

**INFLUENCE OF INTERNET USAGE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF  
FINAL YEAR STUDENTS OF COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL, AWARRA IN  
OHAJI, IMO STATE**

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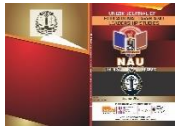
**ABSTRACT**

*The study investigated The Influence of Internet Usage on Students Academic Performance of Final Year Students of Community Secondary School Awarra in Ohaji. The study adopted the descriptive survey research design. Five research questions guided the study. The population of the study was made up of all final year students of Community Secondary School Awarra in Ohaji which consisted of 150 students. The sample size of study was the entire population because it was a manageable size. The instrument for the study was a structured, questionnaire developed by the researcher titled: The Influence of Internet Usage on Students Academic Performance of Final Year Students of Community Secondary School Awarra in Ohaji. It was used as the instrument for data collection. The instrument was validated by three experts, two from the Department of Educational Management and Policy and one from the Department of Educational Foundation, all from the Faculty of Education, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Mean rating was used for data analysis. One of the findings of the study among others is that students use internet services to do their academic work irrespective of their locations but that they are limited by inadequate finance. It was therefore recommended among others that government should should make internet useage in schools free.*

**Keywords:** Internet Usage, Influence, Academic Performance, World Wide Web.

**Introduction**

The internet can be conceived as a rich, multi-layered complex, ever-changing text for information dissemination and a medium for collaborative interaction between individuals and computers without regard for geographical limitation or space. Similarly, the use of internet technology in the world is growing. The internet, also known as a global system of computer, networks and information super highways have become a very important tool and required by the knowledge-based society for information search, communication, research and learning. The internet initially emerged in the 1990s- and was greatly admired in terms of capability and sophistication. The use of the internet as a tool for communication has now become a tool for social interaction, education, business and many functions and other activities.



According to Bragdon and Dowler (2016) the internet today is a worldwide entity whose nature cannot be easily or simply defined. To many, the internet is a large computer network linking together millions of smaller computers at numerous sites in various countries with thousands of businesses, government, research, educational and other organisations. To internet users, the internet is a global community, one with a very active life. In today's world, the internet plays a vital role in the teaching, research and learning process in academic institutions. Thus, the advent of the internet has heralded the emergence of a new form of knowledge production through the soft form or software.

The internet was only previously used by workers in the field of computer with unlimited sharing of information and also provides a way for an individual to co-ordinate and interact with computers worldwide irrespective of time and place.

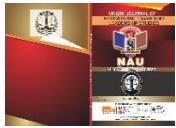
The history of the use of technology especially the use of the mass media in education began long ago. The use of books, pictures, radio and television as the main tools of technology have managed to improve the quality of education to students around the world. The use of the internet, especially the world wide web (www) is only a recent development in the history of the use of technology in environmental education. However, the impact of the use of the medium is very large due to the rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT) in all sectors (Abede, 2015).

Internet began as "an experiment by the US Department of Defence in the 1960s to help scientists and researchers from widely dispersed places to share scarce and expensive information and files. This goal required the creation of a set of connected networks that would act as a co-ordinated whole". Austin and Totaro (2011) posits that, "the internet was designed in parts to provide a network of communication that would work even if some of the sites were destroyed by nuclear attack".

The internet is a relatively new channel of communication for scholarly resources and contains vast quantities of information that vary a great deal regarding its content, aim, target, group and reliability. Hence, it is important that the end user is aware of the diverse information available on the internet and educated in the criteria by which the information content should be accessed. The internet is one of the beneficial tools in this era of IT world not only for business but for academic activities and enhances the skills and capabilities of students which assist them in studies and in professional life. Students use the internet as a hub for research in their various fields of study. This can be seen by the way the students consult the internet for assignments, presentations, research works and examinations. (Addiction Centre, 2019).

The internet now represents one of the most successful examples of the benefits of sustained investment and commitment to research and development of information infrastructure. The internet is a valuable source of information used by students in projects and assignments. With over 50 million websites on the net, the chances are that information on any subject however obscure can be found using appropriate search tools. It also serves as a useful tool for lecturers in helping to prepare lecture notes and plans using a number of sites dedicated to providing educational materials.

There are great possibilities for higher education at all levels through the use of internet because curricular can be developed collaboratively and educational materials distributed and



updated more cheaply, offering additional ways for students to interact with their study materials as well as their instructors. Another importance of the internet is that it affords students (all over the world but more beneficial to those in developing countries) the opportunity to access a large pool of data which could help reduce the information gap resulting from the disadvantages of the educational opportunities.

