

Awareness and Utilization of Internet Facilities among Students of Osun State College of Education, Ilaorangun. Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigated the awareness and utilization of internet facilities among students of Osun State College of Education, Ila-Orangun, Osun state, Nigeria. It also aimed at establishing the level of internet awareness of the students. The purpose for which the students use the internet facilities was also examined and the study also sought if students have other sources of information apart from the internet. The population consisted of all students of the college while sample comprised 400 students which were randomly selected. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire. Data collected were analyzed using simple percentage. The results showed that students of Osun State College of Education, Ila-Orangun browsed the internet for their class assignment. In addition, they sourced for information from other sources apart from internet. Furthermore, the results revealed that not all students are computer literate. Based on the findings, it was concluded that students of Osun state College of Education, Ila-orangun need to be exposed to the internet in order to meet up with the global development.

Keywords: *Internet, ICT, www (World Wide Web)*

1. Introduction

The internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to serve billions of users worldwide. It is a network of networks that consist of millions of private, public, academic business, and government networks of local to global scope, that are linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless and optical networking technologies. According to Encyclopedia (2008), the internet is best understood as a genetic term, like the postal system or the telephone system, the internet is simply a network of hundreds or thousands of computer all over the world connected in a way that let other computer access information on them. The internet carries an extensive range of information resources and services such as the inter-linked hypertext document of the world wide web (www) and the infrastructure to support e-mail. Jagboro (2003) in her study of internet usage in Nigerian Universities observed that both postgraduate and undergraduate students of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife use the CD-Rom databases and the internet for academic purpose, similarly in a survey of cyber café in Delta State of Nigeria by Adunni and Adeniran (2003), it was reported that 77.8% of the customers or users of the cyber café were students. The internet has become one of the most extensively used information source that empowers the average person to get in touch with the latest information. Today's users can no longer depend on conventional information sources to cope with the latest development in user's respective field. The most widely used part of the internet is the worldwide web (often abbreviated as www).

Its outstanding feature is hypertext, a method of instant cross-referencing. In most Web sites, certain word or phrases appear in text of different colour; often this text is also underlined. When you select one of these words or phrases, you will be transferred to the site or page that is relevant to the word or phrase. Today, the internet has become a public cooperative, and self-sustaining facility accessible to hundred of millions of people world wide (slone, 2002). Physically the internet uses a portion of the total resources of the currently existing public telecommunication networks. Technically, what distinguishes

the internet is its uses. The internet has emerged as a powerful educational tool with the increasing impact of information and communication Technology (ICT) on higher education, all those concerned with higher education are attempting to grasp how ICT could help in modernizing the process of teaching/learning and research among teachers in training with the advent of the internet. The movement of information in the internet is achieved via a system of interconnected computer network that share data by packet switching using the standardized internet protocol suit (TCP/IP). It is a "network of networks" that consist of millions of private and public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope that one linked by copper wires, fibre-optic cables, wireless connection and other technologies. Adekomi and Oyewusi (2011) defined internet as an assembly of computers linked together and communicating by appropriate transmission control protocol or internet protocol (TCP/IP) that the tools it uses include the computer systems, the optical fibre links, radio links and numerous other hardware that may be employed in the process of internet communication. Cray (2006) defined the internet as network of hundred of thousands of computers all over the world, connected in a way that lets other computers access information on them. He further explains that a connection may go through many intermediaries, just as a letter or phone calls and its quality and speed depend largely on the efficiency of the local service. Whichever way one gets connected, the fundamental idea remains the same. That is, computers in different places exchange messages with each other and it can also serve as the medium of instant printing press as files can be sent from one user to the other for printing purpose.

The introduction of internet facilities in school will enable students to access learning materials and systems anywhere, anytime, provided the necessary authorization has been obtained. Internet has grown very vastly at an increased rate and this increase is expected to continue indefinitely without a doubt in any country as it will bring about civilization and positive transformation if well used.

