Full Length Research

A Comparative Study of Internet and Library Usage for Academic Purposes among Students of Federal University Lafia

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This research studied the level of usage of the Internet and Library for academic purposes among undergraduate students of Federal University Lafia The growing trend on Internet browsing among students and the use of Library necessities inquiry into the level of its usage, for there seems to be conflict between the time and effort devoted to positive educational uses of the Internet and Library. The research sought to find out whether students use the Internet mainly for academic purposes, whether the consult of the Library to read intellectual books or for other reasons and factors affecting the decision for using the Library over the Internet or the Internet over the Library. Educators and librarians have unique interest as regard to the information superhighway. Some believe that students should be given a map and allowed to zoom on to new horizons. Others are concerned that the rush to jump on the Internet will lead to traffic jam in education. The survey method was used in collecting data and 54 copies of questionnaire were administered using the systematic and convenience technique. And all the 54 copies of the questionnaire administered were useful in answering the research questions and objectives of the study. Findings from the research show that, the respondents have favorable perception of the importance of both Internet and Library use in relation to their academic activities although the preference of Internet over the Library was high. This is as a result of scarce and outdated materials in the Library. Based on these findings, it was recommended that there is need for professional development in the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into education and learning for better enhancement of the students' academic performance.

Keywords: Academic, Comparative, Internet, Library

INTRODUCTION

There seems to be growing concern about the potential effect to internet use on students generally; studies relating use and reading variables among undergraduates are not commonplace. The rapid growth of the internet over the years has emerged as the foremost source of disseminating information quickly to large audience, transcending the limitation of time and space. Basically, internet offers two main benefits:

communication and information (Warren et al, 2008 as cited Munianly 2010).The information disseminated via the internet has implications for how it is used in education; and since students are among the popular users of information from the internet, the development of internet would be meaningless if it is not used appropriately in education. However, in spite of the benefits of the internet for education and learning, there is a growing concern as to whether the increasing number of hours spent by students browsing the internet limits the amount of time and effort devoted by them to the actual reading and study of the materials obtained from or outside the internet, mainly from academic libraries.

Reading is an attempt to absorb the thought of an author and know what the author is conveying (Leedy, 2006 as cited in Unoh, 2008). Many activities of ordinary life require the ability to read.it is practically through reading intellectual books from the library that people obtain knowledge. The library is an institution for collection of books and other information materials made available to enrich students understanding of how language is used thereby improving their spoken and written language. It also enriches intellectual abilities and provides insight into human problems. This of course depends on reading the right type of books. To consider todays role and use of internet and library raises the question of its place in the modern Nigerian setting and particularly in the tertiary institutions. Forecasts of the demise of the printed books and the associated changes in the academic library have fostered valid questions about the continuing place of reading and print media in tertiary institutions which according to Deekle (2005). Writing on books, reading and undergraduate education, highlights the increasing interest paid to information technology by higher education and competition from radio, television, motion pictures, video and a changing campus culture. He recognizes a nearly universal expectation among information searchers and user of immediate gratification of a need for answers rather than in-depth understanding of issues that may surround the answers. Students accessibility to internet and library has continued to increase their sense of human thinking and enabled them to become collaborative and co-operative in their society. However, the purpose for its use and use and materials available in the two media: the library and the internet, has brought about its lapses in the last few years, going by the current information flow in higher institutions. This is probably the reason this study assumes that undergraduate students of the Federal University Lafia could be a rightly possibility in the use of internet and library to acquire academic knowledge, even though it is yet to ascertain which amongst the two is mostly utilized.

`As an academic institution, Federal University Lafia provides an orientation program for new students every session, which includes lectures on how to use the library and a conducted tour of the library. The library maintains a reference section to help the students and staff in providing ready reference and information services. After the establishment of Federal University Lafia in 2011, the center for Information and communication Technology was established with the aim of providing computing services to the University. The center has a pivotal role to play in promoting the academics and research programs undertaken by the University; and as a result staff and students are now able to browse with wireless whenever three's network. Thus, as the information Technology (IT) revolution rapidly unfolds, this role is likely to become even more important.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It has been a concern in Nigeria on the possible effect to daytime and sometimes all-night internet browsing on reading time in the library among students especially undergraduates. With the growing trend of internet browsing, most of their time browsing the net for academic information and other information rather than consulting the library; probably due to outdated books in the library. The persistent problem of poor reading habits among Nigerian students has been attributed to major causes like listening and chatting culture, insufficient libraries, absence of appropriates reading materials and some environmental factors (Ogunrombi and Adio,2009). Whereas the internet offers information and systems of instructions that complement the traditional ways the students study and learn.

Some studies, for example, Oji (2007), have highlighted the growing incidence of students using the internet not necessarily for academic purposes, but for anti-social activities such as blackmail, fraud, pornography and so on. This probably explains why cyber cafes patronized by students in Nigerian cities and towns are often raided by law enforcement officials. With regards to this growing concern, Igun and Adogbeji (2007) found out in their survey that the postgraduate students of Nigerian Universities often studied to acquire personal knowledge and skills and to prepare for examination. This however, has led to a gradual development among less mature undergraduate students, for there seems to be conflict between the time and effort devoted by them to positive educational uses of the internet and the library. Hence, it is on this, the study emerges to examine the relationship between reading in the library and internet use activities of undergraduate students, with a view a ascertaining which amongst the duo (library and internet) is mostly utilized for academic purposes.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study is primarily aimed at comparing the current library and internet usage among students of Federal University Lafia. The Objectives however, are:

1. To determine how often the students use the library and internet for academic purpose or leisure?
2. To ascertain whether the students consult the library mainly for academic purpose or leisure?
3. To ascertain which among the internet and library is mostly utilized by students for academic purpose.
4. To find out the challenges students encounter in the use of internet and library.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study shall be guided by the following research question:

1. Do students actually use the internet mainly for academic purposes or for their own leisure?
2. Do they consult the library mainly for academic purpose or for their own pleasure?
3. Which, among the internet and library is mostly utilized for academic purposes by students of the Federal University Lafia?
4. What are the challenges the students encounter in the use of the internet and library?