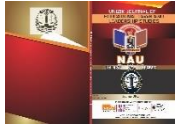
The University library has a role to play through the provision of vast quality or volume of information sources through the mediation of internet access. Resources that the library makes available must be integrated with one another and within the library environment and library services must support learning and research behaviours of its users. (Bragdon, R.A & Dower, K. (2016).

With increasing impact of information and communication technologies on higher education, all those concerned with higher education are attempting to grasp how ICT could help in modernizing the process of teaching, learning and research. With the advent of the internet, the following dilemma arises in the education system. The learner is not dependent on the teacher for interaction; so in this era, teachers and students can do their work on the internet in ways that are similar to and tightly intertwined with the traditional ways that they learn, teach and study in libraries, classrooms, laboratories, seminars, conferences and so on. The internet can provide access to essentially unlimited resources of information not conventionally obtainable through other means. The internet has broken down barriers of communication access

the world. It is fast, reliable and does not have restrictions on content or format. It also has unlimited range of facilities which assist users to access almost infinite information on the net. It offers the opportunity for access to up-to-date research reports and knowledge globally. It has thus become an important component of electronic services in academic institutions. Hence the internet has become an invaluable tool for learning, teaching and research (including collaborative research). especially final year students in public secondary schools. (Akande, S.O & Bamise, O.F 2017).

Final year students consist of the examination class in secondary schools that are preparing to sit for the Senior Secondary School Examinations organized by the West African Examinations Council. As stated earlier, the use of internet facilities is very useful to their studies as it enhances their research processes which result in improved academic performance or outcome. Academic performance could be expressed as the outcome of academic activities or efforts of a child or a student as represented by his or her scores in the results of the examinations the student sat for either at the end of the school term or school year. (Akhter, N. 2013).

Academic performance includes class participation in lessons, reading, doing of assignments, participating in class quiz, sitting for examinations at the end of term or year. Such examinations could be internal or external. If it is internal, it is organized by the school but if it is external, it is the senior secondary school certificate examination organized by WAEC or the one organized by NECO. In a very simple language, academic performance has to do with all activities leading to the results of these examinations. (Akin-Adaramola, A.O. 2014).



### **Statement of the Problem**

The use of internet facilities is of immense benefits to students, especially final students in public secondary schools. However, the usage is limited by finance. This is because it needs a lot of money for subscription of data, provision of android phone and payment on the cybercafe. The lack of funds for effective running of the schools and especially their libraries have adversely affected adequate provision of modern books, updated materials and journals where available. They are now expensive as warranted by the economic recession, global political crisis and currency devaluation compounded by the information explosion that we have witnessed in the global electronic village. Unfortunately, there seem to be the dearth of research on the subject of the study. This accounts for why this study investigated the impact of internet and facility usage on the academic performance of students of community secondary school, Awarra in Ohaji, Imo State. This is because the use of internet facilities makes research easy and provides results in a more accurate format. However, inspite of these benefits, the use of internet facilities in public secondary schools in the study area, is quite limited.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of the study was to find out the influence of Internet Usage on Students' Academic Performance of Final year students of Community Secondary School Awarra in Ohaji, Imo State. The specific objectives of the study however were to;

1. find out the most preferred location of internet use
2. find out students' purpose for browsing the internet.
3. find out the most used internet services
4. find out the influence of internet use on academic performance.

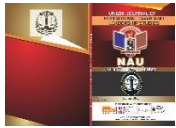
### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were formulated to guide this study

1. What is the most preferred location of internet?
2. What are the purposes for browsing the internet?
3. What are students benefits of using the internet?
4. What is the influence of internet usage on students' performance?

### **Method**

The study investigated the influence of internet usage on the academic performance of final year students of Community Secondary School, Awarra in Ohaji, Imo State. The study adopted the descriptive research design. Five research purposes and five research questions guided the study. The population of the study consisted of the 150 final year students of the school and the sample size comprised of the entire population because it was a manageable size. The instrument for the study which was used for data collection was the Influence of Internet Usage on the Academic Performance of Final Year Students of Community Secondary School Awarra. The instrument was validated by three experts, two from the Department of Educational Management and Policy and one from the Department of Educational Foundation, all in the Faculty of Education, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Mean rating was used to analyze the data collected for the study. The



finding of the study among others is students use the internet to do their work but that they are affected by inadequate finance. It was therefore recommended among others that government should make internet usage in schools free.