The internet provides improved information on current events and the latest opinion since it is timely, easily gotten to fulfill, interesting and it exposes student to a greater variety of materials than to do more of reading. Though its significance lies in the way they are used not mainly in their presence in the society. In principle, Internet can be connected to any other computer on the network. Today, the internet comprises more than 45, 000 regional national, international network which connect more than eight hundred million (800,000,000) people in over 200 countries which include schools, organization companies, universities, government groups and individuals. Akinyemi and Ajibade (2005) said that access to computer and the internet had increased rapidly during the past decades in developed countries. Virtually all schools have internet access in at least one location. Internet can be termed as the inter connection of the variety of networks and computers. Internet makes use of the internet protocol and the transmission control protocol. Internet opens the doors of communication between the various stations. Internet facilitates storing and transmission of large volumes of data. The internet is one of the most powerful communication tools today. In the 1990's internet gained popularity and people started becoming aware of the uses of internet. (Gopher year) was the first frequently used hypertext interface. In 1991, a network based implementation with respect to the hypertext was made. The Technology was inspired by many people with the advent of the World Wide Web search engine the popularity of internet grew on an extensive scale. Today, the usage of internet is seen in science, commercial and nearly all fields. E-mails, video conferencing; live telecast, music, news, e-commerce are some of the services made available due to internet. Entertainment has taken new dimensions with the increase of internet and all we see it's a continuous development and transformation. (Copyright at Zyas.com) .Bruce (2002), reported findings of an empirical study in which concept of internet were correlated with ways of information searching on the internet. Students' conceptions of internet were all explored by McFadden (2001) who maintained that the conceptions are not always particularly well developed. He points out that "the internet is roughly to a closed system without external manifestation, rather like a box filled with a substance about which we can only guess the essential properties based on the behaviour of pointers and dials on measuring instrument". Because the internet has no direct physical counterpart like books in everyday life, users draw on metaphorical expressions. As Lak Off and Johnson (2000) suggested that the metaphors are mapping from the source domain to the target domain. Something which is familiar from the everyday

context will be used as source by which an abstract phenomenon is made more comprehensible. Bruce (2002) observed that internet conceptions are composites of individual expressions of the impact that using the internet has on the lives and doings of people. As the networks are used, the conception will change. More specifically, the internet as a user construct is constantly transforming at the level of the individual through incremental observation of the network that are made with each successive use. Bruce (2002) pointed out that internet usage is not always a matter of individual choice, because it may be imposed for example, by existing workplace infrastructure. Since World Wide Web has no direct physical counterpart in everyday life experience, user may perceive the internet as analogous to a library or a printed encyclopedia. Savoainer and Kari (2003) revealed that conception of internet are based on social and cultural condition of people or the level of extent in which they are exposed to the technological environments. Importantly, the conceptions are based on the user experiences and that the construct may be subject to change over time. Liener and Stanley 2000, Singh 2002) content created on the internet range from simple e-mail message to sophisticated 'document' (sites) incorporating sounds, images and words. (Evans, 2006), The internet is a 'live' constantly 'moving' theoretically borderless potentially infinite space for the production and circulation of information. Internet is seen as super high way of information or an ocean of information where any information needed on a particular discourse or subject can be retrieved. The Internet has evolved to become one of the fastest and most efficient tools a student can use to perform research and to learn about the world. However, the Internet also has created difficulties for educators who must teach and grade skills that cannot be developed through the Internet or skills that may be diminished. Myconess (2012) stressed that a generation of students has developed spelling skills largely dependent on abbreviating words and phrases, translating letters to numbers, communicating through text-based symbols and intentionally misspelling words and that students who often use online venues such as IM, chat and social networking can find it difficult to adopt the more traditional modes of communication. He added that students frequently conduct research by using sources that lack credibility and are potentially inaccurate, such as wikis. students can therefore end up committing plagiarism because of their confusion about accepted research methods and their lack of research skills. Students might also plagiarize an obscure article, poem or short story for a writing class simply because they don't expect to be caught or because they expect instant success with little effort.

Statement of the problem

Nigerian students are becoming computer frenzy and rely heavily on electronic source for their information need as they get more exposure to these new technologies. In a reflection of this trend, a rapidly growing number of "cyber cafes" are increasing within and around the University campuses in Nigeria. However, it is discovered that despite the increase of Cyber Café in Nigeria and most around tertiary institution in Nigeria, there is no increase in the numbers of the Cyber Cafes in Ila-Orangun while the existing ones are running out of service. This made it necessary to make findings on the level of the students awareness and utilization for their education pursuit.

Research questions

The following research questions are generated for this study:

1. Are the students familiar with the internet facilities?
2. For what purpose does the students make use of the internet?
3. Do the students get information for their researches anywhere aside from the internet?
4. What are the problems facing students in their quest for the use of internet?
5. How accessible is the internet to the students?

