Use of Internet by Higher National Diploma (HND) Students of Library and Information Science Students in Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Imo State Nigeria.

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Abstract

Use of internet has become a common phenomenon among undergraduates in tertiary education. The purpose of the study was to find out if Higher National Diploma (HND) students of Library and Information Science make use of Internet and their reasons for using the Internet. A self-designed questionnaire was used to obtain data. The random sampling technique was used to select sixty (60) students. Data collected was analysed using percentages. The results revealed that Higher National Diploma (HND) students of Library & Information Science make use of internet to obtain educational and research information. Their knowledge of how to use the internet tools / facilities was acquired by attending a computer school. The major constraints the students use of internet as revealed by the study are poor power supply and high fees charged by cyber-cafe and Internet Service Providers (ISP). The study concludes by recommending the integration of courses on use of internet and virtual library into the general courses offered in our tertiary institutions.

Keywords: Internet, Higher National Diploma (HND), Students, Library Science, Information Science, Imo state, Nigeria.

Introduction

With the introduction of the internet, the attention of the Nigerian students has been shifted form the use of library to the use of internet. The internet no doubt has been acclaimed to be the world reservoir of information and gateway to knowledge. The traditional encyclopedias in our libraries are gradually becoming of less value to students especially when they can access hem through the internet. The proliferation of mobile technology especially the smartphones has helped to make the internet more popular among students'. The student can now use the mobile technology to access the internet any day any time anywhere provided there are network signals on their phone. Non-availability of computer, laptop and desktop is no longer a constraint to students' use of the internet. The internet has changed the way information is published and disseminated and opened a huge opportunity to scholars from the developing world (ldowu, Idowu & Adagunode, 2004).

A critical observation of the users of libraries today revealed that 75% of users preferred using their mobile phone for research to using their library resources. They felt why bother the librarian when I can easily have access to what I am looking for on line.

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Why stress myself to search the shelves when I can easily browse with my mobile phones. One of the contributing factors to the hyper level of use of internet among student is the fact that toady mobile phones, tablets can easily open any documents because they are compatible with most formats for online documents. Opening of documents on Portable Document Files (PDF) is no longer an issue with mobile technologies. The internet as pointed out by Awoleye, Siyanbola & Oladipo (2008) has come with a revolution that cannot be compared with existing technologies that were before it.

Nigerian researchers and scholars as noted by Kamba (2008) must from traditional to modern practices in order to exploit the benefits of potentials of information technologies. The impact of the internet on the society lies in its extra ordinary potential for being all things to all people (Nwezeh, 2010). The internet has become one of the most important modes of communication and its services are being exploited by people in every walk of life such as business, education, defense, medical etc. (Singh, 2001).

One of the greatest recent advancement in the world of information technology is the internet and has becomes useful instrument that has fostered the process of turning the world into a global village (Ureigho, Oroke & Ekruyota, 2006). The use of the internet has become the norm in this age of information and communication technology (ICT) (Ilo & Ifijeh, 2010). And it's use is gradually becoming popular in Nigerian. The internet no doubt has brought tremendous changes to the society and the world at large. The internet is no longer a luxury or at the monopoly of the developed countries. It is slowly spreading in African campuses and connectivity is available in every African country (Omotayo & Fadehan).

The internet is having a powerful impact in our society, but its role in education is just beginning to be developed in many parts of the world (Hassan & Jacob, 2012). The internet provides a wealth of information in any subject field and student are using the internet increasingly and it occupies an important place among various information sources (Mostofa, 2011).

What is the Internet?

The internet is the greatest exponent of information revolution and is now a main sources of, and main channel for vital information (Nwezeh, 2010). The internet has been described as a "*sea of information*" containing texts which are not housed between library or bookshop walls and subject areas span across all filed of knowledge (Ureigho, Oroke, & Ekruyota, 2006). The internet is one of the recent advancement in the world of technology and it became useful instrument that has fostered process of making the world a global village (Buhari, 2013).

The internet is a platform that serves as global reservoir of knowledge for researcher and students to share common knowledge in a diverse way, they have often taken advantage of the virtual library to publish, interact and share findings (Hassan & Jacob, 2012). The internet has emerged has arguably the most visible component of the dynamic development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) (Idowu, Idowu & Adagunodo, 2004).

The internet is referred to as an ocean of information and knowledge which is now globally used in every facet of human endeavour (Adegbija, Bola & Ogunsola, 2012). The internet has become a universal library where books, journal articles and other material can be sourced right within the confines of individuals' homes in any part of the globe (Amassoma, Ayanda & Tijani, 2010.

Benefits of the Internet to Students

The internet offers the largest reservoir of vital information in the world (Nwezeh, 2010). The internet according to Adomi (2007) is very important to Nigerian university students in helping them to have access to timely, accurate and relevant information.

The internet provides several opportunities for the academia (Ureigho, Oroke & Ekruyota, 2006). The use of the internet (if maximized) plays a major role in helping undergraduate access large number of materials from different part of the globe (Ilo & Ifijeh, 2010). The adoption of the internet in Nigeria has leverage access to information and communication by providing an un-reserved access to e-mail messages, web boards, online services, e-publication and so on (Anyiria & Nwabueze, 2011).

