

Impact of utilisation of internet services and resources on university lecturers' academic activities in Adamawa state, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigated the impact of utilisation of Internet services and resources on academic activities of university lecturers' in Adamawa State, Nigeria. This study is guided by two objectives, one research question and a single hypothesis. Survey research method was adopted to carry out research from Adamawa State University (ADSU) Mubi, American University of Nigeria (AUN), Yola and Modibbo Adama University of Technology, (MAUTECH) Yola. The population for the study consisted of 847 lecturers in the Universities. A sample of 265 respondents was drawn using the Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table for determining sample size for a given population. Furthermore, stratified random sampling technique was used in selecting respondents for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a set of questionnaire. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics to answer the research question, while inferential statistics of Chi-square was used to test the formulated null hypothesis. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) tool, version 20.0 was also used for the analysis. Results revealed that the level of utilisation of Internet services and resources was generally moderate. In addition, impact of utilisation of Internet services and resources was rated moderate. Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended among others, that there is the need for Universities to create more awareness and engage in sensitisation, demonstrations and training workshops on the use and benefits for academic activities. Lecturers should be encouraged to use Internet services and resources for collaboration with their colleagues for publication activities, especially online publications.

Key words: *internet, utilisation, lecturers, universities, north-east.*

Introduction

Literarily, Internet is described as global connections of computers of various sizes, capacity and functionality. These networks are often referred to as "information superhighways," where computers are interconnected with the sole purpose of providing services, resources and information across the globe, thus reducing the entire universe to a "global village." According to Madu (2008), the Internet is regarded as the largest global connections of computer network, making it the network of networks. Internet services and resources are commonly or basically used for the purposes of information, communication, education, research, recreation and entertainment among others. According to Eyitayo (2008) the Internet enables users' access to vast quantities of information and also communicates with

one another globally. Kamba (2008) observed that the utilisation of Internet services for exchange of research has reduced shortage of information resources thereby bringing an increase in the output of research publications. Ogunjobi and Fagbami (2012) confirmed that Internet services and resources are capable of providing Nigerian researchers and scholars the enabling environment to overcome the barriers of communication and collaboration and also providing scholars, researchers, individuals and their organisations the advantages of presenting their research finding and ideas across the globe.

The impact of the Internet services and resources varied from country to country. As a tool to connect people with information, the Internet has now become a social networking vehicle that is changing the way people in all countries communicate with one another (Parent & Cruickshark, 2009). The impact of Internet utilisation for teaching and research by academics in Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) was studied by Ajala, Adegun and Oyewunmi (2010) the Internet was found to be useful for research activities, however it was not utilised for effective teaching and learning purposes. However, a study conducted in Makerere University School of Library and Information Science, Uganda, by Okello-Obura and Magara (2008) revealed the satisfactory benefits respondents derived from the utilisation of the various Internet services and resources. Bassi and Camble (2011) highlighted that in order to facilitate access to information by all users within the university system, the Federal Ministry of Education in 2000, introduced the virtual library project, which pulled together resources electronically, connecting all academic libraries in Nigeria with the hub at National Universities Commission (NUC). Consequently, university libraries in Adamawa State were not left behind in their efforts to providing electronic resources to their users'.

Al- Asmari (2005) conducted a study on the use of Internet services and resources by teachers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The study revealed low level of utilisation among faculty members. In the same vein, Adika (2003) reported low usage of Internet services and resources among university faculty members in Ghana. Dangani and Mohammed (2009) indicated that many academics in the Nigerian universities cannot use Internet and other ICT facilities very well. This study will therefore, investigate the level of Internet services and resources utilisation among the lecturers in the Universities in Adamawa State to reveal the impact of utilisation of Internet services and resources on their academic activities.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were to determine the:

- 1. Extent of utilisation of Internet services and resources on university lecturers' academic activities in Adamawa State; and
- 2. Impact of utilisation of Internet services and resources on university lecturers' academic activities in Adamawa State.

Research question

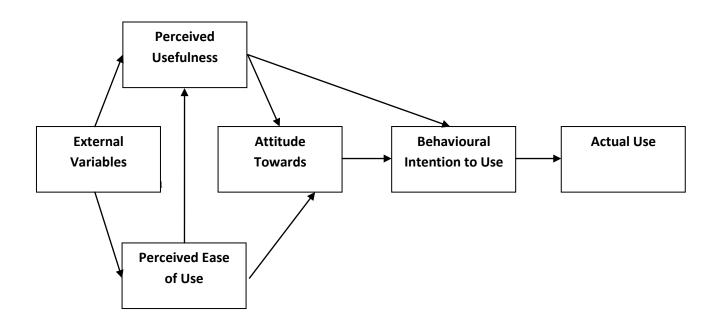
1. To what extent is the level of utilisation of Internet services and resources for university lecturers' academic activities in Adamawa State?