Objectives of the study

This study is aimed at establishing the followings;

- a. The level of Internet awareness of the students.
- b. The purpose for which the students use the internet facilities.
- c. What other sources do the students get information from apart from the internet.

- d. Is there any factor affecting the student's effective use of the internet.
e. Are the students finding it easy to have access to the internet.

Population

The population consisted of all students of Osun State College of Education, Ila-Orangun

Sample

The sample consists of 400 students. 100 students were randomly selected from each school of study of the Institution, namely; School of Science, School of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Languages, School of Vocational and Technical Education

Research Instrument

Structured questionnaire was designed to elicit information from respondents. The questionnaire had twenty (20) items.

2. Method of Data Analysis

Data collected were analyzed using simple percentage statistical analysis.

3. Analysis of Data and Interpretation of Results

Research Question One

Is there low awareness of internet facilities among students of Osun State College of Education Ila – Orangun ?

In order to answer this research question, data collected were subjected to simple percentage statistical method. The results are presented in the table below

Table 10.1 simple percentage statistical analysis of research question one

	SA		A		D		SD		UN	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
There is low awareness of internet facilities to the students.	48	12%	196	49%	112	28%	36	9%	8	2%

The table above reveals that 12% respondents strongly agreed that there is low awareness of internet, 49% agreed, 28% disagreed, 9% strongly disagreed while 2% were undecided. The implication of the results above is that there is low awareness of internet facilities among the students.

Research Question Two

I can operate computer system very well ?

Table 10.2 simple percentage statistical analysis of research question two

	SA		A		D		SD	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
I can operate computer system very well	104	26%	208	52%	64	16%	24	6%

Table 10.2 above reveals that 26% respondents strongly agreed that they can operate computer system very well and 52% also agreed that they can operate computer system while 16% of the respondents

disagreed on the statement and 6% strongly disagreed. The implication of this result is that larger percentage of the students can operate the computer system very well. **Table 10.3 Research Question**

Three: All students computer literate?

Table 10.3 simple percentage statistical analysis of research question Three.

	SA		A		D		SD		UN	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
All students are computer literate	32	8%	92	23%	144	36%	112	28%	20	5%

Going by the simple percentages analysis above, 32 respondents strongly disagreed that all the students are computer literate, 92 respondents agreed that all students are computer literate, 144 and 112 disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that all students are computer literate. This shows that not all the students are computer literate.

Research Question Four

Do you browse the internet for class assignments?

Table 10.4 simple percentage statistical analysis of research question Four

Statistical analysis below determine whether the students browse the internet for their class assignment or not.

	SA		A		D		SD		UN	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
I browse the internet for my class assignment	92	23%	212	53%	76	19%	12	3%	8	2%

Research question four simple percentage analysis above shows that 23% of the respondents strongly agreed that they browse the internet for their class assignment, 53% respondents agreed to this statement while 19% and 3% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively and 2% were not sure by not giving any specific response to the question.

Going by the analysis, larger percentage of the students agreed that they browse the internet for their class assignments.

Research Question Five

Is internet browsing very expensive?

Table 10.5 Statistical Analysis showing whether the internet browsing is very expensive or not for students.

	SA		A		D		SD		UN	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	f	%
Internet browsing is very expensive	80%	20%	184	46%	16	4%	116	29%	4	1%

The table above revealed that 20% respondents strongly agreed that internet browsing is very expensive, 46% agreed to this statement while 4% and 29% disagreed and strongly disagreed to the statement respectively.

Research Question Six

Does internet browsing require constant practice?

Table 10.6 Below statistical analysis using simple percentages shows the responses of the students to research question six

Statement	SA		A		D		SD		UN	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Internet browsing requires constant practice	184	46%	168	42%	24	6%	20	5%	4	1%

Above statistical analysis shows that out of the 100 respondents, 46% of them strongly agreed that internet browsing requires constant practice while 42% also agree to this statement whereas 6% disagreed to the statement while 1% decided not to be specific. The data analysis shows that larger percent of the respondent strongly agree that internet browsing requires constant practice.

Research Question Seven

Do you source for information from other sources apart from the internet?

Table 10.7 The table below shows the responses of the students to research question seven.

