AND operators unavailable. Wildcards applied automatically. Results displayed by relevance based on occurrences of search terms in records.	No search facility on the website. The torrents and descriptions are listed on a static page.	No separate search facility is on the website although a Google add-in allows users to use Google to search the website.	Boolean „AND applied automatically. „NOT operator also available. Wildcards automatically applied. Results can be sorted according to some fields.	Boolean „AND applied automatically. „NOT operator also available. Wildcards automatically applied. Results displayed by relevance based on occurrences of search terms in records.
Community:	Personal messaging and forums.	None.	Forums and webchat feature.	Forums.	None.
Other:	Deals with music-related content only. RSS feed. Several categories of user, based on the data uploaded and contributions to the community and website. Higher category users have more privileges and rights. Standard users have a waiting period on each new torrent file before they can download it, other users do not.	Deals with Creative Commons-licensed material only.	Deals with LINUX software only.	Deals with computer game related material only.	Deals with video material originally shown on television only. RSS feed.

4.14 Bittorrent websites that use external data

	http://isohunt.com (see note following the table)	www.bittorrent.com	www.torrentz.com
Membership:	Public to download. Registered users can create new torrent information in addition to that already harvested from other sites.	Public to download and upload torrents. Also indexes information from other sites.	Public to download. All information is indexed from other sites.
Documentation:	FAQ relating to the site's mission, general technical issues and site-specific queries. It also links to more detailed information in forum threads.	In-depth support pages, largely not site-specific. Questions can be posted for a support team.	Brief instructions on searching and a blog displaying site news.
Upload Guidelines:	No duplicating of existing records – records should be grouped correctly.	None.	N/A
Moderated:	None apparent.	None apparent.	N/A
User Comments:	For release records – registration required.	No.	No.
Categories:	Video / Movies TV Audio Music Video Games Apps Pics Anime Comics Books Misc. Unclassified	Video Audio Applications ISO	When a torrent from another site is indexed, the category from that site is recorded as a text field. As such categories vary according to the originating site.

	http://isohunt.com (see note following the table)	www.bittorrent.com	www.torrentz.com
Torrent record fields:	(releases) Name Keywords Category Description Review rating Product link NFO link Misc link Other peer-to-peer links <u>Rating</u> (determined by user votes) <u>Date added</u>	(torrents) Name Description Category Filenames <u>Tracker</u> <u>Date added</u>	Name Description Category Filenames <u>Originating site</u> <u>Date Added</u>
Search functions:	All Boolean operators available. Truncation, wildcards, stop-words and phrase searching are all available. Results can be sorted by some fields.	All Boolean operators available. Truncation, wildcards, stop-words and phrase searching are all available. Results can be sorted by some fields.	Boolean operators „AND and „OR available. Wildcards applied automatically. Results can be sorted by some fields.
Community:	Personal messaging, forums and IRC (chat) channel.	None.	Blog.
Other:	„Search zeitgeist lists most popular search terms. See also accompanying note.	Official bittorrent website.	When viewing torrent details it displays records with similar keywords.

Note regarding the organisation of information on <http://isohunt.org> -

This website differs notably from the other torrent sites, as while uses two sets of connected records, releases and torrents. Release records are created by users and contain information regarding one particular item (e.g. a film or application). Torrent records are either created within a release record by users or, as in most cases, harvested from other websites. A release record can contain any number of torrents and users can assign additional, harvested torrents to an already existing release record.

The same search facility on the website allows users to search for both the release records and the torrent information and hence there are two sets of entries within the „Torrent record fields row. The release record is that entered by website users while the torrent record is data harvested from other sites.

4.2 Content analysis results of user-created metadata

4.21 Introduction

The data used for analysis was collected from the website www.mininova.org on the 24th of July at 12.00pm (BST). The sample consisted of all the torrent information entered onto the site by users in the twenty-four hours prior to this – a total of 935 in all.

Users entering new torrent information onto the website are required to enter two fields, the name (up to 100 characters) and the category (selected from a list). A further, non-mandatory, description field (up to 65,535 characters) was available to users to include further information. The name and description fields were used for the purpose of coding the data.

4.22 List of metadata elements identified:

Bitrate (audio): The number of bits per second of audio material. A higher bitrate usually means higher quality and larger file sizes.

Codec (video): „Compressor/Decompression algorithm – affects the compatibility, size, quality and available features of the video file.

Copy-protection (software): The status of the copy-protection of the software. This included mentions of any means to circumvent such protection.

Date (all): Information relating to when the material was originally produced.

External link (all): If an external link was provided that lead *directly* to a webpage that gave more information about the material.

File format (software / video): The file type or extension.

Format (audio): Information relating to the material's file format or codec. In the case of audio material, it was decided to combine the two as one indicates the other; files using the extension mp3 use the mp3 codec for example.

Genre (audio / video): The particular genre(s) that the material belonged to.

Language (all): Whether mention was made as to the material's language, including subtitles for video content and if multilingual audio streams were available.

Non-technical review of material (all): This category is for non-technical descriptions of the material, usually fulfilling the purpose of a review or abstract. In the case of software torrents, however, this was extended to include instructions on how to install or system requirements. The distinction between subjective or critical assessments and objective descriptions was not made as it was deemed too difficult to accurately gauge. Where descriptions contained items of metadata that fell in other categories (date or publisher for instance) it was also coded. Two levels were used in the coding for this category:

- Brief; two sentences or less.
- Lengthy; more than two sentences. Often these took the form of literature directly copied from a relevant website.

People - actors (video): The on-screen appearance of any person, including presenters, guests, comedians and actors.

People - non-actors (video): Contributors to the video material who did not appear on-screen, such as directors, animators and writers etc.

Platform (software): The type of computer system that the software runs on.

Publisher (software): The company which distributed the software or the software house that wrote the program.

Source (audio / video): The original source of the material, such as a commercially released CD, an illegal bootleg or a high-definition TV recording.

Release group (all): A group of people working to release new, usually illegal material onto internet. This does not include any other bittorrent sites, although they may be used by groups to distribute material.

Running time (audio / video): The total time taken for audio or video material to play.

Title (all): All of the data collected contained a title; a label used to uniquely identify the material. This category was not analysed for accuracy or ambiguity as it was felt a more substantial knowledge would be required of the material referred to in each torrent. In the case of audio material, names of recording artists were assumed to be part of this title.

Torrent website (all): Reference to another bittorrent site, either in the form of a hyperlink or an abbreviation.

Track-list (audio): A list of the individual tracks on the audio material.

Version (software): The version number (or date if applicable) of the software.

Video specification (video): Technical details as to the video material such as frames-per-second, resolution or bitrate. Information as to the codec used is recorded separately.