Hypothesis

H0: There is no significant difference in the impact of utilisation of internet services and resources, on academic activities of university lecturers' in Adamawa State.

Theoretical framework

This study was anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) theory postulated by Davis (1989). The theory states that the success of a system can be determined by user acceptance of the system, measured by three factors: perceived usefulness (PU), perceived ease of use (PEOU), and attitude towards usage (ATU) of the system (as cited in Shroff, Deneen, & Eugenia, 2011). According to TAM, one's actual use of a technology system is influenced directly or indirectly by the user's behavioral intentions, attitude, perceived usefulness of the system, and perceived ease of the system. TAM also proposes that external factors affect intention and actual use through mediated effects on perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use (Park, 2009).



Source: Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) (Davis, 1989)

The model examined the external variables (usefulness and ease of use) which determined influence or attitude towards Information Technology (IT) utilisation (Dishaw & Strong, 1999). The TAM theory was tailored to the study of user behaviour, and the context of

information technology acceptance (Monday & Turner, 2004). Furthermore, Masrom (2007) maintained that perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness of technology are determinants of user attitude towards technology, subsequent behavioural intentions and actual usage. In reality, perceived ease of use was also considered to influence perceived usefulness of the technology. Both perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use influences user's attitude towards technology utilisation.

This theory is relevant to the study as Perceived Usefulness (PU) relates to the impacts of Internet services and resources utilisation on academic activities of university lecturers in Adamawa State. The acceptance of the Internet technology and the resources forms the key. The technology needs to be accepted by the lecturers, use in order to impact on their academic activities.

Methodology

Survey research design was adopted and the target population for this study comprised of eight hundred and forty seven (847) lecturers in the three universities, namely; Adamawa State University Mubi (150), American University of Nigeria Yola (94) and Modibbo Adama University of Technology Yola (603). The table for determining sample size for a given population by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) was used to determine the sample size of 265 lecturers' in all the three universities. Stratified random sampling technique was used to obtain proportionate sample size from the faculties for all the three universities. The research instrument for this study was a self-designed questionnaire, where 4-point Likert's scale was used with 4- High, 3- Moderate, 2- Low, 1- Not Utilised for Utilisation, while 4-Very high, 3- High, 2- Moderate, 1-Low used for impact. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics to answer the research question, and inferential statistics of Chisquare was used to test the formulated null hypothesis. The descriptive statistics showed the demographic characteristics of respondents (gender, age range, marital status, rank, highest educational qualification and faculty/school). Mean and Standard deviation were used to answer the level utilisation of Internet services and resources among university lecturers and also the impact of Internet services and resources on the teaching, research, communication, collaboration and publication output among university lecturers in Adamawa State, Nigeria. This statistics were adopted so as to obtain accurate results for the study. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) tool, version 20.0 was used for the analysis.

Findings and discussion

Table 1: Response Rate

Universities	•	Questionnaire Administered F %		onnaire ırned
	$\overline{\mathbf{F}}$			%
MAUTech, Yola	189	71.2	178	67.2

ADSU, Mubi	47	17.7	42	15.9	
AUN, Yola	29	11.1	28	10.6	
Total	265	100.0	248	93.7	

A total of 265 questionnaire were administered and 248 (93.7%) were filled, returned and found usable for this study, with 42(15.9%) from Adamawa State University, Mubi, while, American University of Nigeria and Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola were 28 (10.6%) and 178 (67.2%) respectively. The response rate followed directly according to the population of the lecturers in the universities investigated.

Table 2: Demographic Information of Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
		(%)
Gender		
Male	165	66.5
Female	83	33.5
Age range		
30-40years	32	12.9
41-49years	103	41.5
50-59years	83	33.5
60 years and above	30	12.1
Marital status		
Single	90	36.3
Married	158	63.7
Rank		
Professors	23	9.3
Associate	25	10.1
Professors		
Senior Lecturers	44	17.7
Lecturers I	32	12.9
Lecturers II	73	29.4
Asst. Lecturers	51	20.6
Total	235	100.0