INTERNET AS A CONCEPT

The word internet is an abbreviation for International Network. This network results from a collection of computer networks that connects computers around the world. Internet has also been described as the information super highway. This network consists of computers of various sizes, computers in countries and regions of the world are linked through telecommunication systems. It revolves around connectively, interactivity or communication compatibility among the subsystems of the network system (Agbaje 2002). The internet uses the standard internet protocol suit (TCP/IP) to serve billions of users worldwide. It carries a vast range of information resources and services such as the interlinked hypertext documents of the World Wide Web and the infrastructure to support electronic mail. Most traditional communication media including telephone, music, film and television are reshaped or redefined by the internet, giving birth to new services such as voice over internet protocol (VOIP) and IPTV. Newspapers, books and technology are reshaped into blogging and web feeds.

Looking at the Internet from another angle, Ayo (2001) described internet as "A prowling collection of computer networks that spans the globe, connecting government, military, educational and commercial institutions as well as private citizens to a wide range of computer services, resources and information, thus reducing the world to a global village". The internet is bound to become an inseparable part without which the educational system cannot function any more. There seems to be an assumption that progress at all level; individual, national and international, can be hindered if there is no adequate use of the latest technology. Nationally and globally, progress is being judged against the level of the use of the electronic media.

The Internet as we all know today is a function of a direct effort by U.S defense researchers, who tried to communicate and link up with the use of computers. In 1960, a psychologist and computer scientist Joseph Likelier published a paper entitled 'Man computer symbiosis', which articulated the idea of networked computers providing advanced information storage retrieval. Precisely, the internet started in 1969, under a contract by the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA), whose major objective then was to connect four major computers at universities in the South-West to the United States. These first four computer network was up and running in December 1969. The core problem is creating a network then how to connect separate physical networks without tying up network resources for constant links. The technique that solved this problem is known as packet switching and it involves data request being split into small chunks (packets) which can be processed quickly without blocking communication from other parties; this principle is still used to run the internet today. This determination is as result of the cold war between the East represented by Russia and the West represented by the United States of America. It was a calculated effort through research to ensure dominance over the East.

With the successful implementation of the above objective and in realization of the benefits there of, the computer network of the base was expanded to include other networks for scientific research agencies, and some other networks for covering the colleges and universities. These various networks were inter-linked so that researchers' scientist, government and students could communicate and exchange ideas across the network (Ayo, 2001). This effort by researchers, who were working with the United States Defense Department of Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA) in the 60's resulted in the development of a system called (ARPANET) to share data using electronic media. The internet or what is called cyber space developed from it. Subsequently, other countries started using the internet. Nigeria, like every other country in the world on its first

encounter with the internet had struggled to understand it seemingly overwhelming power-still is. But then, industry observers and experts who have keenly watched the country take its first baby steps in this direction say the growth so far had been phenomenal. In 1995, a year before these companies were registered a body known as the Nigeria Internet Group (NIG) had been conceived as a non-governmental organization with the aim of promoting and facilitating full access to the internet in Nigeria. Four years later, in May 1999 the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) in collaboration with the Nigerian Internet Group (NIG), organized an Africa Internet Summit (AFRINET "99), hosted by the Federal Ministry of communications. The summit, which took place at the ECOWAS secretariat from 11-13 May 1999, focused on sustainable development and utilization of the internet in Africa and sought to create a common forum where African internet practitioners can come together and discuss policy issues peculiar to Africa. The Nigerian Government then had been supported by United Nations Development Programme Agency UNDP/IIA in a US$ 1 million project to assist NITEL'S telecommunication training center.

The internet operates without a central governing body. However, to maintain all technical and policy aspect of the underling core infrastructure and the principal name spaces administered by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), headquartered in Marina del Rey, California is the authority that co-ordinates the assignment of unique identifiers for use on the internet, including domain names, Internet Protocol (IP), addresses, application port numbers in the transport protocols and other parameters. Thus, the internet is allowing greater flexibility in working hours and location, especially with the spread of unmetered high-speed connections and web application. The internet in general and the world wide web can now be accessed almost anywhere by numerous means especially through mobile internet devices like mobile phones, data cards, handheld game consoles, cellular routers etc.

LIBRARY AS A CONCEPT

A library is a collection of sources, resources and services and the structure in which it is housed. It is organized for use and maintained by a public body, an institution, or a private individual. In the more traditional sense, "A Library is concerned with the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of recorded information for the purpose of reading, study and consultation" (Aina 2004). In addition to provide the services of Librarians, who are experts at finding and organizing information and interpreting information needs?

Today's libraries are repositories and access points for

prints, audio and visual materials in numerous formats including maps, prints, documents, micro form (microfilm, microfiche), audio tapes, CDs, Cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, video games, e-books, audio books and many other electronic resources and the internet. Modern libraries are increasingly being redefined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources. They are extending services beyond the physical walls of a building by providing material accessible by electronic means and by providing assistance librarians in navigating and analyzing tremendous amount of information with a variety of digital tools. Education' and 'Library' are two inseparable concepts, both being fundamentally and synchronically (operating) related to and co-existent with each other. None of them is an end in itself; rather both of them are a means to an ultimate end. This inter-relation of one upon the other have been coming down from the birth of human civilization to the posterity through a process of evolution in accord with varied needs, changes and circumstances of various stages of human life. A good-well equipped library is essential for the intellectual, moral and spiritual advancement and elevation of the people of a community. It is an indispensable element of the absolute well-being of the citizens and that of a nation at large. People acquire education through certain institutions, schools, agencies, welfare bodies, museums and organizations, and library is the most outstanding of such institutions. The scope of a library as an effective aid to study and education is virtually numerous. According to Halsey et al (2008) there are different types of libraries:

1. Academic library
2. Public library
3. Special library

Both of which contribute to education in various ways, the academic libraries comprises of school libraries, college libraries and university libraries whose prime objective is to meet the academic needs of the particular institution for which it is created to serve. The purpose of a university library differs, in varying degree from that of a school or college library, the former adheres extensive and particular emphasis to research projects apart from the curricular needs of the institution. Besides aiding in the studies of children and assisting the teachers in their teaching and periodicals research, a school library is primarily concerned to pro-create an urge for reading amongst the children who here get a first had knowledge to use the library resources most effectively in their future career.

