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The Internet and its Impact on Students Reading Culture: A Case Study of Students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Warri South West Local Government, Delta State

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Abstract

The entire world has been remodeled by the Internet. The internet assists us with the facts and figures, information and knowledge for personal, social and economic growth. The study reviewed and carried out investigation on the impact of the Internet on students reading culture among the students of Nigerian Maritime University, Okerenkoko. The qualitative and quantitative research methods were adopted in collecting data for this study based on frequencies and their equivalent percentages. The sample size for this study was 210, out of which 53 participants were drawn non-proportionally each from the two (2) of the four (4) sampled departments, and 52 participants drawn non-proportionally each from the remaining two (2) departments. The qualitative data gathered from the close-ended questions were analyzed using basic qualitative techniques of average scores and standard deviation using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0. It was accompanied by the interpretation of the data and graphical illustration of data in the form of dot chat, area chat, line chat, tables, and bar charts for better comprehending. There were many reasons for using the Internet, however, using the Internet for academic purposes is occupying a greatest position as far as students are concerned. The findings of the study showed that the undergraduate students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State had a complimentary understanding of the significance of the Internet concerning their academic activities. Based on the findings, the researchers recommended that the Management of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko should continue to provide the internet services and computer systems to the students to promote their reading culture and learning.

Keywords*: *Internet, Reading Culture, Fraudulent, Impact.

1.0 Introduction

The adoption of internet is one of the technological achievements in Nigeria, the internet is defined as the worldwide network of computers linked through an approved set of rules (Olubukola O. Longe et.al, 2023). They define internet as information resources that are accessible and available for public use (Olubukola O. Longe et.al, 2023). The internet has made reading easy for students which can not in any way be compared to the traditional form of reading through hard cover textbook in the library. Presently, many of the reading materials are converted to virtual books and shared through the internet. The internet has significantly improved the reading culture in the educational system (Olubukola O. Longe et.al, 2023). Students prefer electronic materials to study with than going to the physical library to read because of the stress they go through when looking for books to read (Adesulu, Adebusayo and Amos, 2017). This has become necessary to develop the habit of reading always (Akidi J.O, Oyije-Agbese F.A and Chukwueke C, 2021). The important of reading culture is very crucial for personal and academic success. Besides, it assists in the development and civilization of a language. The society must orientate the students on the benefits of developing a reading culture as part of the childhood education (Akidi J.O, Oyije-Agbese F.A and Chukwueke C, 2021). Reading culture is a long-term process of evolving favorable reading attitude not a merely for academic purpose (Nkordeh et.al,2017). Reading culture is an old way of making reading a regular activity (Nyam, 2015). Reading habit is a way of developing a continuous reading habit outside the classroom, students who read regularly have reading habit. A person is said to have a reading culture if he or she reads books and other resources that are not needed for their growth in their field (Nyam, 2015).

The spread of the coronavirus constrained people to the four corners of their rooms and home, preventing them from having physical class and meeting, the internet has become a ready resource for commercial and non-commercial interactions among people. This implies that more people are now having interest in the use of the internet for commercial and non-commercial activities, this has resulted into an increase in the global digital population (Ndimele, 2020). About 4.57 billion people were functional users of the internet in April 2020 based on the information gotten from Statistica.

The objectives of the research include:

i. To find out how frequently students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko use the internet.
ii. To show why students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko use the Internet.

iii. To show how the internet impacts on students' reading culture of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko.

iv. To find out the challenges faced by students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, in utilizing the internet.

v. To propose ways in which the negative use of the internet (if any), can be reduced as the internet has become an information superhighway.

Samblu Nath Halder, in 2021 employed different parameters in his research to identify reading habits of the users of public library to achieve the objectives of the study. The result of the study showed that 41.82% of the respondents visited the library 2 - 4 times per month, 22.05% of the respondents made use of the library 2-3 times per week, while the 16.82% of the respondents visited the library almost regularly. The result of the study showed that the electronic documents played an important role in improving the reading culture of the people.