Out of 248 respondents, 165 (66.5%) were males while 83 (33.5%) were females. This implied that, male lecturers were more in terms of number than the female. Also, respondents who were between 31-40 were 32(12.9%), 41 and 49years were 103 (41.5%),

while, 83 (33.5%) of the lecturers were between 50 and 59 years. Only 30 (12.1%) of the respondents were above 60 years. The selection could therefore be said to include all ages of the lecturers in the three universities. Also, majority of the respondents had their age range between 41 and 49 years which means that young men and women formed the bulk of lecturers in the three universities. The lowest respondents were 30 (12.8%) with age range of 60 years and above respectively. Out of 248 Lecturers, 90 (36.3%) were singles, while, 158 (63.7%) were married. This shows that majority of the lecturers were married. Also, majority 73(29.4%) of respondents were lecturers II, 51(20.6%) were Assistant Lecturers, 32(12.9%) were Lecturers I, 44(17.7%) were Senior Lecturers, while, 25(10.1%) were Associate professors and 23(9.3%) were Professors.

Research Question: To what extent is the level of utilisation of Internet services and resources for university lecturers' academic activities in Adamawa State?

Table 3: Extent of Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources for University Lecturers' Academic Activities in Adamawa State

		Extent of Utilisation of Internet Services						ices an	es and Resources			
	Internet Services and Resources		High		Moderate		Low		sed	Remark		
S/ n o	Internet Services and Resources	FQ	%	FQ	%	FQ	%	FQ	%			
1	E-mail services	188	80. 0	32	13.6	11	4.7	4	1.7	High		
2	File/document exchange	22	9.4	180	76.6	21	8.9	12	5.1	Moderate		
3	File Transfer Protocol (FTP)	9	3.9	12	5.1	29	12. 3	185	78. 7	Not Utilised		
4	Newsgroup	16	6.8	27	11.5	11	4.7	181	77. 0	Not Utilised		
5	Mailing lists	6	2.6	14	6.0	192	81. 7	23	9.7	Low		
6	World Wide Web (WWW)	11	4.7	180	76.6	35	14. 9	9	3.8	Moderate		

7	Discussion group	11	4.7	19	8.1	163	69.	42	17.	Low
							4		8	
8	Frequently Asked Questions		8.9	9	3.8	46	19.	159	67.	Not Utilised
	(FAQ)						6		7	
9	Search engines	63	26.	138	58.7	14	6.0	20	8.5	Moderate
			8							
10	List Services	8	3.4	11	4.7	31	13.	185	78.	Not
							2		7	Utillised
11	Chatting	13	5.5	17	7.2	155	66.	50	21.	Low
							0		3	
12	Bulletin Board	28	11.	15	6.4	21	8.9	171	72.	Not Utilised
			9						8	
13	E-books	197	83.	23	9.8	11	4.7	4	1.7	High
			8							
14	Online Databases	27	11.	193	82.1	11	4.7	4	1.7	Moderate
			5							
15	OPAC	36	15.	164	69.8	11	4.7	24	10.	Moderate
			3						2	
16	E-journals	175	74.	45	19.1	11	4.7	4	1.7	High
			5							
17	Conference Proceedings	12	5.2	165	70.2	30	12.	28	11.	Moderate
							7		9	
18	E-theses	16	6.8	166	70.6	39	16.	14	6.0	Moderate
							6			

Table 3 above shows the extent of utilisation of Internet Services and Resources for University Lecturers' academic activities of the 235 Lecturers', with e-mail services (80.0%), e-books (83.8%) and e-journals (74.5%) rated very high. The level of utilisation of search engine (58.7%), File / Document Exchange (FDE) (76.6%), World Wide Web (WWW) (76.6%), online databases (82.1%), OPAC (100%), conference proceedings (70.2%) and e-theses (70.6%) were rated moderate. The level of utilisation of mailing list

(81.7%), discussion group (69.4%) and chatting (66.0%) were rated low, while, the level of utilisation of File Transfer Protocol (FTP) (78.7%), Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) (67.7%), list service (78.7%), bulletin board (72.8%) and news group (77.0%) were not utilized. The overall analysis revealed that the extent of utilisation of Internet Services and Resources for University Lecturers' academic activities in Adamawa State was moderate.

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis H0: There is no significant difference in the impact of utilisation of internet services and resources, on academic activities of university lecturers' in Adamawa State. The study investigated the impact of utilisation of Internet services and resources on teaching, research, communication, collaboration and publication activities among university lecturers' in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The findings were presented in tables 4 below.

Table 4: A cross tabulation of the observed and expected frequencies of the Differences in the Impact of Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on Academic Activities of University Lecturers in Adamawa State.