Libraries have existed for a long period, as far back as 6000 years ago. The beginning can be traced to the sumerians, who developed the clay tablets in which cuneiform signs and characters were used to record the

activities of the government, temple and business. During the era of Assurbanipal, the king of Assyria (668-626 BC) was known to have collected over 30,000 tables on all subjects throughout his empire. The collections were found mainly in certain rooms in the palace at Nineveh. Later on, libraries were found in Egypt and instead of tables and clay as media of information, rolls made up of papyrus were used as medium of recorded knowledge. The recorded knowledge in papyrus used in ancient Egypt covered many subjects including agriculture, government, poetry and medicine. There was also evidence of ancient libraries in Greece. But the best know of these Aristole's library and the Alexandrian library. The Romans as a result of spoils of war also had a share of ancient libraries. Many of the spoils of war brought to Rome by roman Legions included books and private collections. (Aina 2004).

During the medieval era in Europe, Christianity and Islamic religion played a dominant role as it expansion depended upon wider knowledge of religious documents. (Aina 2004). The desire to have knowledge and the increasing spread of education, coupled with the invention of movable types by Johannes Gutenberg, accelerated the growth of libraries in Europe. Hand copying of manuscript was discontinued, as printing was done on paper with the movable types (Aina 2004). Also, libraries were developed at an exponential rate in the United States of America during the modern Era. Many private collections were developed which later metamorphosed to University libraries. For example, John Harvard's personal collection was library of congress. The collections were in many disciplines including law, farming, sciences etc. During this period various types of libraries emerged in the United States of America, among which is the American library Association established the library Journal that assisted in the promotion of libraries. (Ojo-Igbinoba 2005).

In Africa, Nigeria to be precise, the recognition of the need for need for library is as old as the Nigerian history. The first library, which was called "town library", according to Oyegade, Nassarawa, and Mokogwe (2003) was founded in 1879. Among its objectives were the maintenance and the establishment of books and materials to lend the public for self-improvement. The investment in libraries by early Christian's missionaries in Nigeria showed the importance attached to library services, including public lectures. When the university college Ibadan affiliated to the University of London was set up in 1943, there was a strong emphasis on the maintenance of a good university library. At its establishment, Ibadan University College had inherited the small library of the Yaba Higher college in 1948, in addition to the 18,000 volumes of the Henry Carr library, which the Nigerian colonial government had purchased in 1946 (Wrong and Harms,2009). A book collector Azikiwe was reported to have assembled over 40,000 volumes in

his private library, not to mention thousands of pamphlets, journals, memorabilia, and government documents. The library had served as an important research center to scholars in diverse fields, especially historians, political scientists, biographers and constitutional lawyers. One of the prominent libraries that have emerged in the present day Nigeria is the National library of Nigeria, which came into effect in November 1964 with the enactment of the National library Act of 1964 and headquarters in Abuja. Prior to the passage of the National library act, a series of educational conferences conducted in Ibadan, had laid the intellectual basis for the creation of a network of libraries funded by the government to provide accessibility of educational materials to Nigerians (Enyia 2002)

A library is not, however, merely a conserver of the past event, experiences and knowledge. "The preservation of the physical object called the book", for example, may not be important in itself. What is important is for the library to transmit to the incoming generations the ideas which the book contains. Through the instructional staff of the academic institutions the knowledge and ideas conserved by a library are refreshed, put to use in the education of youth who are to be leaders in society and workers in the field of research, and then the libraries become vital aids directed towards the expansion of man's fund of knowledge.

Thus the libraries have an essential and close bearing upon the advancement and learning at all levels for all the times to come.

THE ROLE OF INTERNET IN EDUCATION

The internet provides an excessive amount of information across various disciplines, including education. Internet usage has the potential to improve the quality of education. This is supported by Laurillard (2002) who postulated that "computer base learning can increase understanding of theoretical and critical concept". The value of the internet for educational purposes was further supported by Charp (2000) as cite in Muniandy (2010), who taught students to learn, work, communicate and play". The internet revolution is not just limited to finding information but also to fostering relationships, that brings people together. Muniandy (2010) in his research findings on the academic use of internet among undergraduate students outlined the following functions of internet in education:

1. Store house of information
2. Communication without boundaries
3. Online interactive learning
4. Electronic/ online research
5. Innovation in the new world
6. Improve interest in learning

7.   Global education and
8.   Information catalogues

STORE HOUSE OF INFORMATION

The internet is described as "sea of information" containing texts which are not housed between libraries or bookshop wall and subject areas span across all fields of knowledge. It contains information from all fields of Endeavour's which students from all academics fields can have access to at any time. This is supported by Ray and Day (2008) as cited in Edem (2010) who posit that the internet has greater potential for desirable information, is a faster means of accessing information, provides access to a wider range of information; provides access to electronic journals, enables access to multiple file at once; provide access to information from home, and give more satisfactory answers to queries than library staff.

COMMUNICATION WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

The internet is a mechanism for information dissemination and a medium for collaborative interaction between individuals and their computers without regard for geographic limitation of space. According to Ureigho et al (2006), the internet is a ' live' constantly 'moving', theoretically borderless, potentially infinite space for the production and circulation of information. As an effort to make communication global without the limitation of space, Google the leading search-engine provider then in December 2004 as revealed in Campbell (2006), made as astounding announcement. As part of it effort to make offline information searchable online, Google Inc. (NASDAQ: GOOG) today announced that it is working with the libraries of Harvard, Stanford, the university of Michingan and the university of Oxford as well as the New York public library to digitally scan books from their collection so that users worldwide can search them in Google. These, therefore will provide the web with a substantial authoritative record which will enable students including teachers and lectures from all academia to have access to academic libraries across the globe for their assignments, research works, lecture notes etc.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

Many colleges and universities are now offering undergraduate programs and graduate programs online with the help of the internet. This allows time flexibility and greater access to students who don't need to relocate to get an education. Pandit (2010) in his publication of advantage of the internet in education, he

posit that internet in education is the onset of distance education or online learning. According to him, with the help of online learning, people from any part of the world can gain knowledge on different subject, complete courses etc. Ureigho et al' (2006) further supported the view that "the internet is one of the greatest recent advancement in the world of information technology and has become a useful instrument that has fostered the process of making the world a global village". University of Liverpool is an example of one the institutions that is currently offering online Degrees and masters Degrees.