Buhari (2013) citing Odum & Ofre (2012) notes that internet provides many benefits to its users, including access to information from distant databases that can be studied to improve knowledge. The internet has enabled or accelerates new forms of human interactions through internet messaging, internet forums, and social networking (Hassan & Jacob, 2012). Internet facilities help to connect learners, teachers' educator, scholar, researcher, scientist artists and industrialists/individuals who enrich learning process (Ogunlade, et al, 2013). Internet will continued to play an important role in transforming higher education itself just as the universities have contributed in remarkable way generating technologies in ICT, life sciences, and biotechnology (Idowu, Idowu & Adagunodo, 2004).It allows for collaborative learning, multi-media learning experiences, and in general, it address national learning intelligence of students (Hassan & Jacob, 2010).

According to Awoleye, Siyanbola & Oladipo (2008), the student in their response indicate that the internet when put to proper use offers a great number of benefits as it helps them to search for more information on a particular subject, provide avenues to contact relatives and friends, widens knowledge and gives information in education, politics and social events. Internet has changed the method of acessing and using information and research activities and as well introduced mew concept of the technology process and its recasting the roles played by the participant of the education process (Mostofa, 2011)

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

    i.   To find out if Higher National Diploma (HND) students of library and information science makes use of internet tools / facilities.
    ii. To determine their reasons for using of internet tools / facilities
    iii. To establish the frequency with which they use the internet
    iv. To investigate their knowledge of how to use the internet was acquired
    v.   To identify the factors affecting their use of internet tools / facilities
    vi. To make possible recommendations as solution to the identified problems.

Literature Review

Salaam & Adegbore (2010) in their study of internet access and use by students of private universities in Ogun State revealed that internet facilities are available in all the private universities studied, however, access to the internet facilities in these institutions is not free, they further revealed that use of internet is hindered by an irregular power supply. Ureigho, Oroke & Ekruyota (2006) in their study on the impact of internet usage revealed that the present state and level of utilization of the internet is still very low in tertiary institutions in Delta state.

Adegbija, Bola & Ogunsola (2012) in their study of availability and utilization of internet facilities by post-graduate students in Federal Universities of southwest, Nigeria revealed that internet facilities are available in most of the university libraries except the post-graduate students hostels and the results on the utilization of the internet facilities showed that most of the respondent very often (83.4) and often (80.4%) used some internet facilities such as the search engines and e-mails. Salaam & Adegbore (2010) in their study of internet access and use by students of private universities in Ogun State Nigeria, revealed that internet facilities are available in all the private universities studies.

Buhari (2013) in his study on internet access and use by academic staff and students in a Nigerian Polytechnic revealed that both staff and students use the internet for research purposes, that the most frequently used places for accessing the internet by respondent are the private internet café. He concluded that the inadequacy of internet facilities in departments and colleges of the institution was responsible for patronizing the private internet café by both academic staff and student. Ogunlade, Fagbola, Ogunlade & Amosa (2013) in their study revealed that 80% of the respondents had a positive attitude towards the use of internet facilities and they believe internet facilities could generally provide better learning experience. Owoyemi & Abayomi (2013) in their study of internet usage by lecturers in Nigerian institution of higher learning showed that seven factors determine and influence the usage of internet among lecturers in the higher institutions in Nigerian and out of these factors, web-designing, travelling, entertainment and online purchase exhibit the greatest variability, other identified factors are scholarship, employment and research.

Ogunkunle & Fomsi (2010) in their study revealed that only 32% of the lecturers access the internet at home and use it for research at work and the major constraints lecturers have are irregular electric power supply and lack of access to internet facilities especially in their offices. Awoleye, Siyanbola & Oladipo (2008) in their study focused on the level of penetration of internet usage among undergraduate students in Nigerian using Obafemi Awolowo University as case study and results showed that about 92% of undergraduate students have embraced the internet and are using it consistently. Ojo (2013) in his study of the use of internet facilities among the tertiary institution students discovered that most of the sites visited by the students were not academic website and that they spend many hours on the websites that are not educationally productive.

Nwezeh (2010) in his study observed that in most of the cafes, poor signal remains a service problem to their users despite the fact that most of the cafes open for 24 hours each day. He further identified costs of services, inadequate physical facilities, and cost of equipment, maintenance and supplier, as well as poor management as impediments to the use on internet in cyber cafes. Idowu, Idowu & Adagunodo (2004) in their study revealed that students in Nigerian find it difficult to combine the rigours of academic work with the use of internet and epileptic power supply affects student use of internet

Methodology

Student of Federal Polytechnic Nekede formed the population for this study. Only students from the Library School were sampled. The students at the Higher National Diploma (HND) level were chosen because as Library and Information professionals – to –be, they are expected to be conversant with the reality of internet tools / facilities. A self- designed questionnaire was used to collect data. The study was conducted in 2012 / 2013 session. The questionnaire was administered personally during lecture time. The generated data was analyzed using simple frequency counts and percentages

Table I: Use of Internet

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	35	62.5
No	21	37.5
Total	56	100

Table I shows that 35(62.5%) of the student under study make use of internet, while 21(37.5%) do not make use of internets.