Impacts of Internet Services and	Very high	High	Moderate	Low	Total
Resources on Academic Activities of Lecturers	F ₀ F _E	F ₀ F _E	$\mathbf{F_0}$ $\mathbf{F_E}$	$\mathbf{F_0}$ $\mathbf{F_E}$	
Impact of the Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on Teaching Activities	65 72	93 60	77 85	00 00	235(100)
Impact of the Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on Research Activities	100 72	52 60	49 85	34 18	235(100)
Impact of the Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on Communication Activities	109 72	56 60	49 85	21 18	235(100)
Impact of the Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on Collaboration Activities	19 72	56 60	160 85	00 00	235(100)
Impact of the Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on Publication Activities	65 72	45 60	91 85	34 18	235(100)

The null hypothesis formulated determined the significant impact in the utilisation of internet services and resources, on lecturers' academic activities in Adamawa State was tested using Chi-square(X^2) as follows:

 $\mathbf{H_{01}}$: There is no significant difference in the impact of utilisation of internet services and resources, on academic activities of university lecturers' in Adamawa State.

Table 5: 2x5 Chi-square contingency table for the test of the difference in the Impact of Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on Academic Activities of University Lecturers in Adamawa State.

Options	VH	H	M	L	Total	\mathbf{X}^2	Df	P-Value	Decisio n
									P< 0.05
Observed	72	60	85	18	235(100)	41.009	3	000	S
Expected	58.8	58.8	58.8	58.8	235(100)				

Significant At 0.05 Level of Significance.

The result in table 5 shows that, the calculated x^2 is 41.009, while, the p-value at 0.05 level of significance at 3 degree of freedom is 000. Since the calculated x^2 of 41.009 is greater than the p-value of 000 at 0.05 level of significance with 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which stated that, there is no Significant Difference in the Impact of Utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on Academic Activities of University Lecturers in Adamawa State is rejected. Therefore, this implies that there was significant impact of utilisation of Internet Services and Resources on academic activities of University Lecturers' in Adamawa State.

Discussion

The finding of this research revealed that the extent of utilisation of Internet services and resources for academic activities was generally moderate. However, the extent of utilisation of e-mail, e-books, online databases and e-journals were very high. This finding agrees with that of Nazim (2008) to some extent, the author established in a study that bulletin board services, discussion group, chatting, Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ), FTP, search engines and e-mail were the Internet services used by the respondents in the academic community for education and research purpose. The author did not rate the level of utilisation as done by the researcher and bulletin board service was not used by Lecturers' for their academic activities in the universities studied. As noted by Al-ansari (2006) the level of Internet services and resources utilisation varies from individual to individual, institution to institution and country to country. The study further revealed that Internet services and resources were used for the purposes of communication, research, publication, finding of current information and cooperation with colleagues. This finding corroborates that Ajala, Adegun and Oyewunmi (2010) which revealed the utilisation of e-mail and Internet services by academic staff of Ladoke Akintola University, Nigeria, was high. The finding was also in line with the study by Ukpebor (2011). The author asserted that e-mail was the most preferred Internet service among engineering lecturers and students of the Edo State University, Nigeria.

The study shows that impacts of the utilisation of Internet services and resources on academic activities were generally moderate. However, there was very high impact on research and communication activities. The study agreed with the study conducted by Ajala, Adegun & Oyewunmi (2010) that revealed that the Internet was found to be useful for research activities, however it was not utilised for effective teaching and learning purposes.

Conclusion and recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the impact of Internet services and resources on academic activities in Adamawa State universities remained moderate. This was as a result of moderate level of utilisation of Internet services and resources. Utilization of e-mail, ejournals and e-books and was very high. However, there was moderate utilization of search engine, File / Document Exchange (FDE), World Wide Web (WWW), online databases, OPAC, conference proceedings and e-theses. Utilisation of mailing list, discussion group and chatting was low, while, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), Frequently Asked Question (FAQ), list service, bulletin board and news group were not utilized, and this had affected the overall impact of Internet services and resources on academic activities. Utilisation of Internet services and resources had very high impact on research and communication of lecturers in Adamawa State Universities. However, utilisation of Internet services and resources had moderate impact on teaching, collaboration and publication activities of the lecturers. It is recommended that the Universities should engage in sensitization, demonstrations and training workshops for lecturers on the use and benefits of utilisation of Internet services and resources for academic activities. Academic staff should be educated on the use of Internet services and resources for academic activities. To increase the impact of utilisation of Internet services and resources on academic activities, lecturers should be encouraged to use Internet services and resources for collaboration and publication activities, especially online publications.

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