INNOVATION IN THE NEW WORLD

There are many methods in which people are able to get formal education through the internet. There are many schools and also colleges that are placed in remote areas of the world where there are no adequate infrastructure available. Other than the lack of infrastructure, there is also a dearth of quality teachers in these places. This makes it imperative for the presence of internet for these people in remote place to learn. In view of this, David (2010) in his article "The role of internet in the Education of people", posit that the presence of internet through improved communication facilities in every nook and cranny of the earth has been a great plus instead of classroom teaching ;the children have teaching through the internet where they are able to ask their doubts to their teachers in faraway places. All this has made the education to reach places, unreached and has improved the quality of education. This argument was further supported by Omatayo (as cited in the international information and library Review (2006). According to her the internet is fast changing the method for accessing and using information and research activities. It has introduced new concepts of the teaching process and is recasting the roles played by the participants of the educational process.

ELECTRONIC ONLINE RESEARCH

The internet can be most useful for completing projects in schools and colleges. As the internet is an ocean of information, covering nearly all subject known to man, one can literally find information, research work etc required for ones projects. Going through the information on the internet is definitely faster than reading an entire book on the subject. Also, latest news is constantly updated on the internet on different news sites. Students learning politics and mass communication for example can have access to all the current affairs, newspapers, journals through the internet in the school campus, at home or at any other place. Historical accounts like speeches, biographies, etc. are also easily available on

the internet in detailed and accurate version. Almost every coming day researches on medical issues become much easier to locate. Numerous websites available on the net are offering loads of information for people to research diseases and talk to doctors online at sites such as, America's Doctor. During 1998, over 20 million people reported going online to retrieve health information.

INFORMATION CATALOGUE

As digital library began to developed, librarians initially applied manual means to "catalog" digital resources because of the need to make more object on the web addressable. But since cataloging was no longer an adequate description, the digital resource addresses came to be known as 'metadata' (Campbell 2006). Within the web environment, however, new organizing principles have emerged and unlike cataloging, these new principles were no longer necessarily applied best by manual means, nor were they necessarily created from the same elements. It enables people share information worldwide through what is known as Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

THE ROLE OF THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY

Academic libraries today are complex institutions with multiple roles and a host of related operations and services developed over the years. Yet their fundamental purpose has remained the same: to provide access to trustworthy authoritative knowledge. An educational institution is in effect a great complex of learning resources, both human and inanimate. Within the latter category, books have held pride of place for centuries and there is no reason to suppose that their primacy is in danger of being illegal (Enright, 2002). Winkworth (2005) in a discussion paper suggests reasons why teaching staff might not view libraries as central: lack of teaching role, lack of an advisory or counseling role, little attempt to come to grips with the intellectual content of books, slow to question assumption about users' needs and modesty about the skills of librarians. As a first step in a positive strategy for libraries, the author advocates the development of "a conceptual model of the education process which is itself convincing and makes sense of the role of libraries" in terms of the institution's philosophy. Referral services, study skills counseling, preparation of learning packages, literature searching etc. are potential additions to the library's role.
To this extent, Latham, Slade and Budnick (2001) have outlined the role of the academic library to include the followings.

1.   Education extends the role of the academic

library specialist to include the role of the Building Co-ordinator, providing assistance to teachers in the use of educational technology and functions as a liaison between teachers and the educational television system. The library media specialist must also serve as an information consultant for students taking courses and for teachers designing distance programs.

2.   De silva (2007) as cited in Latham et al (2000), in support of this role said that there has been a shift from the traditional role of organizing and retrieving information to a role that requires close partnership between teachers and librarians working as learning facilitators.

3.   The role of the academic library in the learning system is evident in several areas, including most stages of curriculum development: Statement of learning outcomes, choice of content, identification of learning resources and determination of methodologies for learning, assessment and evaluation. Additionally, the academic library plays an important role through the provision of library skills and research techniques for students.

4.   The library's involvement in academic is discussed in terms of the planning, development, implementation and management of library facilities for students. Included in the range of services the academic library can offer are educational counseling, enrolment services, maintenance of databases and course materials, housing of test materials and collaboration with other agencies. In addition to traditional role of offering materials on a wide of subjects, Adams (2006) as cited in Latham et al (2001), encourages

5.   The role of the Academic library is examined in term of the application of the techniques of marketing. The marketing function involves four aspects: promoting library services to potential clients, explaining services to encourages use, co-operating with other libraries which may be used by students.

6.   Academic library's roles also include the administrative monitoring, and choosing and maintaining a delivery system for library materials.

7.   The role of the academic library is extended to the institution, its librarians and it teaching staff in taking responsibilities for ensuring that students are not disadvantaged in the library service they receive. That they are educated in tertiary library usage and can access the same information resources so readily available to their internal counterparts.

8.   According to Cantelon (2002) as cited in Latham

et al (2001), he emphasizes the important collaborative role of the library service "in the transformation of education from a place to a process". Information system may be viewed as processes which help overcome the traditional limitation of space and time.

9. The role of Liaison librarians with university is examined. Liaison librarians interact with faculty by offering services such as current awareness, literature and picture search and preparation of library and literature guides for students. They also attend faculty board and course term meetings wherever possible to remind academics about library resources.

10. After reviewing the traditional activities of libraries, Down (2006) as cited in Latham et al (2001) suggest expanding role of Academic libraries to include service to university alumni, radio broadcasting of book talks, and books sales to the public.

THE IMPACT OF INTERNET IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE

Life has distinctly undergone some very dramatic changes ever since the dawn of the Internet era and with each passing day there is a growing dependence on it. Those who are to it would know the helplessness experienced when deprived of riding on this superhighway of information. Though some writers like Adesina (2006) still believe that with the lots of benefits the internet offers, however it also features new problems. Also, Suhail and Bargees (2006) supported this view by distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy internet use, positing that "excessive time spent on the Internet in purposeless activities can often take people away from their actual goals".

BENEFITS OF INTERNET

Three major issues are highlighted here on the social impact of the internet. They are education, healthcare, and rural development even though many more exist.

1.   Education

Education is critical priority for all countries. It is an essential tool for raising standards of living, reducing poverty, and improving the quality of life for the citizens.