**Presentation and Analysis of Data**

This presents a detailed analysis and presentation of all data collected through the questionnaire. The presentation and the analysis were done regarding to the research questions.

**Research question 1:** To find out the users most preferred locations of internet?

**Table 1:** Respondents mean rating of most preferred locations of internet.

N= 50				
S/N	Users most preferred location of internet	Total	Mean (X)	Decision
1	Majority of students have no preferred location when using the internet	182	3.64	Agree
2	Majority of students use the internet services base on the information they are searching for	175	3.5	Agree
3	Greater number of students prefer using facebook locations while using the internet.	175	3.5	Agree
4	Whatsapp is widely used to disseminate information than the Instagram.	183	3.66	Agree
5	All internet users prefer using the internet for watching films	112	2.24	Disagree
<b>Grand Mean</b>			<b>3.30</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Table 1 showed the four (4) out of five (5) items on the most preferred locations of the internet which have the mean ratings above the cutoff mean of 2.50 with a cluster mean of 3.30, only item five (5) was disagreed by the respondents with a mean rate below the benchmark.

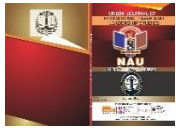
This shows that respondents agreed that internet have no preferred locations instead they use the internet base on the information they are searching for.

**Research Questions 2:** To find out the purposes of browsing the internet?

**Table 2:** Showed the mean rating of respondents on the purposes of browsing the internet.

N= 50				
S/N	The purposes of browsing the internet	Total	Mean (X)	Decision
6	To interact with other people irrespective of their locations	182	3.64	Agree
7	Internet is a platform used by students in communicating with friends and social interaction	178	3.56	Agree
8	For rapid transformation of information to enhance teaching and learning	179	3.58	Agree
9	To assist students in preparation of assignments and other forms of school related activities	180	3.6	Agree
10	People browse the internet to read sports news and it serves as a place of finding entertainment	167	3.34	Agree
11	Some students use the opportunity the internet provides to watch pornographic images.	163	3.26	Agree
12	People browse the internet to gai more knowledge, ideas and skills from others.	180	3.6	Agree
<b>Grand Mean</b>			<b>3.51</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Table 2 showed seven (7) items on the purposes of browsing the internet. Which have the mean ratings above the cutoff mean of 2.50 with a cluster mean of 3.51.



This shows that respondents agree on the purposes of browsing the internet.

**Research Question 3:** To what extent have students benefitted from using the internet?

**Table 3** showed the mean rating of respondents on the extent students have benefitted from using the internet.

N= 50				
S/N	Students' benefit from using the internet	Total	Mean (X)	Decision
13	Internet usage has helped students to upgrade their knowledge	174	3.48	Agree
14	It helps to improve communication with others	178	3.56	Agree
15	It makes learning more easier	177	3.54	Agree
16	It has improved students in research abilities	168	3.36	Agree
17	It provides easy access to information	181	3.62	Agree
18	It provides free software to users	174	3.48	Agree
19	It reduces transportation cost	158	3.16	Agree
20	It improves entertainment and business transaction	169	3.38	Agree
<b>Grand Mean</b>			<b>3.45</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Table 3 showed the eight (8) items on the extent students have benefitted from using the internet which have the mean ratings above the cutoff mean of 2.50 with a cluster mean of 3.45.

**Research Question 4:** Does internet services influence students' academic performance?

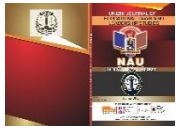
**Table 4** showed the mean rating of respondents on how internet services influence students' academic performance.

N= 50				
S/N	How internet services influence students' academic performance	Total	Mean (X)	Decision
21	It helps students in doing better research and also provide better research and learning experiences.	155	3.10	Agree
22	It helps students to upgrade their knowledge	211	4.22	Agree
23	It influences students' academic performance because it serves as academic materials	178	3.56	Agree
24	It serves as agent of socialization and it can educate public	167	3.34	Agree
25	It helps students in their lessons and assignments better than any other	174	3.48	Agree
<b>Grand Mean by</b>			<b>3.54</b>	<b>Agree</b>

### Discussions of Findings

The findings of the study revealed that internet users have no preferred location for the use of internet. The study showed that the respondents generally agreed that people use the internet based on information they are searching for. The internet also as a global system of computer networks and information super highways which have become a very important tool and required by knowledge-based society presented the contemporary information search, communication, research and learning. It is based on Ivwighreghweta and Igere (2014) who said the internet is a rich, multi-layered, complex and ever-changing environment. The internet initially emerged as the highest tops and greatly admired in terms of capability and sophistication.