Helen U. Emasealu in 2021 utilized a correlational research design to evaluate the impact of information communication technology on undergraduate students' reading proficiency. In her study, the population of the study is made up of all 31,675 undergraduate students in University of Port-Harcourt for both the returning student and newly admitted students of 2020/2021 academic session. In the study, 1500 respondents were sampled, questionnaire entitle Utilization of ICT Scale (UTIS) and Reading Proficiency Scale (RAPS) were employed for the data collection. The descriptive statistics of mean (x), standard deviation and regression were used in analyzing the data. The result indicated increase in the used of ICT tools, low reading habits and the poor relationship between ICT tools and reading habits. The researcher concluded that the use of ICT among the students is improving the poor reading habit.

Olubukola O. Longe et.al (2023) emphasized on the relationship between the use of internet and reading culture of secondary school students in Lagos State. In their study, random sampling approach was employed to select two hundred (200) students. A questionnaire that showed the relationship between the use of internet and reading culture based on gender and class, ease of use, frequency of usage of internet and the problem encountered with the use of internet were employed. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was 0.81. The inferential Statistics of Pearson product correlational coefficient test was utilized to test the hypotheses at 0.05 significant level. The finding indicated that there was no significant relationship between student's use of internet and the student's reading culture based on gender and class. The result also indicated that the secondary school students utilized the internet for about 16 hours daily; the impact of the internet on reading culture was positive, they see internet to be easy to use; although,

they encountered challenges in the use of the internet. The researchers suggested in their result that students should be motivated to develop a reading habit that will enhance their academic work and the internet connectivity should be made available within and outside the school.

Kolawole F. Ogunbodede and Oyinkepreye E. Sawyeri-George in 2023 examined the digital resources and the reading habits of university students in Nigeria, they employed descriptive survey design in their study. The population of the study was made up of all the universities in Nigeria. An online questionnaire was designed to collect data. The validation of the questionnaire was done by the expert in research methodology and education technology, in the studies, 412 students responded to the questionnaire. The sample size of the study was 384, Cronbach's alpha was employed to test the reliability of the instrument which produced 0.76. Simple percentage, frequency and statistical correlation coefficient was used to test the hypotheses at the 0.05 level of significance. The result showed that the majority of the university students used digital resources.

Oyewole, T.G and Adegoke, J.A in 2018 conducted research to determine the impact of internet on the reading habit and performance of undergraduate student of the university. Their specific objectives were to: identify the relationship between using the internet and reading habit of students in Bowen University; and determine the significant influence of internet on academic performance of students in the university. In their study, 200 students were selected randomly from the students of Faculty of Social and Management Science of the institution as the sample employed. A questionnaire was given to the respondents to fill relevant information. Also,142 questionnaires out of the 200 questionnaires were returned for analysis, where the result showed that there was a correlation between time spent on the internet and the time spent in the library. They concluded that the use of library through reading of study materials has a great improvement on the students' academic performance while the dependence to the internet reduced the student academic performance.

2.0 Materials and Methods

2.1 Population of the Study

The population for this study comprised of both male and female undergraduate students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State from four (4) randomly selected departments within three (3) faculties (Faculty of Engineering, Marine Transport, and Environmental Management) which the chosen departments are located. Thus, the entire population of registered students within the four (4) departments

for this study is four hundred (400).

The four departments were selected using the standard sampling criteria. Sampling was done to save time the researcher would have spent observing the whole population.

The systematic sampling method is done by arranging all the elements of a population and choosing every N^{th} number from the list of population units. The N^{th} number is any number usually gotten by dividing the population by the sample size of the subjects. Therefore, we were able to arrange the departments of the institution using the alphabetical approach. The departments were numbered serially from 1 to 13, which is the total number of the departments; then dividing 13 by 4, the number of departments were selected since it is the quarter size of the total departments, this equals 3.25≈3 (since we were dealing with whole number). Then we randomly selected a starting point of 3 on the list. This means selecting every 3^{rd} unit after the first.

Table 1.1: List of the thirteen departments in Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State.

S/N	DEPARTMENTS
1.	Civil Engineering.
2.	Electrical Engineering.
3.	Environmental Management and Pollution Control.
4.	Fisheries and Aquaculture.
5.	Marine Economics and Finance.
6.	Marine Engineering.
7.	Marine Geology.
8.	Mechanical Engineering.
9.	Meteorology and Climate Change.
10.	Nautical Science.
11.	Petroleum and Gas Engineering.
12.	Ports Management.
13.	Transport and Logistic.