Imparting education through the internet involves multimedia learning resources combined with CD-ROMSs and workbooks. It is an attempt to explore the fundamentals or the essential concepts of a course by tapping the full academic power of multimedia. Many

educational websites use different features such as interactive examples, animation, video, narrative etc.

The internet has the potential to improve access to education and quality of education in multiple ways, and can be applicable to a board spectrum of countries. For example, for countries where access to basic education is a problem, Internet-based self-learning initiatives can be used to supplement the school system. Such systems work by providing terminals that children can use outside of class rooms hours, and control both their inborn curiosity and a system of peer-supported learning. Studies suggest that such approaches improve academic results and help spread literacy, and in fact, increase the level of engagement and desire to learn. An unlimited amount of educational resources is also available on the internet. Thousands of schools across the world have integrated the traditional way of instruction with the learning through the internet. Students often surf through sites for supplementing information available in the textbooks, to read extensively on the topics that interest them and also to aid project works they are required to do.

There are many surveys on the use of the internet, and nearly all find that internet usage is most prevalent amongst younger, more educate people (Haoffman, Novak, & Schlesser, 2000). Studies on the use of the Internet in Africa included that of Jagboro (2003), who stated that among the majority of undergraduate and postgraduate students of Obafemi Awolowo University, the Internet is ranked fourth among the sources they use to search for materials. Experts on education feel that computer technology and the Internet are brilliant means and they should not be made the end.

Problem of Internet

Theft of Personal information; Providing personal information online when shopping or banking can result in hackers gaining access to private data that can be used to steal your funds and even your identity. That is to say, if you use the internet, you may be facing grave danger as your personal information such as name, address, credit card number etc can be accessed by other culprits to make your problems worse.

Spamming; one of the biggest problems that the internet has created is that of spamming. Spamming refers to the activity where in unwanted emails and other links are sent I bulk to people. These emails may pertain to advertising or random bulk emails and these may contain Viruses that may corrupt the system and even if they don't cause any harm these can be plain annoying.

Virus threat; Virus is nothing but a problem which disrupts the normal functioning of your computer systems. Computers attached to internet are more prone

to virus attacks and they can end up into crashing your whole hard disk, causing a considerable headache

Pornography; This perhaps the biggest threat related to children and youths healthy mental life, a very serious issues concerning the internet. There are thousands of pornographic sites on the internet that can be easily found and can be detrimental factor to letting the children use the internet. This could lead to change in behavior and attitudes.

Lack of permanence; Web pages are notoriously unstable. They appear, move and disappear regularly. This can be of particular concern for academic researchers, who need to cite a stable page for reference purposes (Ko, 2008).

Internet traffic; Internet traffic is increasing as more people become Internet users and existing users send greater amounts of data. If the volume of traffic increases faster than the capacity of the network increases, congestion will occur, to the congestion that occurs when too many cars attempt to use a highway (comer, 2008 as cited in Microsoft Encarta 2009).

Addition; It is possible for Internet users to become habitually addicted. Though different from chemical addiction it is a real problem as some lose employment and suffer other adverse effects from overuse. So even though the internet has in many ways brought the world closer together it has also in many ways caused a lot of damage to relationships and growth of individuals. This is because the internet can have a huge addictive nature of the internet. Reports indicated that addiction could lead to debt, sack, child or family neglect, divorce etc. Addicted youths result into lying about the amount of time and money spent on the internet, restlessness, neglect of social obligations, poor academic performance in school, etc all these are part of the negative effect of internet addiction.

Inaccurate Information; Though there are many legitimate websites full of factual information there are a plethora of sites with inaccurate information and it is often hard to tell the difference.

Plagiarism; While the internet has made life easier for people in many ways it is also reflecting an uglier side to its existence through a number of problems that its users. With a large amount of information freely available on the internet theft and misuse of this information is a likely possibility. Again you see cases of people using someone else's information and research and passing it off as their own.

Challenges of Internet Access in Nigeria

Low penetration has been the major issue. The internet basically remains an urban phenomenon in the country. The rural areas have been shut out from this illumination and there seems no be no hope for them anytime soon. Even in villages where GSM is already present and fully functional some of them still cannot access the internet. Internet Service Providers have however said that the blame should not be heaped at their doorsteps. According to some systems analyst, the vast majorities of natives in rural areas are poor and cannot afford computers and phones that could give them access to the internet. Another major problem is illiteracy. You at least have to be able to read and write to be able to learn to use the internet and majority of these people are bare illiterates. Comments from an online reader had also identified another major challenge crippling internet growth in the country. He said coverage will remain this low if they continue charging for it as if it is gold. 'It is only in this country that we just like making simple things seem as if they are meant for only the rich'.

Last year, as revealed in October, 2010, Mr. Nyibo Odero; Googles Office Lead, English speaking West Africa had at a briefing with ICT news journalist in Lagos that there was a major IT infrastructure problem in the nation and this should be urgently addressed. It is important to make internet access easily available to people in this country and then the prices even for a simple standard laptop is crazy. Another Google executive; this time its vice President Technology; English Middle-East, Asia and Africa EMEAA, Nelson Mattos also told ICT news journalists at the same briefing in Lagos that Nigeria and indeed the entire African continent could never become market potential for internet-broadband access as far as he was concerned. He said the continent remains low and poor on internet infrastructure and penetration to be termed a market spot. He said that though much has been invested in various African countries yet, a lot of development is still needed. African nations still need to do a lot to grow. Infrastructure is still a major problem for the industry as the right infrastructures are not available. They have to be made available to aid the distribution of bandwidth to the remote areas. Also, government needs to subsidize the right of way for the operators to pass through. If the government is charging the operators too high, the cost would be passed on to the consumers. Most especially, also, government must improve on power supply.

From the above contributions therefore, it will be right to say that the major problems and challenges of internet access in the country Nigeria is that of low penetration as result of illiteracy, the unstable nature or lack of power supply in the use of internet services, low income, high rate of tax and charges on internet operators etc.

The virtual library concept which was conceptualized to

ease the access of learning and teaching of digitalized databases, encyclopedia, historical and current events has been a success in many countries .but in Nigeria according to mohammed (2009) where the national universities commission (NUC) has been championing the course the initiative still remains a mirage and this is due to.