4.23 Results of the entire metadata set:

Use of the torrent description field:

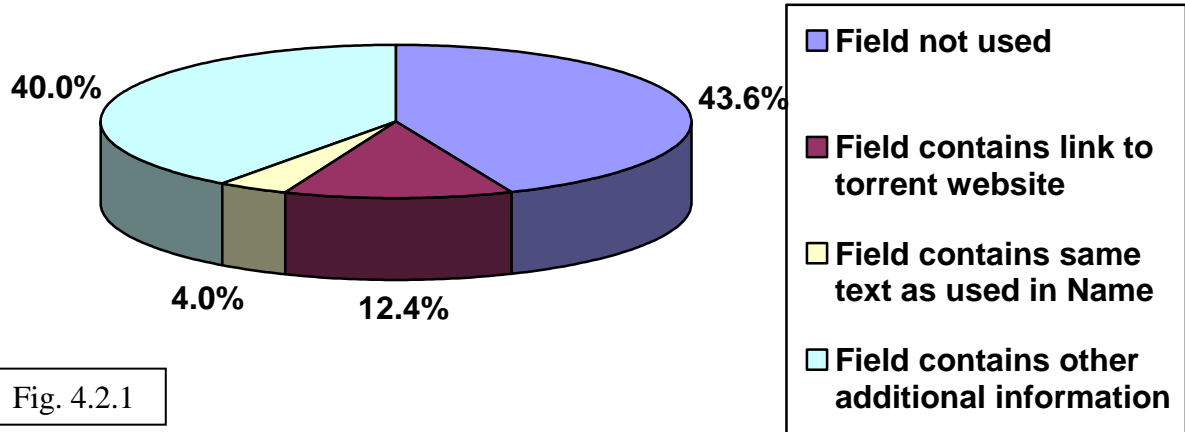


Fig. 4.2.1

Contents of description field:	Left blank	Same text as name field	Link to other torrent site	Other additional information	Total:
Frequency:	408	37	116	374	935
Percentage:	43.6%	4.0%	12.4%	40.0%	100%

Non-technical review of material:

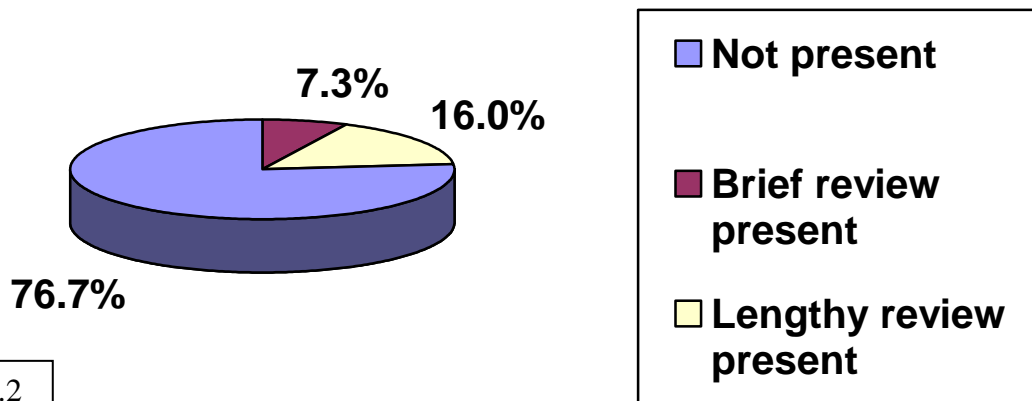
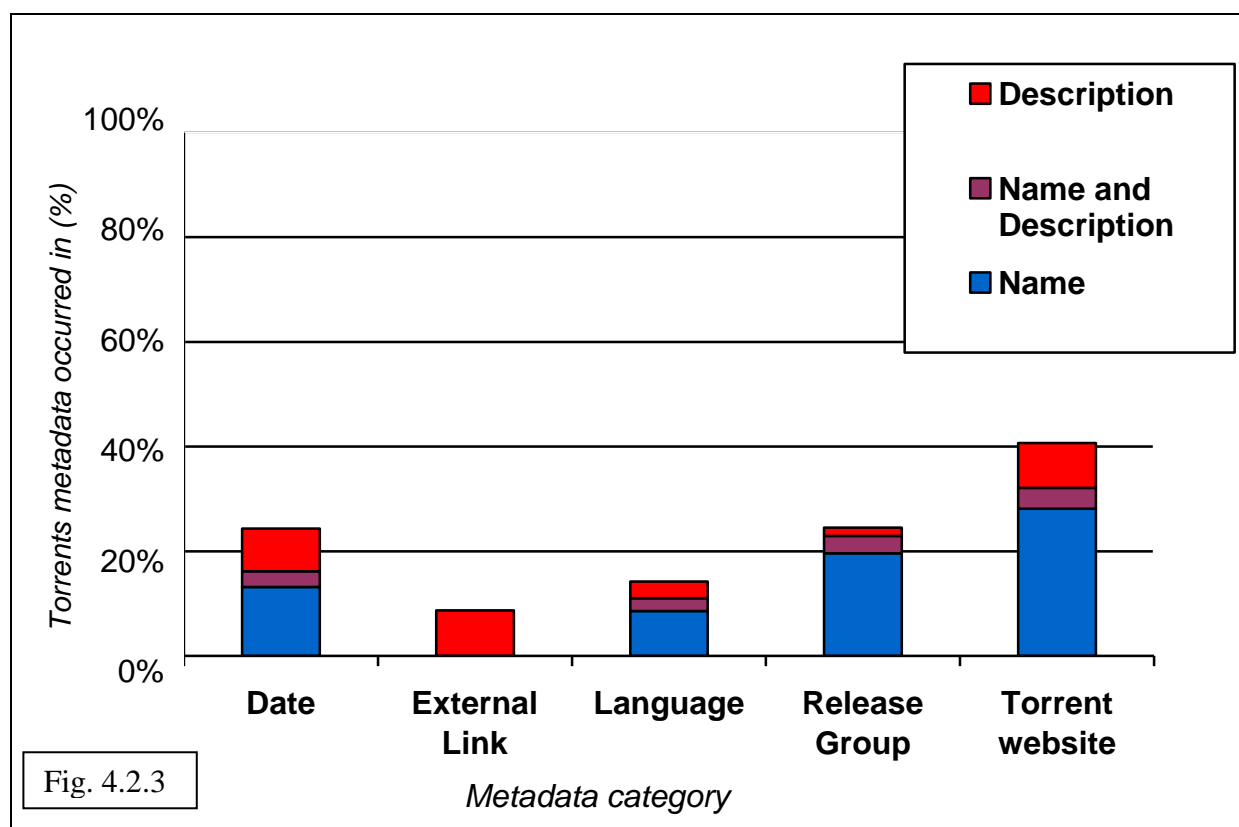


