

## **Application of internet facilities among academic staff of college of education, Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

The study examines internet use on teaching and research by academic staff in College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti. A total of 100 sets of questionnaire were distributed to the academic staff in the School of Education, School of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Sciences, school of languages and School of Vocational and Technical Education. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select a total sample of 150 academic staff (30 each from the five schools of study) of the College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. A well-structured questionnaire was used to elicit relevant information from the staff involved. The questionnaires were correctly filled by the staff and collected for data analysis. Three research questions raised were tested with X<sup>2</sup> statistical analysis at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed that internet facilities are available, accessible and utilized by academic staff of the College. The study also revealed that academic uses internet facilities for research purposes but, efforts should be intensified in the area of teaching and learning. E-mail and internet services are mostly used by the academic staff. Conclusion and recommendations were made.

**Keywords:** Internet, Internet facilities, academic staff and College of Education

### **1. Introduction**

The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer network that use the standard internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to serve billions of users worldwide. The internet has no centralized governance in either technological implementation or policies for access and usage, each constituent network sets its own standards. The origins of the internet dated back to research of the 1960s commissioned by the United States government in collaboration with private commercial interest to build robust, fault-tolerant, and distributed computer networks. Internet is a network of networks that consists of millions of private, public, academic business and government network of local to global scope, that are linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless and optical networking technologies. Madu and Adeniran (2005) <sup>[4]</sup> noted that the internet developed from a United States department of detective project during the cold war years, precisely, the internet started in 1969 under a contract by the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA) where major objective was to connect major computers at the universities in the South Western United State. The internet at its early stage was also to ensure that there was no break in communication at that critical period of cold war even if some of the sites were destroyed by nuclear attack (Ibegwari, 2002).

Odunewu and Olasore (2009) <sup>[6]</sup> observed that the internet has become an important and reliable tool for information retrieval. The internet makes it possible for users to have access to large volumes of information irrespective of their geographical location (Gifty, 2003) <sup>[2]</sup>. According to Rubina (2010) <sup>[11]</sup> internet provides access to unlimited sources of information and search engines is continuously being advanced to provide efficient ways to help users to find what they want. The internet eases and increases access to a large amount of data, saves time and money, and obtains an opportunity to consult several experts with a single request (via discussion groups),

and greater independence from specific times and places for information seeking (Rubina, 2010) <sup>[11]</sup>.

Oketunji (2001) cited in Bamgboye and Agboola (2011) <sup>[1]</sup> that internet gives us access to vast wealth of knowledge and access to tools that facilitate research. The internet offers the opportunity to conduct remote classes, allow access to remote libraries, and create an environment innovative and cooperative learning experiences (Bamgboye and Agboola, 2011) <sup>[1]</sup>.

There is new development courtesy of Information Communication Technology that facilitates the opportunity of exploring the world from ones abode, library, office in search for information and knowledge. The role of computer system, both hard and soft cannot be overemphasized of which without it ICTs cannot be readily available or accessible. Where an internet service is available; acquisition of knowledge does not pose any form of problem. "All forms of leaning are enhanced by ICT especially problem solving situations, which readily lead themselves to ICTs, and students can learn to develop skill such as being systematic, logical and deductive though engaging themselves with carefully selected computer based tasks (Selinger, 2002) <sup>[12]</sup>.

According to Ogunsola (2004) <sup>[8]</sup> the use of internet has revolutionized access to information for the business world, libraries, education and individuals. A few of the most popular ones include e-mail, World Wide Web (www) File, Transfer Protocol, Usenet and Telnet. He further stated that internet and its technology continues to have a profound effect in promoting the sharing of information especially in academic world.

The internet allows greater flexibility in working hours and location, especially with the spread of unmetered high-speed connections. The internet can be accessed almost everywhere by numerous means, including through mobile internet devices such as mobile phones data cards, cellular routers, educational materials at all levels from pre-school to post-doctoral is

available from websites, examples ranges from Babies through school and high school revision guides, virtual universities, to access to top – end scholarly literature through the likes of Goggle scholar.

According to Onwuazo (2005) [10] most of the libraries in College of Education are still in the infancy stage of library automation or what may be regarded as planning stage. The situation is really pathetic in the level of computer application in Nigeria College libraries, it is not something to write home about; what it implies is that some libraries are on the planning stage while others are not even contemplating on it at all. Internet services cannot be fully operational in these Colleges of Education in Nigeria considering the above information.

The internet has been useful in so many ways apart from educational gains taking by learners and teachers. Many people use the World Wide Web (www) to access news, weather, sport reports and to plan; book vacations and to find out more about their interests. Social networking websites such as face book, Twitter, and my space have created new ways to socialize and interact. In most of the libraries found in Nigeria, their challenges are mostly finance, personnel, accessibility to current information and books and the political will of Chief Executive of most institutions to put things in normal perspective. Learners and lecturers in academics, equally researchers must study, research, publish, and communicate with the internet facilities hence the possibility of collaboration on the same level with colleagues in other part of the globe. The internet enhanced by the Information and Communication Technology with computer system has provided enormous opportunities for the academic. In view of the aforementioned, this study attempt to determine the availability, accessibility and utilization of internet facilities by the academic member of staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria.