Findings therefore show that Higher National Diploma (HND) students of the department of library and information science do make use of internet.

Table II: Reason for Using Internet

Reasons for Using Internet	Frequency	Percentage
To obtain educational and research information	31	88.6
To watch film	4	11.4
To watch pornographic films	-	-
To engage in cyber crime (419)	-	-
To listen to news	12	34.3
Communication and chatting	17	48.6

Table II shows that 31(88.6%) of the students that makes use of internet use it for educational and research information; 4(11.4%) use it to watch film, 12(34.3%) use it to listen to news while 17(48.6%) use it for communication and chatting.

Findings therefore show that HND students use the internet mainly for obtaining educational and research information.

Table III: Frequency of Use of Internet

Frequency of Use of Internet	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	12	34.3
Once a week	12	34.3
Twice a week	11	31.4
Monthly	-	-
Irregular interval	10	28.6
Others, please specify	-	-

Table III shows that 12(34.3%) of the respondents use the internet on daily basis and once a week, 11(31.4%) use the internet twice a week, 10(28.6%) use it on irregular intervals.

Findings clearly show that the students use the internet when the need for it arises.

Table IV: How Knowledge of Using the Internet Was Acquired

	Frequency	Percentage
Through a friend	8	23
Attending computer school	26	74.3
Conferences and seminars	4	11.4
Trial and error method	4	11.4
Other, please specify	-	-

From table IV above, 8(23%) learnt how to use the internet through a friend; 26(74.3%) indicates that they attended computer school; 4(11.4%) indicated conferences and seminars while 4(11.4%) use the trial and error method

Findings clearly shows that majority of the students learnt how to use the internet by attending computer school.

Table V: Factors Affecting the Use of Internet by Students+

Factors Affecting the Use of Internet by Students	Frequency	Percentage
Power supply (electricity)	20	57.1
Lack of training on use of internet	16	45.7
High fees charged	19	54.3
Information does not suit local needs	-	-
Problem of locating websites	8	2
Poor quality services by ISP/cybercafés	16	45.7
Poor infrastructural facilities (telephone etc)	16	17.1
Manpower problem	6	17.1
Pollution of environment by radioactive	9	25.7
Others	-	-

From table V, 20(57.1%) indicates power supply as a factor, 16(45.7%) and 19(54.3%) indicates lack of training on use of internet and high fees charged respectively as a factor affecting use of internet. Also 8(23%) indicates problem of locating websites, 16(45.7%) indicates poor quality services by ISP/cybercafés as problem, 6(17.1%) see poor infrastructural facilities and manpower as problem while 9(25.7%) points pollution of environment by radioactive as problem.

Findings show that poor power supply and high fees charges by cyber cafes and internet services provides (ISP) are the major factors limiting the effective use of internet by students.

Table VI: Recommendation

Recommendations	Frequency	Percentage
Regular power supply	24	68.6
Posting local needs of users on the internet (generating indigenous research)	6	17.1
Obtaining qualified manpower	8	23
Teaching courses on use of internet/computers	18	51.4
Reduction of charges by internet centers	15	43
Internet service providers should be effective	17	48.6
Improvement of infrastructural facilities	11	31.4
Adapting internet information to suit local needs	7	20
Adopting indigenous technology	9	25.7

From table VI, 24(68.6%) recommends regular power supply, 6(17.1%) indicates generating of indigenous research to be posted on the internet, 8(23%) sees obtaining qualified manpower as a solution, 18(51.4%) are of the view that teachining courses on use of internet and computers will help in solving the idenfied problems, 15(43%) indicates reduction of charges by internets centre's; 17(48.6%) suggests that internet service providers (ISP) should improve their services; 11(31.4%) recommends improvement of infrastructural facilities, 7(20%) suggest that internet information should be adapted to suit local needs, while 9(25.7) recommends adopting of indigenous technology.

Therefore findings shows that regular power supply and teaching of courses on use of internet and computers are the major ways the effective use of internet can be improved on.

Discussions on Findings

The findings of the study clearly show that HND students of library and information science do make use of internet. Also, the internet is mainly utilized by the students to obtain educational and research information especially when the need for it arises

The findings revealed that the HND students of library and information science students acquired the knowledge of how to use the internet mainly by attending a computer school.

The major constraints to effective use of internet by students include poor power supply and high fees charged by cyber cafes and internet services providers (ISP).

Conclusion

The findings of the study suggest that Higher National Diploma (HND) students really make use of internet in the course of their academic pursuit. In other words, the use of internet had become an integral part of the academic community. The internet has dramatically influence students approach to seeking information for their research and academic work.

The study strongly recommends that power supply should become a priority in the tertiary institutions. More so, just like there is a course on use of library which is compulsory in most tertiary institutions in Nigeria, there is need for integration of courses on use of internet and computers into the course curriculum of library and information science and made as a general course for all students.

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