Fig. 4.2.2

Non-technical review:	Not present	Brief review present in description field:	Lengthy review present in description field:	Total:
Frequency:	717	68	150	935
Percentage:	76.7%	7.3%	16.0%	100%

Occurrences of other metadata applicable to all torrent types:



Metadata element present in:		Name field only:	Name and Description field:	Description field only:	No field:	Totals:
Date	Frequency:	123	28	76	708	935
	Percentage:	13.2%	3%	8.1%	75.7%	100%
External link	Frequency:	0	0	81	854	935
	Percentage:	0%	0%	8.7%	91.3%	100%
Language ²	Frequency:	80	22	30	776	935
	Percentage:	8.6%	2.4%	3.2%	83%	100%
Release group	Frequency:	183	31	15	706	935
	Percentage:	19.6%	3.3%	1.6%	75.5%	100%
Torrent website	Frequency:	263	37	80	555	935
	Percentage:	28.1%	4%	8.6%	59.4%	100%

² Twenty-seven (2.9%) of the torrents looked at were described in non-English languages. Although it might be assumed that the material was therefore in that such language, unless there was evidence apparent that this was explicitly stated they were categorised as having language metadata present in no field.

Types of torrent material:

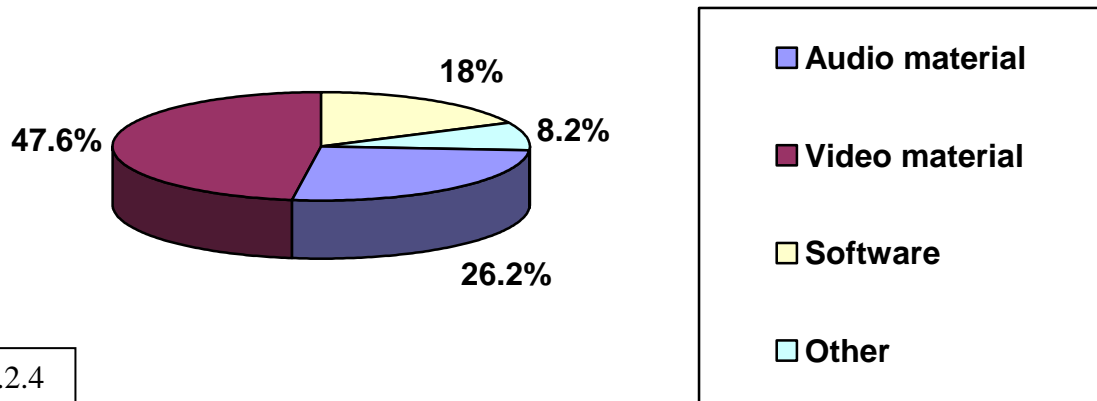
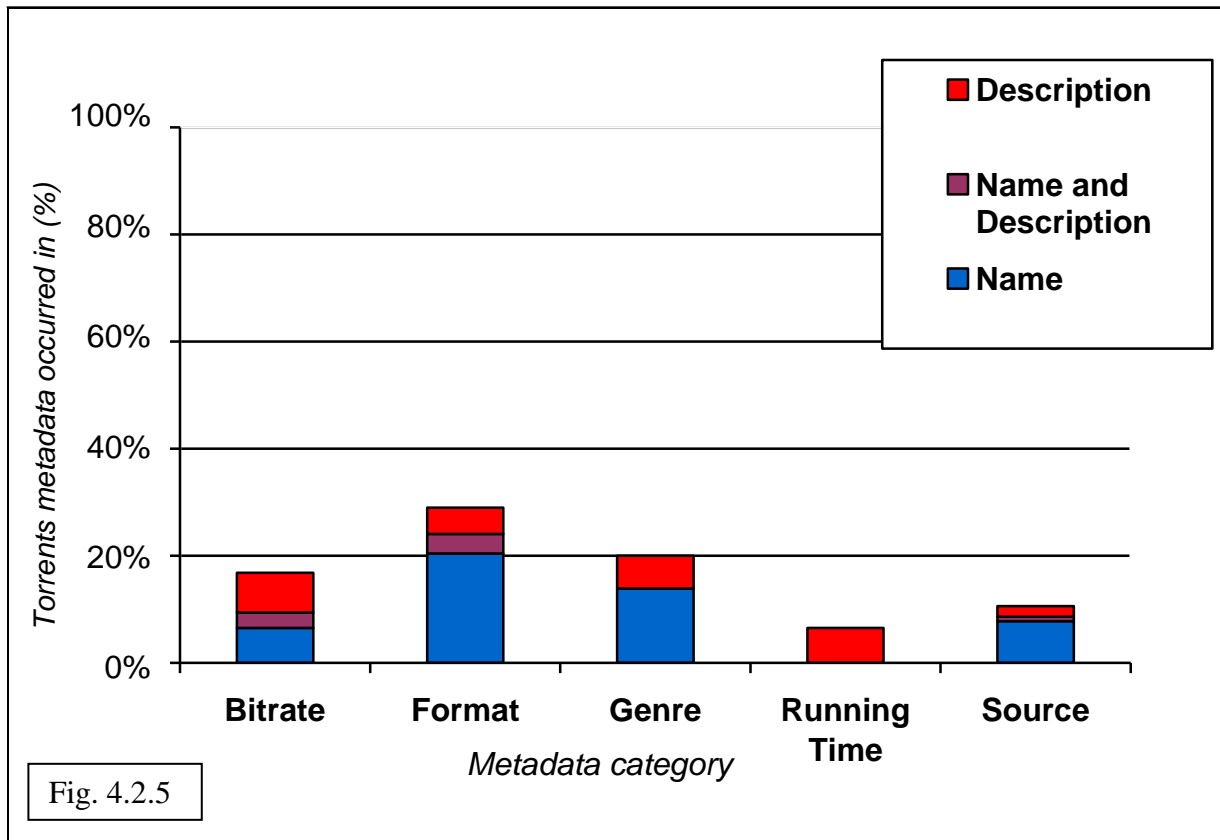