1.   Funds
2.   lack of planning
3.   Government attitude to education.

UNESCO as quoted in IFLA publication (1979)defined the library as any organized collection of printed books and periodicals of any other graphic and audio visual materials and the services of the staff to provide and to facilitate such materials as are required to meet the information ,research educational or rereational needs of its user .Library resources found in developed countries, Library resources found in developed countries ,support teaching learning functions by facilitating research and scholarship of students and lecturers but this is not the situation in most developing countries because the libraries are struggling to survive due to financial constraints .Accessing Nigerian libraries against UNESCO 1979 definition could be explainable to some minds. Some of our libraries do not have adequate books, periodicals and audio visuals been acquired into the libraries not to talk of a 2007 definition of UNESCO which may include electronic/digital resources

The process of the establishment of the virtual library ,as noted by ya'u (2003) started with feasibility study coordinated by staff of UNESCO through a workshop .The workshop involved various stakeholders and professionals from all the sectors of the tertiary institutions ;libraries and IT professionals ,educational administrators as well as IT companies that are operating in electronic library sectors were all involved in the process .The representatives of donor organizations such as the Marc Arthur Foundation ,open society initiative for West Africa and US public information system were also represented in the workshop .The author noted that some of the theory issues identified in the workshop were poor ICT infrastructure ,inadequate ICT skill and the financial implication of connectivity and access to electronic database. Specifically ,Ogunsola (2004) examined the implications and opportunities of ICT ,as a cure for the poor state academic libraries in Nigeria .While identifying the mitigating factors of the implementation and development of ICT in Nigeria the author also sensitize the Nigerian universities to the need of globalization of information for their educational development .shortage of manpower ,frequent computer breakdown due to electric power surge ,erratic power supply and lack of spare parts ,were identified as the major problems Nigerian libraries face in the implementation of ICT.

Igwe .(2005) in an article ''Harnessing Information Technology for the library education in Nigeria '' states that providing opportunities to meet the basic learning needs for information professionals is first step towards preparing library schools in Nigeria for the emerging global society .He identified inadequate infrastructure ,outdated curricula .poor human and financial resources ,lack of access to necessary information and resources for learning, and communication among key players in the library schools as contending issues faced by the library schools in Nigeria. He also highlighted that UNESCO (1998) stated that to effectively harness the power of the new information and communication technology to improve library education in Nigeria, the following essential conditions must be met: students and teachers must have sufficient access to digital technologies and the internet in their classrooms, laboratories and workshops: high quality, meaningful, and actually responsive digital content must be available for teachers and learners; and teachers have the knowledge and skills to use the new digital tools and resources to help all students achieve high academic standards. In conclusion he recommended that Nigeria library school have to link up with other library schools in other countries so as to enhance their collections and services to the academic environment.

Comparative Analysis of Internet and Library Usage Among

Students; Internet usage has the potential to improve the quality of education as supported by Charp (2000) as cited in Muniandy (2010), who stated that " the internet brought about positive changes to teachers and instructors, who taught students to learn, work, communicate and play". The value of internet for educational purposes was further supported by Laurillard (2002), who postulated that " computer-based learning can increase understanding of theoretical and critical concept" . So also is the university library, seen as the academic heart of the university system and its basic purpose is to provide university staff, students, and other researchers with materials assistances and an enabling environment that would facilitate teaching, learning and research. Whitmire (2002) as cited in Oyewusi and Oyeboade, (2009) affirmed this by positing that "academic library resources are considered a good measure of an institution's excellence and quality". Popoola (2008) also confirmed that the information resources and services available in institutional information systems must be capable of supporting research activities among the students and faculty members. It can be argued that any "good" school or library must have access to the Internet. Educators and librarians have unique interests in regard to the information Superhighway. Some believe that students

should be given a map and allowed to zoom on to new horizons. Others are concerned that the rush to Ellsworth proclaims the freshness and immediacy of the internet in her book "Education on the Internet" cited in http://www.bellaonline.com/articles as "the view of many educators, parents and politicians". To her the internet is a good resources, but until there are books and other needed resources the Internet is a decoration. Meaning that no matter how creative and good the internet can be, if it does not recognize the importance of books in the library then it is just a mere decoration. In an article "Surfing the Net for Education Lite", Mosbacker further expresses concerns when the Net takes on "a messianic quality":

> If we encourage students to become addicted to instantaneous bit of information, free of context and logical coherence, they will be ill-equipped for the rational dialog and analysis required for citizens in a civil and literate culture. Modern technology cannot substitute for a thorough reading of the great classics in literature, philosophy and political history. Being technologically advanced and sophisticated is not the same things as being literate and civilized. Although there seems to be a growing concern about the potential effect of Internet use on student generally, studies relating Internet use and reading variables among undergraduates are not commonplace. However, forecasts of the demise of the printed book and the associated changes in the academic library have fostered valid questions about the continuing place of reading and print media in tertiary institutions. Deekle (2005), writing on books, reading and undergraduate education, highlights the increasing interest paid to information technology by higher education and the competition from radio, television, motion pictures video and a changing campus culture. He recognizes a nearly universal expectation among information searchers and users of immediate gratification of a need for answers rather than in-depth understanding of issues that may surround the answers.

Nevertheless, he opines that reading remains a fundamental building block for a liberal education, providing a board basis for knowledge and understanding. He also advocates for reinforcing students' critical reading skills and habits and giving them a contextual framework for a lifetime of self-directed learning. According to Yeoh (cited in Pooi Fang 2008), he posits, "Reading for knowledge and information will become a critical source for competitive advantage besides development in the 21st century". Meaning that it

is undeniable that library is important and that good libraries play critical roles in the development of academic and intellectual skills and the associated socio-economic benefits. But however the seeming decline in the art and practice of reading should be great concern. Ugah (2008) quoted Osundina (2004), who studied the relationship between accessibility and library use by undergraduates in Nigeria and noted that the problem of Nigerian students is not the question of wanting to use the college library, but whether or not the university library can provide for their needs, and whether there is access to what is provided. This assertion was agreed to in later studies by Iyoro (2004) and Popoola (2008).

