APPRAISAL OF INTERNET USAGE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES BY SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCE STUDENTS IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTEHNICS IN ADAMAWA STATE

AHMED ABDULRASHEED
Department Of Banking And Finance,
Federal Polytechnic Mubi,
Adamawa State, Nigeria.
abdulrasheedahmed1016@gmail.com.

&

BUKAR MUSA
Department Of Accountancy,
Federal Polytechnic Mubi,
Adamawa State, Nigeria.
buks_2004@yahoo.com

Abstract
This paper appraises internet usage for educational purpose by social and management students in public universities and polytechnics in Adamawa state. The study administered seven hundred and twenty questionnaires to one thousand and eighty seven students’ final year students using simple random sampling technique out of which five hundred and ten were returned and analysed. The data collected was analysed using Microsoft Excel statistical package. Result of the study shows that students depend a lot on their mobile devices for internet access and also education and entertainment usage ranked high in their usage of internet time. The study recommended that institutions of higher learning should incorporate internet usage knowledge in their computer and information technology related courses, the study equally recommends the introduction of E-learning facilities like tablet to the students of social and management sciences.

Keywords: Internet, information technology, impact, computer, social and management sciences

Introduction
Certainly the virtual world is here; the astronomical development in the inventions of hardware and software in information technology facilities has enable computer to impact on almost all spheres of human undertakings. From hospital to health related endeavours to military undertakings, Education and entertainment, information technology has taken the prime stage. Thus it has transformed and shaped the manner of human existence. This has become possible due to the use of internet facilities, whose backbone has being the telecommunication infrastructures. Telecommunication facilities and infrastructures differ from society to society, due to the level of advancement made in each society. This has accounted for the usage of internet facilities more in advanced and developed world than the sub Saharan Africa (Luambano and Nawe 2004; Korgen, Odell and Schumacher 2001). It is a common knowledge that Africa ranks among the lowest in terms of internet penetration in the world, considering that only about 28.6% of its population have access to internet usage (World Internet Usage Statistics 2016).

While it is true that internet has expanded the variety of information distribution and has also greatly impacted on how it is used for academic and educational purposes in the world among undergraduates, its level of usage is still low in sub Saharan Africa. Students in social and management sciences need high level of internet skills in order to forge ahead in their different professions due to the current challenges and innovations in their prospective future careers. Despite this, the planners of the students’ curriculum did not include internet usage applications in the computer related and information technology courses undertaken by the students during their study periods in school. It is significant to know the extent of internet facilities
usage among social and management sciences undergraduate students for academic purposes in north eastern state of Adamawa, Nigeria.

**Literature Review**

Warren, Brunner, Mair and Barnet (1998) posited that the two main benefits the internet offers are communication and information. Bashir, Mahmood and Shafique (2008) argued that internet has become common in academic quarters. Bhatti (2010) postulated that internet has radically impacted on the changing higher education environment. He added that it is broadly used for teaching and research purposes. Bidin, Shamsudin, Sharif and MD Hashim (2011) agrees that the internet can be beneficial for students as it allows them to obtain relevant academic information but also caution that it also offers other possibilities that may be harmful to their academic experience. Muniandy (2010) argues that the internet has the following functions in education; storehouse of information, communication without boundaries, online interactive learning, online research, information catalogues, innovation in the new world among others.

In their study, Bankole and Oludayo (2012) emphasize the dearth of internet facilities in public universities and suggested ways of reversing the trend before the issue gets out of hand. This view is supported by Bhatti (2010) who also give similar problems and suggested the need for improvement of information technology infrastructures. While making their recommendations, Zakari and Abdulkadir, (2014), postulated that in order to maximise internet uses and increase access and speed, institution should make efforts to increase band width and formulate an internet use policy that will safe guide the usage and prevent it from being misuse. Bashir, Mahmood and shafique, (2008) believed that the ease of work and time saving are the basic reasons of internet use among university students. Udenda and Azeez (2010) argue that there exists a significant relationship between students’ usage of the internet and their academic performance. On the other hand, Bidin et al (2011), also argue that the ability to use internet and peer pressure are also significant determinants of the internet use for academic purposes. In the conclusion of their study Olawale and Falode (2012) believe that the use of internet in teaching and learning process helps to improve the quality of instructions and learners’ academic performance if properly harnessed. They added that the cost effectiveness of using such technology for instructional purposes is a major factor that will determine its usage in Nigerian Universities lecture rooms. Onovughe (2012) found that although a good number of students use internet for academic purposes, most spend less than two hours reading web pages each day. He concluded that only quality time purposely utilised can add to academic performance.