Fig. 4.2.4

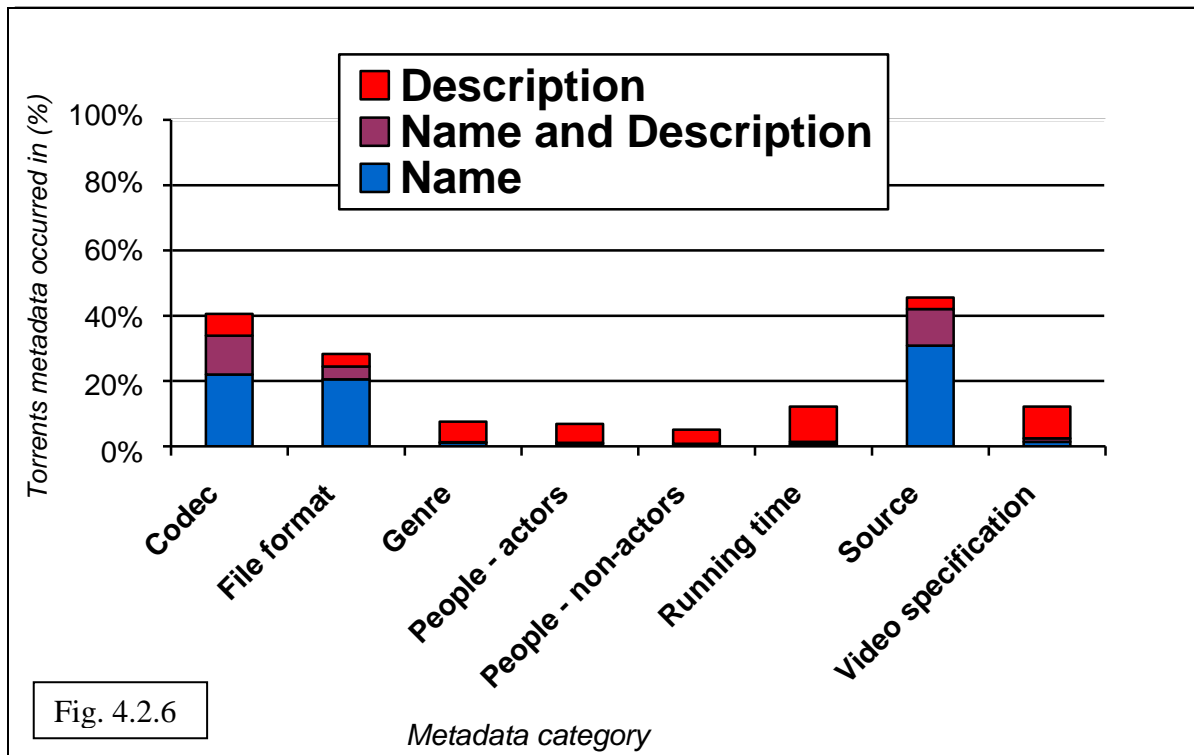
Type of torrent material:	Audio material	Video material	Software	Other
Frequency:	245	445	168	77
Percentage:	26.2%	47.6%	18%	8.2%

4.24 Results of the audio material metadata subset:



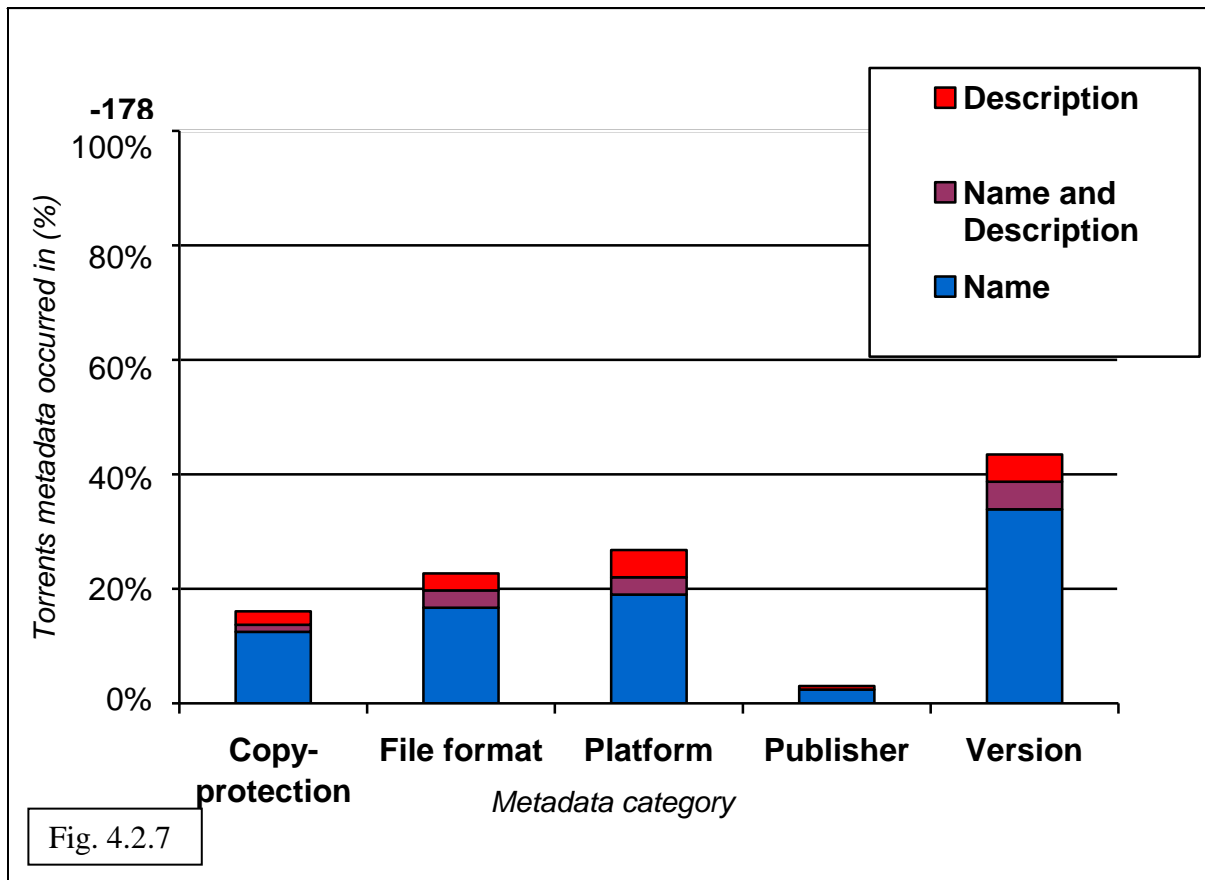
Metadata element present in:		Name field only:	Name and Description field:	Description field only:	No field:	Totals:
Bitrate	Frequency:	16	7	18	204	245
	Percentage:	6.5%	2.9%	7.4%	83.3%	100%
Format	Frequency:	50	9	12	174	245
	Percentage:	20.4%	3.7%	4.9%	71.0%	100%
Genre	Frequency:	34	0	15	196	245
	Percentage:	13.9%	0%	6.1%	80%	100%
Running time	Frequency:	0	0	16	229	245
	Percentage:	0%	0%	6.5%	93.5%	100%
Source	Frequency:	19	2	5	219	245
	Percentage:	7.8%	0.8%	2%	89.4%	100%