Various studies have also found that Nigerians do not read as a habit, but in order to succeed in examinations necessary to obtain paper qualifications for jobs. Adeji (2003) posit that undergraduate students in Nigeria read mainly prescribed textbooks to enable them pass examinations and this is in spite of the availability of other resources.   In a study of the reading habits of undergraduate students as deducted from their library use at the University of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria, Busayo (2005) reports that 75% of the sample engaged in utilitarian reading. Also, 82% of them used the library mostly during the session and deserted it the moment they were through with examinations. Uwa (2007) reports similar findings on students of tertiary institutions in Imo State, Nigeria, revealing that reading to pass examinations, tests and continuous assessments is the main motivator for the students' reading in the sampled libraries. Furthermore, high percentages of students often read only their lecture notes and handouts in the   libraries.

From a different but related perspective, Osunade and Ojo (2006) as cited in Edem (2010) surmise that in Nigerian tertiary institutions, students use the internet as an alternative to scarce and outdated library resources. They evaluated the behavior of tertiary level students in the use of the Internet and library at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Their results indicate that the Internet is fast becoming a source of academic information among students due to easy access, correctness, availability and up-to-datedness, while the library is used mainly as a reading place. The suggest the need to appraise and upgrade library an Internet facilities in tertiary institutions so that needed academic information can be obtainable from which ever source students choose to use. Ray and Day (2008) as cited in Edem (2010) surmise that the Internet has greater potential for desirable information, is a faster means of accessing information, provides access to a wider range of information; provides access to electronic journals, enables access multiple files at once; provides access to information from home , and gives more satisfactory answers to queries than library staff.

In spite of these benefits, Gilbertson (2002) challenges the reliability of some Internet information, while Ojedokun (2006) points out that many students use the

Internet mostly to search and retrieve information on entertainment, sports and news, and attributes this trend to lack of necessary searching skills for effective usage. Oji (2007) considers Internet use to be one of the causes of the decline in the reading culture of Nigerian youths, She points that, some youths are often seen in cybercafés browsing the Internet and engaging in activities that entertain rather than educate, adding that perhaps some of the ills of today's society could be attributed to wrong use of information gotten from websites. Suhail and Barges (2006) posit that the misuse of the Internet often leads to unhealthy consequences, while heavy Internet use leaves little time for anything else. They investigated the positive and negative effects of excessive Internet use among undergraduate students in Pakistan and found positive associations between time spent on the Internet and the various dimensions of the Internet Effect Scale (IES), indicating that excessive Internet use can lead to a host of problems of educational, psychological, physical and interpersonal nature. Although a high proportion of the students reported positive than negative effects of Internet use. The authors suggested that Internet use should be within reasonable limits, so that adequate time can be focused on activities that enhance productivity.

During the 1930's numerous studies were conducted within the perspective of book reading, radio, soap operas, the newspapers, popular music and the movies to probe why people attended to the product of media and the rewards such exposure provided. These studies results came up with the uses and gratification approach which according to McQuail (2000) is a "a version of individualist functional theory and research that seeks to explain media use and the satisfaction derived from them in terms of the motives and self-perceived needs of audience number". The approach emphasizes audiences' choice by assessing their reasons for using a certain media to the disregard of others, as well as the various gratifications obtained from the media, based on individual social and psychological requirements (Severin & Tankard, 2007). The information obtained from a medium therefore, because it yields the expected result that the user anticipated, make the user to trust and stick to such medium. The media on the other hand, knowing through audience research keep feeding its users to more of such fulfilling information. Daramola (2003) supported this argument by citing an example to explain this assumption. He says:

> For example if we watch the 9.O'clock network news on channel 10 every day and like the newscasters or their rendition that means we seek gratification of news by watching channel 10. As we gain experience with segment of the media, we feed this back to our beliefs about this segment of the media and create a cyclical

process that revert us back to watching the news everyday on the same channel. In line with this assumption therefore, the undergraduate students of Bayero University, Kano could be seen as people who use the internet and library as a media to satisfy their needs of information on education, entertainment, integration and social interaction and identity. The uses and gratifications has always provided a cutting-edge theoretical approach in the initial stages of each new mass medium, such as newspapers, radio and television, and now the internet, which receives the significance via this approach (Ruggiero, 2000). The uses and gratifications theory has been widely used, and also is better suited, for studies of Internet and library usage. In the Internet environment, users are even more actively engaged communication participants, compared to other traditional media (Ruggiero, 2000).

The theory also suggests that people consciously choose the medium that could satisfy their needs and that audiences are able to recognize their reasons for making media choices (Katz et al., 2004). Thus, this brings about competition not only between the Internet and other traditional media like the library, but among each option in the Internal itself as well. These probably explains why undergraduate students choose the internet over the library or the vice versa; because they seek gratification of researching, entertainment, access audio-visual materials, social networking by using either of these two mediums. As a result it bring about competition among the two mediums, because with their good audience research they are able to produce more of such information or even produce new ones (which is evident in the way libraries are becoming modernize by providing access to both hard and soft copy materials and the internet in its continual establishment of different websites like the research site-all academic.com, Google scholars etc. online newspaper-nigeriamasterweb.com, where almost all the Nigerian newspapers are found, entertainment and social networking sites like face book, skype, 2go etc.) so as to keep their users and attract new one

METHODOLOGY

The survey research method was use in soliciting the relevant information needed from undergraduates, who are the subject of this study. Surveys allow researchers to measure characteristics, opinions or behaviors of a population by studying a small sample from that group, then generalizing. According to Wimmer and Dominik (2000), population is "a group or class of subjects, variables, concepts or phenomena". Therefore, the

population for this study is made up of both male and female undergraduate students of Federal University Lafia. This has a total population of 541 ICT (2015). The study has therefore, adopted a random sampling techniques method in the research work. Random sampling techniques is said to be the act of which the researchers select the target population randomly and then use it to make generalizations based on the population of the study. But according to Bernard (2012) assert that if the population of a study is less than 200 the entire population should be used for the study. Base on the fact that the population of the students involve in this study is large, the researchers has decide to use 54 questionnaire, meaning that 10% was use to collect data for the research, some of the students (respondents) will be randomly selected as the sample (representative) of the entire population. And this is according to Nwana (2002) who stated that "if a population is in hundreds, one needs a sample size of 10%. Questionnaire is the instrument use for data collection for this study, close-ended and open-ended questionnaire format is employed in order to elicit set of responses from respondents. Thus, the questionnaire was designed in line with the research questions and objective of the study. The descriptive statistical method is employed in this study by utilizing tables and percentage method of statistical analysis. Inferences were drawn vis-à-vis from the research questions and objectives of the study for easier interpretation.