Source: https//www.nmu.edu.ng/about-us

2.2 Sample Size and Sampling Strategies

The size of the sample for this study is two-hundred and ten (210). According to Kothari as cited in Mwirigi (2013), a sampling strategy is the techniques the researcher will embrace in selecting some sampling units from which hypotheses about the populations are drawn. Predominantly when carrying out research, it is important to sample the research population. Whereas collecting data from all members of a population would be very costly and takes a lot of time. Sometimes, it would be impracticable or unreliable to use the whole population. A sample is precisely a part of the population; samples are used in

a study that involves a large population.

As reported by Yamane (1967), size of a sample can be gotten using the formulae below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots (1).$$

Where;

N = Total population

e = Level of precision

n = Sample size

Therefore,

$$n = \frac{400}{1 + 400\ (0.05)^2}$$

n = 200.

Considering the questionnaire that are filled inaccurately and the abandoned questionnaire (5%)

$$\frac{5}{100} \times 200 = 10$$

200+10 = 210.

Therefore, the sample size for 400 students = 210.

However, in choosing the participants from the sampled departments, convenience sampling was employed. Therefore, we conveniently selected a sample of participants available in each of the sampled departments. The participants were chosen across each of the four (4) departments non- proportionally. This means that the number of participants chosen from each department equals another regardless of the number of students in the departments.

Two hundred and ten (210) participants were conveniently chosen. Then, fifty-three (53) participants were drawn non-proportionally from the department of Environmental Management and Pollution Control, and the Department of Marine Engineering while fifty-two (52) participants were also drawn non-proportionally from the department of Meteorology and Climate Change, and the department of Ports Management.

3.0 Instruments of Data Gathering

In this study both quantitative and qualitative methods for gathering the data which involved primary and secondary data were used, we used the primary source of data (questionnaire and person-to- person interview) as our instruments for data collection with students who are the primary focus of this study and

lecturers who know the traits of the influence of the Internet amongst students in Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko as a means to get first-hand information.

In this research, the close-ended and open-ended questionnaire style was used to produce a set of feedback from participants. Thus, the printed copies of the questionnaire were formulated in conformity with the questions under the aims and objectives of the study; the first section covers the demographic data of the participants considering variables like sex, age, and educational level. The second section is based on the research questions and objectives of the study.

On the other hand, the interview examined the opinion, knowledge, beliefs of an expert or an individual (lecturer) knowledgeable in the field of study the researcher is investigating.

3.1 Guides for Presentation and Analysis

Questionnaire were given to the respondent by the researchers in the two campuses of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State. The descriptive statistical techniques were used in this study by using a bar chart, simple percentage, frequency tables as well as figures. In this study, the average score and standard deviation were used in analyzing the data. Appropriate graphic illustrations were also used. A four-scale method was used to get the degree of acceptance or otherwise in each of the rating scale items. A mean of 2.5 was used which indicated the level of acceptance. Any average figure that is below 2.5 was believed to be abandoned.

Normal values assigned to the scale are as follows:

Strongly Agree- (SA) = 4
Agree- (A) = 3
Disagree- (D) = 2
Strongly Disagree- (SD) = 1

The mean was calculated using the formula below:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum fx}{N} \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots (2).$$

Where $\bar{x}$ = Mean

N = Total number of respondents, f = Frequency of the respondents

x = Score,

$\sum$= Summative sign

$$\text{Criterion Mean} = \frac{4+3+2+1}{4} = 2.5$$

This analysis was performed taking into account the findings obtained from the presentation and interpretation of the data gathered.

3.2 Validity and Reliability

The validation of the questionnaire was done by experts in educational technology to ascertain the validity and correctness of the information in the questionnaire.

4.0 Result

4.1 Presentation of Results

4.1.1 Research Question 1: What is the degree of Internet exposure among students of Nigeria Maritime University (NMU), Okerenkoko?

There are four (4) item statements containing responses by the undergraduate students of NMU, Okerenkoko. on the degree of internet exposure. The result showed a grand mean score of 2.88 above the criterion mean of 2.5 set for the study by the researcher and a standard deviation score of 0.9378. The result further showed that the participants concurred that item statements 1, 2, and 3 which indicated the use of the internet very frequently, and on rare occasion (seldomly) respectively with mean scores and standard deviation of 3.095(0.9489), 3.100(0.9188), and 3.150(0.8839) respectively. Furthermore, the participants rejected item statements 4, which showed that they do use the internet occasionally with mean scores and standard deviation of 2.175(0.9996).