4.25 Results of the video material metadata subset:



Metadata element present in:		Name field only:	Name and Description field:	Description field only:	No field:	Totals:
Codec	Frequency:	98	53	30	264	445
	Percentage:	22.0%	11.9%	6.7%	59.3%	100%
File format	Frequency:	91	18	17	319	445
	Percentage:	20.5%	4.0%	3.8%	71.7%	100%
Genre	Frequency:	5	1	28	411	445
	Percentage:	1.1%	0.2%	6.3%	92.3%	100%
People - actors	Frequency:	4	1	26	414	445
	Percentage:	0.9%	0.2%	5.8%	93.0%	100%
People - non-actors	Frequency:	2	2	19	422	445
	Percentage:	0.4%	0.4%	4.3%	94.8%	100%
Running time	Frequency:	3	3	48	391	445
	Percentage:	0.7%	0.7%	10.8%	87.9%	100%
Source	Frequency:	137	50	16	242	445
	Percentage:	30.8%	11.2%	3.6%	54.4%	100%
Video specification	Frequency:	6	5	43	391	445
	Percentage:	1.4%	1.1%	9.7%	87.9%	100%

4.26 Results of the software metadata subset:



Metadata element present in:		Name field only:	Name and Description field:	Description field only:	No field:	Totals:
Copy-protection	Frequency:	21	2	4	141	168
	Percentage:	12.5%	1.2%	2.4%	83.9%	100%
File format	Frequency:	28	5	5	130	168
	Percentage:	16.7%	3%	3%	77.4%	100%
Platform	Frequency:	32	5	8	123	168
	Percentage:	19.0%	3%	4.8%	73.2%	100%
Publisher	Frequency:	4	0	1	163	168
	Percentage:	2.4%	0%	0.6%	97.0%	100%
Version	Frequency:	57	8	8	95	168
	Percentage:	33.9%	4.8%	4.8%	56.6%	100%

4.27 User comment metadata:

The website studied had a user comment field for each torrent, where registered users were able to add feedback about torrents. One week after the initial data had been collected each of the torrent records in the sample was checked for any user comments. Of the 935 torrents collected initially, 805 were still present on the website and 89 had user comments.

These 89 torrents contained 227 user comments between them. All of these were examined further to see if they had positive or negative feedback regarding the technical quality of the material or the non-technical (aesthetic) quality of the material. The results are as follows:

Negative technical comments:	45	(19.8% of total user comments)
Positive technical comments:	11	(4.8% of total user comments)
Negative non-technical comments:	7	(3.1% of total user comments)
Positive non-technical comments:	14	(6.2% of total user comments)
Other comments:	150	(66.1% of total user comments)

4.3 User questionnaire results:

The questionnaire was made available on the website www.questionpro.com in the first three weeks of August 2006. It was promoted on a total of sixteen different bittorrent related forums and two newsgroups. A total of 215 people completed the survey during this time.

Question One:

When did you start using bittorrent?

Less than three months ago	5 – 2.3%
Three to six months ago	9 – 4.2%
Six months to one year ago	28 – 13%
One to two years ago	79 – 36.7%
More than two years ago	94 – 43.7%

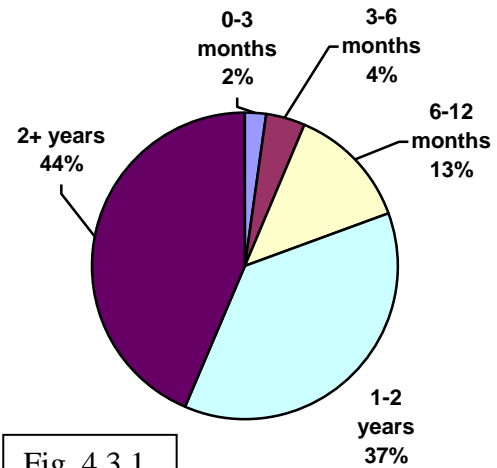


Fig. 4.3.1

Question Two:

On average, how many torrent files would you say you download each week?

One or less	15 – 7%
Two	24 – 11.2%
Three	19 – 8.8%
Four	14 – 6.5%
Five or more	143 – 66.5%

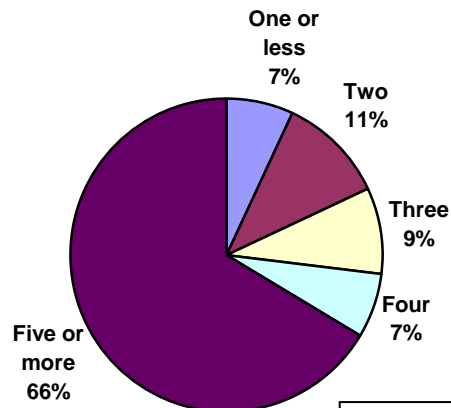


Fig. 4.3.2

Question Three:

Do you use any other peer-to-peer applications for sharing files?

Yes	112 – 52.1%
No	103 – 47.9%

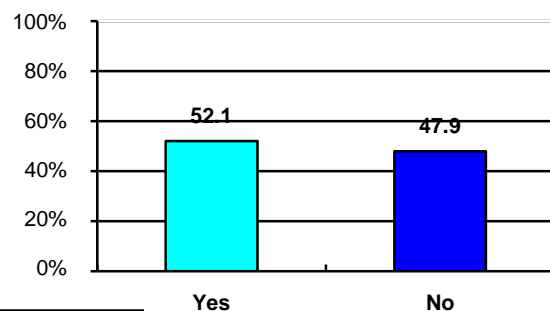


Fig. 4.3.3

Question Four:

How do you find your torrents?