**2. Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide the

study.

1. Does the availability of internet facilities influence the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti?
2. Does the accessibility of internet facilities influence the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti?
3. Does the utilization of internet facilities influence the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti?

**3. Methodology**

In carrying out the study, a survey research technique was adopted for the study. A total of 150 sets of questionnaire were distributed to the academic staff in the of Education, School of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Sciences, school of languages and school of Vocational and Technical Education. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select a total sample of 150 academic staff (30 each from all the five schools of study) of the college of Education, Ikere- Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. A well-structured questionnaire was used to elicit relevant information from the staff involved. This questionnaire had two Sections (A and B). Section A requested information on the personal data of the respondents. Section B consisted of 30 items intended to elicit relevant information for the study with 4-Likert type Scale options. The questionnaires were correctly filled by the staff and collected for data analysis. Three research questions raised were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

**4. Results and Discussion**

**4.1 Research Question 1**

Does the availability of internet facilities influence the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti?

**Table 1:** Chi-Square analysis of data on the influence of availability of internet facilities on the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti.

S. No.	ITEM	X <sup>2</sup> -cal	X <sup>2</sup> -tab	df	Remark
1	Mobile Services are available within the school premises	26.67	7.82	3	*
2	e-books are available in the school for use by academic staff				
3	e-journal are available in the school for use by academic staff				
4	Up-to date Virtual libraries are available within the school				
5	There is up-to-date Web for the use of academic staff				
6	There is search engines to access information for the staff				
7	There is availability of electronic mail for the academic staff				
8	There is constant supply of electric power.				
9	There is availability of Laptop/i pad for the academic staff				

P < 0.05, \* = Significant

A cursory look at table 1 revealed that X<sup>2</sup>-cal = 26.67 > X<sup>2</sup>-tab = 7.82 at df = 3 and at P < 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the result is significant. Therefore, availability of internet facilities influences the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti.

**4.2 Research Question 2**

Does the accessibility of internet facilities influence the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti?

**Table 2:** Chi-Square analysis of data on the influence of accessibility of internet facilities on the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti

S. No.	Item	X <sup>2</sup> -cal	X <sup>2</sup> -tab	Df	Remark
1	Mobile Services are accessible within the school premises	25.89	7.82	3	*
2	e-books are accessible in the school for use by academic staff				
3	e-journal are accessible in the school for use by academic staff				
4	Up-to date Virtual libraries are accessible within the school				
5	Up-to-date Web are accessible for the use of academic staff				
6	Search engines to access information are accessible for the staff				
7	There is accessibility of electronic mail for academic staff use				
8	Constant supply of electric power is accessible for academic staff.				
9	There is accessibility of Laptop/i pad for the academic staff				

P < 0.05, \* = Significant

Similarly, a cursory look at table 2 revealed that X<sup>2</sup>-cal = 25.89 > X<sup>2</sup>-tab = 7.82 at df = 3 and at P < 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the result is significant. Therefore, accessibility of internet facilities influences the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti.

### 4.3 Research Question 3

Does the utilization of internet facilities influence the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti?

**Table 3:** Chi-Square analysis of data on the influence of utilization of internet facilities on the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti

S. No.	ITEM	X <sup>2</sup> -cal	X <sup>2</sup> -tab	df	Remark
1	Mobile Services are utilized within the school premises by academic staff	19.56	7.82	3	*
2	e-books are utilized in the school for use by academic staff				
3	e-journal are utilized in the school for use by academic staff				
4	Up-to date Virtual libraries are utilized within the school				
5	Up-to-date College Web are utilized by academic staff				
6	Search engines to access information are utilized by academic staff				
7	Electronic mail are utilized by the academic staff				
8	Constant supply of electric power is utilized by academic staff.				
9	There is availability of Laptop/i pad for the academic staff				

P < 0.05 , \* = Significant

A brief look at table 3 revealed that X<sup>2</sup>-cal = 19.56 > X<sup>2</sup>-tab = 7.82 at df = 3 and at P < 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the result is significant. Therefore, utilization of internet facilities influences the performance of academic staff of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti.

### 5. Discussion

The internet has become a major development that allows access to information resources. The advantages of having access to the internet cannot be overemphasized irrespective of your geographical location. This has in no small measure made information readily available and boosts the works of educators, researchers and scientist.

In the findings revealed that academic staff of the Ekiti State College of Education makes use of internet resources such as database, search engines to access information, equally they make use of electronic mail, g-mail, World Wide Web (www) in conducting researches, teaching and business consultations. The greatest barrier to the internet is the cost of accessing and difficulty of access.

### 6. Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that internet facilities has greater impact on the performance of academic staff in College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. It is also interesting that generally, internet facilities in the area of availability, accessibility and utilization is fairly

better among academic staff members of College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State of Nigeria.

### 7. Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- Academic staff and other members of staff should be more encouraged to be using internet facilities to enhance their performance.
- Electric power supply to the College should be improved upon.
- More modern internet facilities should be provided to reinforce the existing ones.
- College should partner with Non-governmental organization (NGOs) through Public Private Partnership (PPP) to provide virtual libraries for them.

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