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
I source for information from other sources apart from the internet	128	32%	184	46%	44	11%	44	11%

From the table above, it is deduced that larger percentage of the students source for information from other sources apart from the internet while 32% of the respondents strongly agreed that they source for information from other sources and 46% of them also agreed on the statement while 11% disagreed to the statement and also 11% strongly disagreed to the statement. This may be as a result or students' unawareness of the importance of internet.

Research Question eight

Does the male students use the internet more than their female counterpart?

Table 10.8 Statistical analysis using simple percentage for research question

Statement	SA		A		D		SD		UN	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male students use internet more than their female counterpart	132	33%	116	29%	96	24%	36	9%	20	5%

The simple percentage analysis statistical analysis revealed that 33% of the respondents strongly agreed that male students use the internet more than their female counterpart and 29% too agreed to this statement whereas 24% of them disagreed while 9% also strongly disagreed with this statement and also

5% failed to be specific. Going by this analysis, The male students tend to be using the internet more than their female counterpart.

Research Question Nine

Do you use the library more than the internet for information?

Table 10.9 Simple Percentage statistical analysis showing the response of the teacher in-training to research question nine.

	SA		A		D		SD	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
I use the library more than the internet for information	64	16%	136	34%	152	38%	48	12%

From the table above analyzing whether the student use the library more than the internet for information, it is show that 16% of the respondents strongly agreed that they use the library more than the internet information while 34% also agreed to this statement. At the other side, 38% of them disagreed to the statement while 12% strongly disagreed too. With this statistical analysis, many of the students though not a large percentage among them use the library more than the internet for information. This results could be as a result of poor electricity that affects browsing most of the time.

Research Question Ten

Does It take time to understand mastering the skill of internet browsing?

Table 10.10 simple percentage statistical analysis showing the response of the teachers in-training to research question ten.

	SA		A		D		SD	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
It takes time to understand the skill of internet browsing.	64	16%	212	53%	100	25%	24	6%

The simple percentage analysis above revealed that 16% of the respondent strongly agreed that it take time to understand the skill of internet browsing, 53% also agreed that it takes time to understand the skill of internet browsing whereas 25% and 6% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively to the statement.

Research Question Eleven

Is the school computer centre is open to all for internet browsing?

Table 10.11 The table below shows the response of the students to research question eleven using simple percentage analysis.

	SA		A		D		SD	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
The School computer centre is open to all for internet browsing	56	14%	128	32%	116	29%	100	25%

The above statistical analysis using simple percentage made it known that there is likely possible that the school computer centre is open to all for internet browsing because the larger percentage of the respondents agreed that the school computer centre is open to all for internet browsing as 32% Agreed that the school computer centre is open to all for internet browsing with the support of 14% respondents

that strongly agreed to the statement. Meanwhile 29% respondents disagreed to the statement with 25% respondents who also strongly disagreed to the statement.

Research Question Twelve

Are you familiar with the internet before gaining admission into the school?

Table 10.12 Statistical analysis of Research question twelve using simple percentage.

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
I am familiar with the internet before gaining admission into the school	132	33%	172	43%	72	18%	24	6%

From the above statistical analysis, out of the 100 respondents, 33% strongly agreed that they are familiar with the internet before gaining admissions into the school, 43% also agreed with the statement. However, 18% of them disagreed on the statement that they are familiar with the internet before gaining admission into the school. The remaining 6% of them also strongly disagreed to the statement.

The simple percentage analysis shows that most of the students are familiar with the internet before gaining admission into the school.

Research Question Thirteen

Do the lecturers always encourage you to use the internet for information?

Table 4.2.13 Below is the simple percentage statistical analysis showing the response of the students to research question thirteen.

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Our lecturer always encourage us to use the internet for information	104	26%	228	57%	56	14%	12	3%

The table above reveals that 26% of the respondents strongly agreed that their lecturers always encourage them to use the internet for information, 57% also agreed that their lecturers always encourage them to use the internet for information, further more, 14% of them disagreed to the statement and also the remaining 3% of them strongly disagreed that their lecturers always encourage them to use the internet for information.

The data analysis above shows that those that agreed that their lecturers always encourage them to use the internet for information have the highest percentage. The implication of these results is that their lecturers always encourage them to use the internet for information..

Research Question Fourteen

Is browsing on the internet boring?

Table 10.14 Statistical analysis using simple percentage to determine whether browsing on the internet is boring or not to the students.