(Respondents choose from five available choices the following scale:

1. Very rarely or not at all
2. Not often
3. Occasionally
4. Quite Often
5. Very frequently

	1	2	3	4	5	Std. Dev.	Mean
I use a ,regular internet search engine. (e.g. Google or Yahoo)	139 64.7%	37 17.2%	24 11.2%	3 1.4%	12 5.6%	1.1	1.66
I use a bittorrent internet search engine that indexes torrents from different bittorrent websites. (e.g. www.bittorrent.com or www.isohunt.com)	18 8.4%	22 10.2%	65 30.2%	45 20.9%	65 30.2%	1.25	3.54
I use a bittorrent website deals with a variety of different types of material. (e.g. http://thepiratebay.org or www.mininova.org)	5 2.3%	13 6.0%	29 13.5%	57 26.5%	111 51.6%	1.04	4.19
I use a bittorrent website that deals with a specific type of material. (e.g. a site that deals only with software or only with music)	32 14.9%	28 13.0%	33 15.3%	31 14.4%	91 42.3%	1.50	3.56
I find torrents through using RSS feeds or email notifications from a website.	147 68.4%	22 10.2%	17 7.9%	5 2.3%	24 11.2%	1.35	1.78
Another user sends torrents to me or sends me a link to them.	159 74.0%	27 12.6%	22 10.2%	5 2.3%	2 0.9%	1.44	1.44

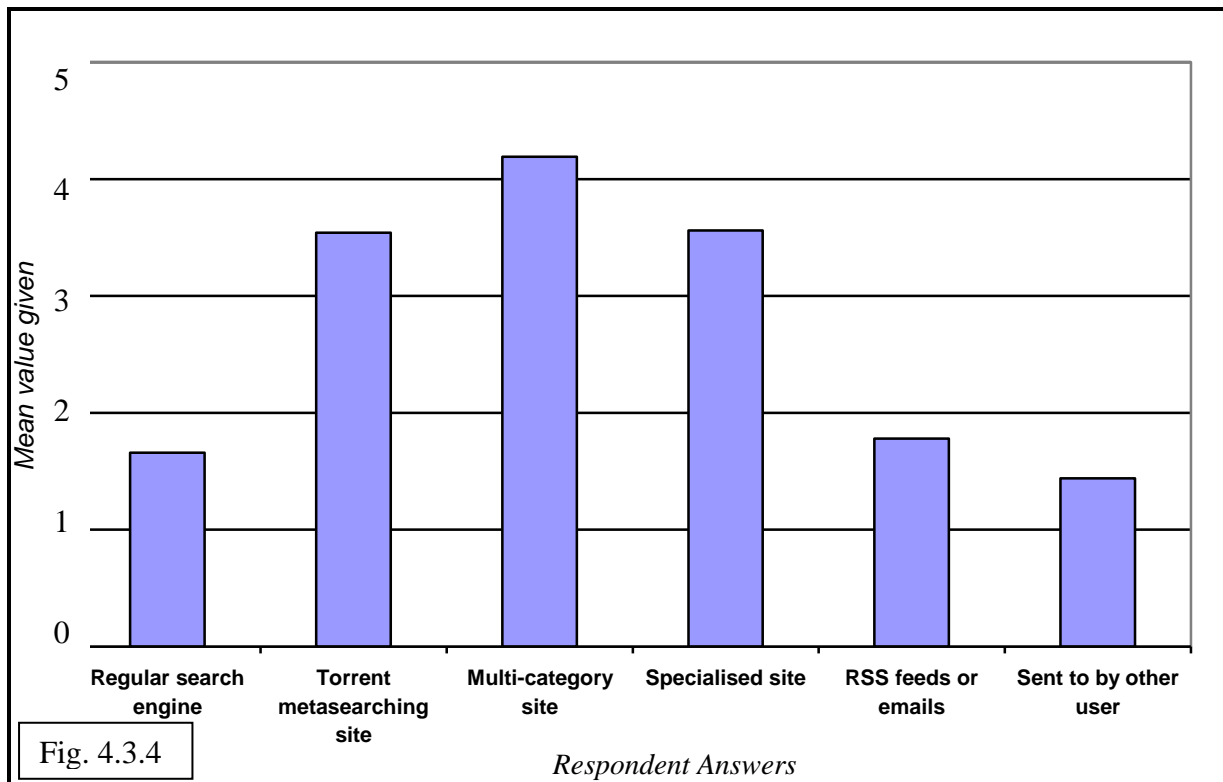


Fig. 4.3.4

Respondent Answers

If you use another method or methods to locate torrents please describe them briefly here: (Respondents answer in empty text field)

A total of fourteen respondents answered.

Seven indicated they used private bittorrent sites or trackers.

Three found torrents through forum communities.

Two listed addresses of specific torrent websites they used.

One respondent stated they found links to torrents regularly through blogs.

One respondent used a standalone program named Torrent Harvester.

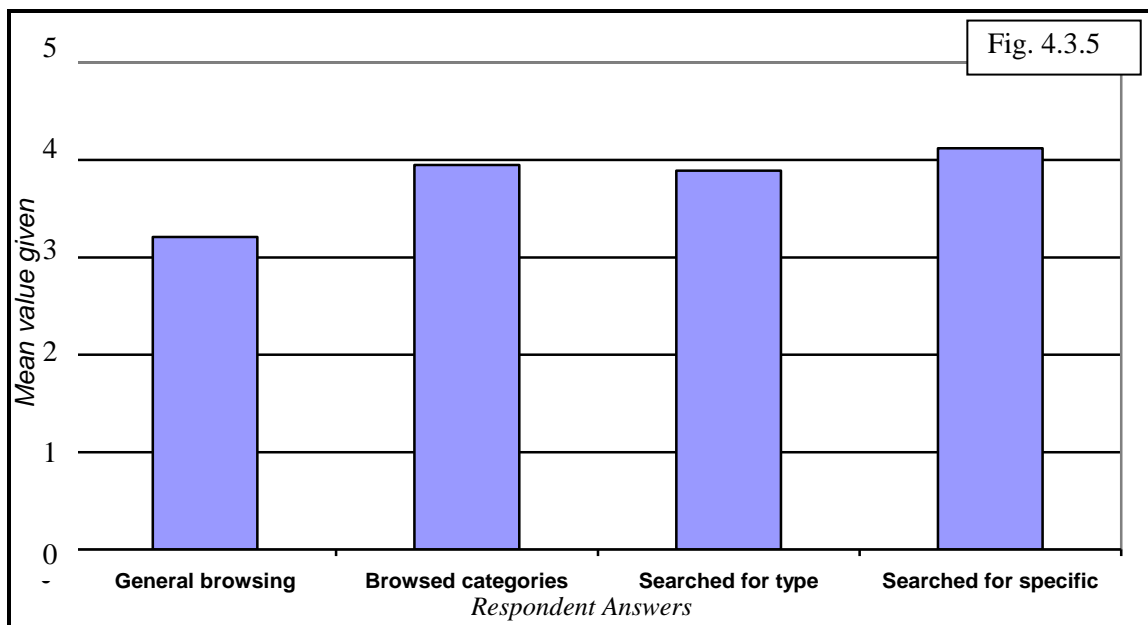
Question five:

Please consider the torrents you have used in the past and indicate how often the statements below have applied to you.