Response Rate

The response rate from the sample of the population from which the data of this study was derived is as follows, fifty-four (54) questionnaires were randomly distributed to some students of the Federal University Lafia and were duly completed as the sizes of the respondents were not too large for the researchers to manage.

Data Analysis

This research attempts to compare Internet and Library usage for academic purposes among students of Federal University Lafia. To achieve this, a sample of 52 respondents was used for the study.

The table 1 shows that majority of the respondents with 96.3% use the Internet and Library for academic purpose. Though, 3.7% of the respondents disagreed on having an

idea of the Internet and Library. This means that almost all the undergraduate students of the Federal University Lafia have a high knowledge of the Internet and Library.

Out of the 54 respondents, majority of the respondents with 46.3% make use of the Internet frequently. This means that the respondents use the Internet at least

thrice or twice a week. The next category of users use the Internet very frequently (daily), occasionally (less than once a week) and seldom, at least once a week.(Table 1b)

Majority of the respondents (66.7%), consult the Library for textbooks. While others visit the library to read newspapers and very few of the respondent consult the library for journals and audio-visual materials. (Table 2a)

This indicates that majority of the Internet users (51.9%) in this study visit the Internet not necessarily for academic purposes but also for other purposes such as social networking/chatting, entertainment and other benefits they could get from the Net. This finding seems to agree with Oji's (2007) view by highlighting the growth incidence of students using the Internet for academic purposes. (See Table 2b)

Table 3 reveals that majority of the respondents with 64.8% prefer to use the Internet for their academic work than consulting the Library. This means that despite the fact that they consult the Library for books and other things, they still find the Internet better for some reasons which shall be looked at in table 3. This also explains Adedeji's (2003) position that undergraduate students in Nigeria read mainly prescribed textbooks to enable them pass examinations.

Despite of these benefits of the Internet and Library, the respondents challenges the reliability of some Internet information as Gilbert (2002) did. The respondents also reported the problem of Internet service failure, lack of adequate power supply and cost of running the internet being too expensive, with majority response of 60% saying that the major problem of the Internet is slow network service. Majority of the Library users also gave reasons to problems associated with consulting the Library as: scarce and outdated Library resources (36.8% & 52.6%), time consuming and less accessibility due to limited hours of Library operation. Just as Osunde and Ojo (2006) as cited in Edem (2011) posit that in Nigerian tertiary institutions, students use the Internet as alternative to scarce and outdated Library resources. (Table 4)

FINDINGS

Arising from the data analysis and interpretation, the following were discovered

1.   That undergraduate students of Federal University Lafia has the knowledge and use of internet i.e. 52(96.3%) knowledge while 12(22%) and 25(46%) frequently and mostly use internet.
2.   Federal University Lafia undergraduate students use the internet for both academic research and leisure purposes such as social networking and entertainment.

TABLE 1a: Knowledge of usage of Internet and Library among students for academic purpose

Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	52	96.3%
No	2	3.7
Total	**54**	**100%**

TABLE 1b: Frequency of use the of the Internet among respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
Very frequently	12	22.2%
Frequently	25	46.3%
Seldom	8	14.8%
Occasionally	9	16.7%
Total	**54**	**100%**

TABLE 2a: Resources respondents consult most in the Library.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
Text books	36	66.7%
Serial	4	7.4%
Journals	2	3.7%
Newspapers	10	18.5%
Audio-visual materials	2	3.7%
Total	**54**	**100%**

TABLE 2b: Activities respondents engage in while using the Internet services.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
Researching	17	31.5%
Social networking/chatting	7	12.9%
Entertainment	2	3.7%
All of the above	28	51.9%
Total	**54**	**100%**

TABLE 3: Ascertain among internet and Library mostly utilized for academic work

Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
Internet	35	64.8%
Library	19	35.2%
Total	**52**	**100%**

3. That undergraduate student of Federal University Lafia uses the library mainly for academic purposes and not leisure.
4. That undergraduate student of Federal University Lafia uses the Internet more than they use the Library for academic purposes.
5. That undergraduate student of the Federal University Lafia encounters several challenges when using the Internet and they include high cost, network problems, inadequate power supply and less reliability. Also when using the Library, they encounter lack of up to date materials, time consuming and inadequate materials.

TABLE 4: Challenges encountered by respondents when using the internet and library

INTERNET		
Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage %**
1. High cost	19	48.9%
2. Network problem	4	14.7%
3. Shortage of power supply	10	27.3%
4. Less reliable	3	9.1%
Total	**35**	**100%**
LIBRARY		
Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage %**
1. Lack of up-to-date materials	2	10.6%
2. Time consuming	10	52.6%
3. Scarce materials	7	36.8%
Total	**19**	**100%**

CONCLUSION

This study found out that Federal University Lafia had favorable perceptions of the importance of both reading and Internet use in relation to their academic activities. This led to the conclusion that the use of Internet and Library by undergraduate students of the Federal University Lafia contributes more to their academic performance. Nevertheless, there is need to continually educate students on the proper balance that they should maintain between utilitarian and other purposes of reading, and between reading and Internet use activities for academic related purposes. The problem of inadequate computing and Internet access facilities in university Libraries should also be tackled so as to facilitates adequate Internet use by students' and limit students' exposure to potential anti-social activities in commercial cybercafés. Up-to-date library collections, User-friendly services and effective user awareness programmes should also be provided by university libraries in order to redefine the role of the academic library in higher education in the country. Therefore, the need to appraise and upgrade Library and Internet facilities for students in other to obtain the needed sources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. There should be user education on how best students can use the internet to meet their basic information needs.
2. Since the students use the library for academic purposes, the management should endeavor to promote more academic activities that will always warrant the use of the library.
3. Sufficing that students use the internet more than the library, the library should be restructured and marketing strategies should be put in place to create awareness to attract users.
4. That fund should be made available for the provision of up to date information resources, adequate access points and adequate materials in the library. Also, there should be subsidized internet cost, improved network and availability of alternative source of power.

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