Statement	SA		A		D		SD		UN	
	F	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Browsing on the internet in boring	24	6%	56	14%	160	40%	136	34%	24	6%

The simple percentage analysis above revealed that 6% of the respondents strongly agreed that browsing on the internet is boring and 14% also agreed that browsing on the internet is boring while 40% disagreed to this statement and also 34% strongly disagreed that browsing on the internet is boring. Whereas 6% were not specific in their response. This statistical analysis shows that browsing on the internet is not boring to the students.

Research Question Fifteen.

Is there need for a general course in all tertiary institution that will expose students to the internet?

Table 10.15 Statistical analysis of research question fifteen using simple percentage.

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
There is need for a general course in all tertiary institution that will expose students to internet	196	49%	172	43%	16	4%	16	4%

From the discussion above, it is discovered that 49% of the respondent strongly agreed that there is need for a general course in all tertiary institution that will expose students to internet. 43% of them also agreed to this statement whereas 4% of them disagreed and also, 4% strongly disagreed that there in need for a general course in all tertiary institution that will expose to internet. With this analysis, one can say that majority of the Teacher in-training see the importance of having a general course in all tertiary institution that will expose students to internet.

Research Question Sixteen

Does the internet provide very relevant up to date information?

Table 10.16 Statistical analysis using simple percentage to determine the student’s response as to whether they agree that internet provide very relevant up to date information

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Internet provides very relevant up to date information	232	58%	136	34%	12	3%	20	5%

The above data analysis using simple percentage revealed that 58% of the respondents strongly agreed that internet provide very relevant up to date information, 34% also agreed to the statement while 3% and 5% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively to this statement. Therefore, since the larger percentage of them strongly agreed to the statement, it is deduced that internet provides very relevant up to date information.

Research Question Seventeen

Can too much use of internet for educational purpose have negative effect on student’s reading habit?

Table 10.17 simple percentage statistical analysis to determine the response of the Teacher in training to research question seventeen.

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Too much use of internet for educational purpose may have negative effect on student’s reading habit	128	32%	172	43%	60	15%	40	10%

From the simple percentage statistical analysis above, it is deduced that 32% of the teacher in-training strongly agreed that too much use of internet for educational purpose may have negative effect on student's reading habit, 43% also agreed to the statement while 15% and 10% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively to the statement.

Research Question Eighteen

Do you enjoy browsing the internet for my academic pursuit than for fun?

Table 10.18 Statistical analysis of research question eighteen using simple percentage

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
I enjoy browsing the internet for my academic pursuit than for fun.	128	32%	172	43%	60	15%	40	10%

The table above revealed that 32% of the respondent strongly agreed that they enjoy browsing the internet for their academic pursuit than for fun, in addition, 43% of the respondents also agreed that they enjoy browsing the internet for their academic pursuit than for fun. However, 15% of the respondent disagreed to this and 10% of them strongly disagreed that they enjoy browsing the internet for their academic pursuit than for fun which means that majority of the students enjoy browsing the internet for their academic pursuit than for fun.

Research Question Nineteen

Do most students misuse or abuse the internet facilities?

Table 10.19 Statistical analysis of research question nineteen using simple percentage.

Statement	SA		A		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Most student misuses or abuse the internet facilities	148	37%	164	41%	56	14%	32	8%

From the table above, it is shown that 37% of the respondents strongly agreed that most students misuse or abuse the internet facilities, 41% agreed that most students misuse or abuse the internet facilities. Meanwhile, 14% of the respondents disagreed on the statement and 8% also strongly disagreed that most students misuse or abuse the internet facilities

Research Question Twenty

Is internet browsing time consuming?

Table 10.20 Simple percentage statistical analysis of the response of the student to whether browsing the internet in time consuming or not.

Statement	SA		A		D		SD		UN	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Browsing the internet is time consuming	76	19%	192	48%	72	18%	52	13%	4	1%

From the above table displaying the response of the student to whether browsing the internet is time consuming or not, 19% of the respondents strongly agreed that browsing the internet is time consuming,

48% of the respondent disagreed to the statement and 13% of them strongly disagreed to the statement. Meanwhile 1% of the respondent did not state whether browsing the internet is time consuming or not

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study shows that the awareness and utilization of internet facilities is still below expectation among students of Osun state College of Education, Ila-Orangun. In addition . effort should be made to make maximum utilization of this technology not only in tertiary institutions, but also in the primary and secondary levels of education.

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