4.1.2 Research Question 2: What are the reasons why students use the internet?

There are five (5) statements covering the reasons why the students of the university under study use the Internet. The result showed a total acceptance by the participants on their opinion on the reason for using the internet as it showed a grand mean score of 3.07 and a standard deviation score of 0.7271. Here, 3.07 (grand mean) is more than the 2.5 (standard accepted) for this research. The result further showed that the participants concurred with the evidence that they use the internet for researches, chatting, for studies, to do assignments, and to prepare for the examination as indicated in statement 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 with mean scores and standard deviation of 3.275(0.7761), 2.750(0.9962), 3.100(0.6260), 3.250(0.6240), and 2.975(0.6134), respectively.

4.1.3 Research Question 3: How does the internet impact students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko reading culture?

There are six (6) item statements covering the effect of the Internet on the undergraduate students of the university under study. The result reported a total acceptance by the participants on their opinion on the impact of the internet on the undergraduate students of university under study as it showed a

grand mean score of 3.223 and a standard deviation of 0.7059. Here, the grand mean is above the mean criterion mean of 2.5 accepted for this study. The result further showed that the participants concurred with the evidence that the impact of the internet increases access to an information source, increases the use of foreign source, increases contact with the worldwide reader, increases time spent on reading, decreases dependence on a print source, and decreases reading of hardcover books as indicated in statement 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 with mean scores and standard deviation of 3.475(0.5006), 3.375(0.6215), 3.475(0.6335), 3.100(0.7700), 3.100(0.8020), and 2.815(0.9082) respectively.

4.1.4 Research Question 4: What are the challenges facing the students of Nigeria Maritime University (NMU), Okerenkoko when using the internet to improve their reading culture?

There are six (6) item statements covering the problem encountered by students of NMU, Okerenkoko when using the Internet to improve their reading culture. The result showed a total acceptance by the participants on their opinion on the problem encountered by students when using the internet to improve their reading culture as it revealed a grand mean score of 3.186 and a standard deviation of 0.7548. Here, the grand mean is above the mean criterion mean of 2.5 accepted for this study. The result further revealed that the participants concurred with the evidence that they encountered the problem of technical issue, lack of time management, lack of self-motivation, epileptic power supply, lack of digital literacy, adaptability struggle as indicated in statement 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 with mean score and standard deviation of 3.090(0.6355), 3.440(0.9058), 3.430(0.6459), 3.330(0.4922), 2.975(0.9102), and 2.850(0.9391) respectively.

4.1.5 Research Question 5: In what ways can student's negative use of the Internet be dealt with and reduced?

There are six (6) item statements covering what can curb the adverse effect of the Internet on students reading culture. The result reported a total acceptance by the participants in their opinion on what can curb the adverse effect of the Internet on students reading culture as it showed a grand mean score of 3.173 and a standard deviation of 0.779. Here, 3.173 (grand mean) is more than the 2.5 (standard accepted) for this research. The result further showed that the participants concurred with the fact that the adverse effect of the Internet on students reading culture could be curb by the provision of the accessible relevant book online, banning of irrelevant web pages, concentrating on studies by paying less attention to the Internet, time planning, encouraging the relevant materials and avoiding plagiarism as indicated in statement 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 with mean score and standard deviation of 3.300(0.7502), 3.060(0.7871), 3.385(0.9333), 3.395(0.6865), 3.325(0.4905), and 2.575(1.024) respectively.

5.0 Conclusion

This study found out that, undergraduate students at Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State had a complimentary understanding of the significance of the Internet concerning their academic activities. This resulted in the conclusion that the use of the Internet by undergraduate students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State is mostly for academic-related activities. However, reports from the interview revealed that 70% of students of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State visit the Internet for leisure and only 30% uses the Internet to download materials for academic purpose and to promote their reading culture.

Therefore, the need to promote Internet facilities in tertiary institutions is necessary. Access to the Internet in Nigeria Maritime University (NMU), Okerenkoko, Delta State is limited, thus, for the institution to meet the academic needs of students, Internet facilities should be promoted in a way that needed academic information can be gotten from anywhere within the school's vicinity.

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