(Respondents choose from five available choices the following scale:

1. Very rarely or not at all
2. Not often
3. Occasionally
4. Quite Often
5. Very frequently)

	1	2	3	4	5	Std. Dev.	Mean
I have come across torrents while generally browsing torrent websites and then downloaded them if they interested me.	27 12.6%	29 13.5%	63 29.3%	63 29.3%	33 15.3%	1.22	3.21
Il have looked at specific websites or categories for torrents that interest me and then downloaded them.	8 3.7%	11 5.1%	41 19.1%	79 36.7%	76 35.3%	1.04	3.95
I have searched for torrents on a certain type of material and then downloaded them if I was successful.	8 3.7%	18 8.4%	36 16.7%	80 37.2%	73 34.0%	1.08	3.89
I have searched for a specific torrent that I know to exist or will meet specific criteria I have set.	10 4.7%	9 4.2%	29 13.5%	64 29.8%	103 47.9%	1.09	4.12



Question six:

Below are a number of statements regarding your activity on bittorrent websites. Please indicate any that you currently take part in by ticking as many as are applicable. (Check boxes available for respondents)

I create new material to share using bittorrent and distribute torrent files for them.

Responded yes: 46 – 21.4%

I create torrent files relating to already existing material.

Responded yes: 47 – 21.9%

I share existing torrent files with other websites and communities.

Responded yes: 91 – 42.3%

I post comments on existing torrents, where this feature is available.

Responded yes: 125 – 58.1%

I participate in forum discussions on bittorrent websites.

Responded yes: 118 – 54.9%

Other (respondents to answer in empty text field):

A total of fourteen respondents answered. A full set of these is available in appendix three. Answers included:

- „I am a volunteer admin on a torrent index site, and a volunteer moderator on the associated forums
- „Run a torrent forum
- „I request a torrent file when i don't found any related
- „I suggest changes where I think they would improve efficiency

Question seven:

Do you use bittorrent to download computer software (including games)? (Respondent selects yes or no. Those answering yes are directed to complete the rest of the question)

Yes: 171 – 79.5%
No: 44 – 20.5%

A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about a software torrent, in addition to the title of the software itself. **Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when evaluating and selecting a software torrent file.**

A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means is it is extremely valuable to you in choosing a torrent. **There is also a box marked 'Unsure of' – please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of	Std. Dev.	Mean
Platform (e.g. Linux / Mac / PC)	9	1	4	1	4	4	5	18	12	108	5	2.49	8.66
The version of the software	4	2	3	1	9	9	17	38	18	68	2	2.15	8.20
The language (e.g. English, Spanish etc.) of the software	2	1	3	1	7	5	6	14	24	104	4	1.91	8.93
Technical specification required for running the software	24	11	12	12	20	23	14	16	10	23	6	2.98	5.54
Information on how to install and run the software	24	10	10	16	22	16	18	20	7	23	5	2.95	5.56
The format of the software: (e.g. executable file (.exe), CD/DVD image (.iso) or compressed (.zip))	14	7	8	8	13	14	19	26	20	37	5	2.89	6.77
A description of the features available on the software	19	8	22	8	16	21	21	18	10	22	6	2.89	5.70
An external link to the software producer s homepage	46	18	34	10	17	10	12	7	3	9	5	2.68	3.77
A review of the software from the torrents creator	46	13	15	14	20	14	11	12	8	13	5	3.00	4.41
An external link to a third party review of the software	51	11	25	16	16	16	8	7	6	9	6	2.78	3.90
The year or date the software was released	23	13	13	13	24	11	19	15	11	23	6	3.00	5.50
The name of the software s developer or publisher	32	17	9	16	14	21	15	13	8	22	4	3.1	5.11
The name of the release group	24	15	11	12	19	23	13	18	12	18	6	2.95	5.40
Indication that the software is not digitally copyright protected	56	6	7	6	5	20	14	11	9	24	13	3.48	4.84

Question 8:

Do you use bittorrent to download video material? (Respondent selects yes or no. Those answering yes are directed to complete the rest of the question)

Yes: 209 – 97.2
No: 6 – 2.8%

A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about a video material torrent, in addition to the title of the video material itself. **Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when you are finding and selecting a torrent file.**

A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means is it is very valuable to you in choosing a torrent. **There is also an option marked 'Unsure of' – please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of	Std. Dev.	Mean
The file format of the video material	3	3	4	3	5	7	18	30	30	104	2	2.06	8.58
Details of the video or audio codec(s) used	7	5	13	8	11	17	19	36	32	57	4	2.58	7.43
Other technical details of the video such as resolution, aspect ratio or bit rate	9	6	5	13	21	20	27	35	28	44	1	2.52	7.09
The original source of the material (TV, DVD or digital camera for example)	3	4	2	3	6	8	15	23	46	99	0	2.03	8.61
Language or subtitle details	13	6	8	11	10	16	21	28	27	68	1	2.8	7.37
A description of the material content (as opposed to technical details)	21	11	13	11	15	24	26	33	14	38	3	2.92	6.30
An external link to a third party description of the video material: (such as an www.imdb.com entry or promotional website)	42	11	21	21	21	20	16	18	14	25	0	3.08	5.11
The type of genre the video material belongs to	32	16	20	16	34	20	20	22	10	18	1	2.83	5.12
A review of the video material from the torrents creator	62	16	20	21	20	19	11	14	12	14	0	2.98	4.25
An external link to a third party review of the video material	70	20	19	12	27	17	13	10	9	10	2	2.86	3.88
The year or date the video material was released	34	12	15	17	28	19	22	25	14	22	1	2.95	5.41
People who feature in the video material (e.g. actors, presenters, comedians)	56	18	21	15	22	15	14	23	10	15	0	3.03	4.48
People who otherwise contributed to the video material (e.g. directors, writers or animators)	72	22	23	16	16	9	14	16	10	8	3	2.90	3.78
Running time	48	17	18	9	22	17	21	18	10	27	2	3.19	5.00

Question 9:

Do you use bittorrent to download audio material? (Respondent selects yes or no. Those answering yes are directed to complete the rest of the question)

Yes: 144 – 67%
No: 71 – 33%

A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about an audio material torrent, in addition to the name of the artist and the title of the audio material itself. **Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when you are finding and selecting a torrent file.**