The findings on research question two (2) revealed the purpose of browsing the internet. Respondents generally agreed that students browse the internet for the purpose of disseminating information, searching for information, communicate with others as well as preparing their assignments. The internet is a relatively new channel for scholarly resources and contains vast



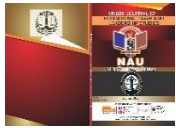
quantities of information that vary a great deal regarding its content, aim, target, group and reliability. Hence, it is important that the end user is aware of the diverse information available on the internet and educated in the criteria by which the information content should be accessed. The internet in one of the beneficial tools in this era of Information Technology (IT) world not only for business but for academic activities and it enhances the skills and capabilities of students which assist them in studies and in professional life. Students use the internet as a hub for research in their various fields of study. This can be seen by the way the students consult the internet for assignments, research works and examinations.

These findings are in line with the views of Adegboji and Toyo (2011) who in their study on the impact of internet on research reported that internet contributed significantly into the ease of research through downloading of materials. This position is supported by Fasae and Aladenyi's (2012) who stated that students use the internet for research more than they use it for communication and entertainment. Students further accepted that the internet is more informative, useful, less expensive and time saving.

The findings on research question three (3) revealed the extent students have benefited from the use of internet. The results of the study showed that respondents generally agreed that students derived a lot of benefits from using the internet such as allowing access to e-books, searching information easily, upgrading students' knowledge and skills, improving them in research abilities; improving their entertainment and business transactions, and assisting students in completing the tasks that will be significant in increasing their academic achievement. With the advent of the internet, the following dilemma arises in the educational system. Learner is not dependent on teacher for interaction; and teachers and students can give virtually to unknown learners. The internet can provide access to essentially unlimited resources of information not conventionally obtained through other means. The internet has broken down barriers of communication access all over the world. It also serves as a useful tool for lectures in helping to prepare lesson plans using a number of sites dedicated to providing educational materials.

This finding is in line with the submission of (Akhtar, 2013) that internet usage has been described with regards to its benefits including enhancing "visual processing of information, increasing language and literacy skills, building knowledge base, and promoting meta-cognitive abilities such as planning and evaluation". Ilo P.I. and Ifijeh (2010) investigated the pattern of internet use by undergraduates at the University of Lagos. The study showed that internet has a very high impact on the academic /career related activities of the students.

The findings on research question four (4) revealed that internet services influence students' academic performance. The results of the study showed that the respondents generally agreed that internet services influence students' academic performance. This is because internet is a valuable source of information used by students in projects and assignments. There are great possibilities for higher education at all levels through the use of internet because subject curricula can be developed collaboratively and educational material distributions can be updated more cheaply, offering additional ways for students to interact with their study materials as well as their instructors. It also influences students' academic performance as it affords students all over the world the opportunity to access a large pool of data which could help reduce the information gap resulting from the disadvantages of the educational opportunities (Fasae and Aladeniyi, 2012).



## Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that internet usage influences students' academic performance. Students' academic performance can be increased if they allocate how to use the internet in the right way. Students should make sure that they use internet services judiciously to ensure that they do not become challenges to their academics.

It is a fact that internet and its services play important roles in students' academic performance. This it does through constant exposure of students to up-to-date information and relevant information in their various fields of study. The number of hours spent on the internet will have an effect on the students' academic performance. The study shows that the use of internet for study purposes and academic achievements are directly proportional to each other. It was revealed that majority of respondents access the internet every day. Thus, based on the results obtained, a conclusion can be made that students' academic performance can be increased if they allocate how to use the school internet in the right way.

Furthermore, this study provides a significant contribution to schools and universities as they want their students' academic performance improved because students are important assets to schools.

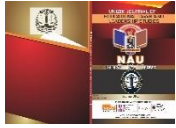
## Recommendations

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations were made.

1. There is the need for extensive training programmes organised by government at regular intervals so that staff and students can improve their efficiency in the use of the internet.
2. Government should provide adequate facilities to schools for effective teaching and learning on the internet in order to enhance students' knowledge and skills.
3. To solve the problem of slow functioning of internet connectivity, schools should acquire high speed internet connection with maximum bandwidth.
4. The cost of browsing should be reviewed downward so that students' access to internet can increase.

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