**Methodology**

This study was conducted using a descriptive survey method which employed a questionnaire, designed for management science students of public universities and polytechnic in Adamawa state of north east Nigeria. The study aimed to evaluate internet usage among social and management science students of public universities and polytechnics in Adamawa state of Nigeria. The institutions used for this study were Adamawa State University, Moddibo Adama University of Science & Technology and Federal Polytechnic Mubi. Final year students were chosen for the study because of the length of their stay in schools and knowledge of the academic environments, coupled with experience gained in presentation of assignments, term papers and end of programme projects. The study made use of graduating students of these academic disciplines accounting, banking & finance, business administration and economics. The data gathered for the study was analysis using Microsoft Excel statistical package.

**Analyses and Findings**

The primary data collected for the study were analysed using percentage bar charts. A total of 720 questionnaires were administrated using simple random sampling technique to the population of 1087 out of which only 510 were returned and were used for the analyses of the study.
Fig. 1: Internet usage experience among final year students of public universities and polytechnics in Adamawa State.
Field survey 2015.

From the chart above it can be seen that all the graduating students have varying experience in internet usage, while majority of the students have over 3 years experience usage of internet facilities, indicating that most of the students start the use of internet facilities immediately they were admitted for their studies.
Fig. 2: Types of formal training received.
Field Survey 2015

All of the students have formal computer training, which include internet usage training. Most of the students have either a certificate course or diploma course training. This indicates that the training giving in public institutions are not adequate enough to take one of the needs of the students.
This study has revealed that majority of the students depends on Google, followed by Yahoo and then Maama search engines respectively. These search engines accounted for over 50% of the respondents which shows that they are greatly dependable, user friendly and popular among students. The other search engines are rarely used by the students.
The chart above indicates that students mostly use internet access for entertainment purposes, closely followed by academic purposes. Communication and commercial purposes ranked least on the students’ usage. The implication on this is that despite the usage of internet for entertainment, academic usage is still very high among the students.
Fig. 5: Major sources of Academic Information on the Internet.
Field survey 2015

The chart above indicates that students use almost all sources of academic information on the net on an equal manner, with E–journals being the most popular source of information having above 25% usage. The implication on this is that despite the high usage and popularity of E-journals, other sources of academic information on the net enjoy popularity too among the students.
Fig. 6: Basic problems faced during Internet usage among final years students of public Universities and Polytechnics in Adamawa State
Field survey 2015

The major challenge being faced by students based on the chart is inadequate knowledge on information retrieval methods, which is closely followed by fluctuating internet service. This shows that despite the knowledge acquire by most of the students, there is still room for improving the knowledge they have acquired on internet usage.
Fig. 7: Area of study Internet usage has helped most.
Field Survey 2015

From the chart, most of the students have different major usage that the internet have been put to, except for slight difference almost all the course have similar usage by the students.

**Conclusion And Recommendations**

Internet usage amongst social and management sciences has radically altered the ways and manners of the study of students in higher education institutions. This study has shown that most of the students have acquired the skills and knowledge on the use of internet facilities from their early years in the institutions. These skills and knowledge have been acquired in formal trainings, but despite this most students prefer to use their mobile devices for surfing the internet instead of using school internet facilities or cafes. The paper also concludes that despite the training the students have acquired, there is general inadequate knowledge on information retrieval methods.

Based on the conclusion, this paper recommends that the management of the institutions to upgrade the curricular of the computer related and information technology courses to include method of information retrieval from the net among other identified students’ knowledge related needs. The institutions should increase emphasis on e-learning by upgrading and improving access to internet services, while at the same time introducing the use of tablets for e-learning due to the fact that it incorporate the features of a mobile phone and a laptop computer. National education planners should also incorporates internet usage for research in the curriculum of social and management students in the institutions of higher learning in the country.
References
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