A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means is it is very valuable to you in choosing a torrent. **There is also an option marked 'Unsure of' – please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of	Std. Dev.	Mean
The file format or codec of the audio material	0	2	2	1	4	3	6	21	26	77	2	1.7	8.92
The bit rate of the audio material	2	1	1	1	5	5	13	29	23	62	2	1.84	8.56
The original source of the material (live recording, radio or CD for example)	2	0	5	0	7	12	9	20	23	65	0	2.06	8.42
The language of the material	19	6	6	7	12	7	8	17	11	49	2	3.31	6.76
A description of the material content (as opposed to technical details)	16	1	14	7	18	14	15	22	12	23	2	2.87	6.20
An external link to a third party description of the audio material: (such as a promotional website or listing on amazon)	47	9	17	9	13	18	9	9	5	6	2	2.83	3.98
The type of genre the audio material belongs to	22	6	12	9	18	14	12	20	7	23	1	3.05	5.71
A review of the audio material from the torrents creator	45	10	7	13	15	14	11	8	7	12	2	3.08	4.37
An external link to a third party review of the audio material	56	10	9	13	16	11	9	7	2	10	1	2.92	3.76
The year or date the audio material was released	23	6	12	7	13	14	13	22	10	22	2	3.10	5.81
The length of the recording	27	5	17	10	9	7	15	18	12	21	3	3.23	5.55

Question 10:

A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about a torrent of any type including those previously covered in this section. **Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when you are finding and selecting a torrent file.**

A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means is it is very valuable to you in choosing a torrent. **There is also a box marked 'Unsure of' – please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of	Std. Dev.	Mean
The date the torrent was uploaded / started	25	1	13	14	10	16	27	28	29	48	0	2.99	6.74
The file size of the material being shared	3	1	6	4	20	12	20	26	29	90	4	2.21	8.15
The number of users seeding the torrent	2	3	2	3	2	1	10	40	27	122	3	1.77	8.94
The number of users leeching the torrent	7	4	7	2	12	11	23	29	32	86	2	2.42	8.03
The number of times the torrent has been downloaded	21	7	23	11	24	19	30	29	13	36	2	2.87	6.11
Feedback or comments made by other torrent users	2	5	5	4	15	19	22	41	39	61	2	2.15	7.86
The website where the torrent file was first uploaded	32	13	25	12	22	32	15	16	16	29	3	3.02	5.42
The internet address of the tracker: (Assuming the tracker is one you are able to use)	25	13	20	17	19	23	18	22	15	37	6	3.04	5.83

If you use any other type of information when finding and selecting a torrent file, please enter the details in the box below:

A total of fourteen respondents answered. A full set of these is available in appendix three.

Five respondents said they used the name of the release group.
 Two people used the information of who uploaded or produced the torrent.
 One person mentioned a website-based torrent rating system.
 Three respondents made reference to other means of gauging download speed.

Question 11:

How strongly do you agree with the following statements? **Please select the option which best describes your opinion.**

(Respondents choose from five available choices the following scale:

1. Strongly disagree
2. Tend to disagree
3. Undecided
4. Tend to agree
5. Strongly agree

	1	2	3	4	5	Std. Dev.	Mean
Torrent names and descriptions are often missing important information	14 6.5%	64 29.8%	31 14.4%	83 38.6%	23 10.7%	1.16	3.17
Torrent names and descriptions often contain inaccurate information	15 7%	95 44.2%	45 20.9%	48 22.3%	12 5.6%	1.05	2.75
Torrent names and descriptions often contain a lot of irrelevant information	30 14%	79 36.7%	39 18.1%	52 24.2%	15 7%	1.18	2.73
Torrent names and descriptions often contain abbreviations, acronyms or terminology which I find hard to understand	72 33.5%	82 38.1%	22 10.2%	34 15.8%	5 2.3%	1.12	2.15

Question 12:

How often do you have difficulty locating torrents that meet your needs? Of the choices below, please select the option that best describes your experiences.

- I generally have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs 3 – 1.4%
- I often have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs 7 – 3.3%
- I sometimes have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs. 45 – 20.9%
- I rarely have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs. 102 – 47.4%
- I almost never have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs. 58 – 27.0%

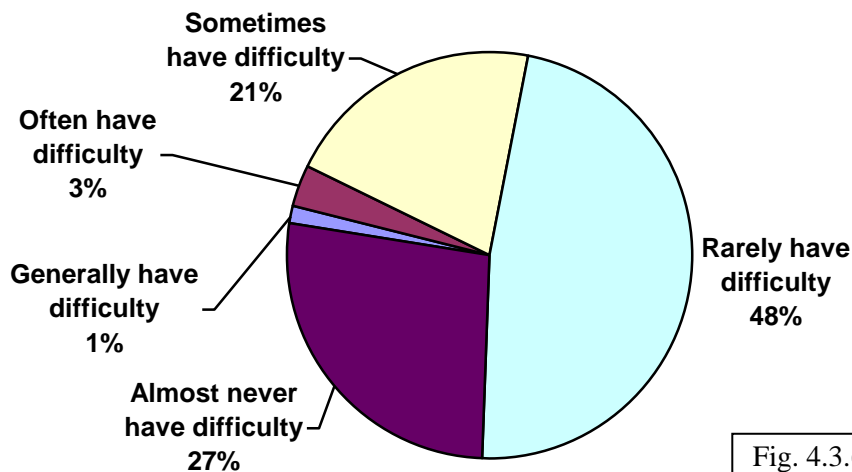


Fig. 4.3.6

Question 13:

Your help in this study is greatly appreciated. **Finally, if you have any further feedback or thoughts that may be relevant to this study, please type them into the box below.**

A total of twenty-seven respondents answered. A full set of these is available in appendix three.

Seven respondents indicated that they used private torrent websites or trackers, several citing a higher quality and reliability of metadata. One stated that on any site that allowed user comments for torrents, „bad torrents were usually flagged by users.

One believed that it was very important for torrents listed on public sites to state if they required a password or were on a private tracker. One found that external links were unimportant to them as they usually „googled material they did not have a full knowledge of anyway.

One respondent had the following to say:

“I feel that, especially since every torrent poster goes to great lengths [sic] in copying and emulating the scenes' nfo's, people want to have 'their' torrent dl'ed as much as possible. In order to do that they post as much meta data as they can, trying to lure as much people into dl'ing their torrent.

So to most people the information provided may seem a bit on the steep side but the torrent poster is merely trying to cater as big of a target group as possible.”

4.4 Further analysis of results:

Several different sets of results have been cross-tabulated for a more detailed analysis.

These are:

- Respondents answers to question one and questions eleven and twelve; seeing if there is a correlation between length of time using bittorrent and their general evaluation of torrent metadata and difficulty in finding suitable torrents.
- Respondents who indicated they created new material or new torrent files (question six) and how useful different types of metadata were found to be (questions seven to ten).
- How useful different types of metadata were found to be (questions seven to ten) compared to how often they occurred in the data retrieved from www.mininova.com (section 4.2).

Frequency tables and graphs for these can be found in appendix three.