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The Need for Integrating Internet Facility in the Tertiary Institutions' Curriculum in Nigeria

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Abstract:

Today, the Internet which is the conglomeration of computer networks, the most powerful human discovery in the 20th century and the key factor in information and communication technology development, has generally brought a new dimension in education from primary to tertiary institutions. In addition, it has become the key tool that has revolutionized the computer and communication world and has impact on how we perceive the world and how we live in it. This article highlights the need for integrating Internet facility in the curriculum of tertiary institution in Nigeria to maximize the exploitation of information by students and teachers.

Keywords: Internet, curriculum, tertiary institution, integration, facilities.

1. Introduction

Today, the Internet is used by more than 40 percent of the world population, (Internet Livestat, 2015). Its applications are found in nearly every field of life, be it communication, knowledge, new shopping, marketing, entertainment and education (Baehke, 2010). Providing Internet facilities in the tertiary institutions makes it easier for more students to access the facilities. The objective of the facilities is to ensure that all members of the tertiary school community have access to Internet and information.

Internet has a revolutionary impact on educational methodology globally. According to Inyiana (2002) the Internet has indeed turned the world into a global village such that any nation or business that opts out of the internet, would quickly cease to be relevant in this millennium. He further stated that any activity in any part of the world is received in all parts of the world through the Internet.

The Internet is fast altering the processes and nature of conducting human activities in the areas of administration, politics, business, education, social and even religion. Every process is gradually moving to the Internet where things are executed electronically (Odoh 2010).

Internet enables a person to sit at his computer to exchange information with another computer user in any other part of the world. (Amaeshi, Anyanwu & Oparaku 2006). The Internet allows physical access to the information on the web. Aina (1999) cited by Mabawonku (2001) posited that the Internet is a solution to the inadequate provision of information to decision makers in Africa.

The above assertion shows that the Internet has become the symbol of the information age and a means of accessing and sharing information now extending throughout the whole culture of human race (Song and Khong, 2001) cited by Ojokoh (2005). Therefore, it becomes necessary to integrate Internet facility in the tertiary institution curriculum in Nigeria to increase performance, maximize exploitation of resources, and the processes of teaching and learning especially in the area of research works through world wide web (www).

1.1. The State of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Nigerian Tertiary Educational System

The Astronomical development in the information technology in the 21st century in educational system has been viewed by many authors like Haag (2004) as inevitable and something that could be used in all sphere of life to improve the lives of people and solve societal problems.

Mbachu (2007) stressed that the impact of Internet in the total operation of the tertiary institution education connote that internet is now a global tool for information acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination. Emenyonu, Bangsberg, Kiwanuka and Jybara (2006) conducted a study on Internet use among Ugandan adolescents in Mbarara, Uganda and found out that both the desire to use and the actual use of the internet to seek information is high among students.

Wee (2000) in his study on Internet use amongst students from fourteen schools in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia decided to find out the pattern of Internet use among students from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The study outlined the advantages of using Internet to obtain information as follows:

(a) Internet provides fast and efficient access to information,

(b) Internet contains lots of information, or wide variety of information, and up to date information. The two studies above indicate some level of relationship in their findings, which showed a general acceptance of Internet as a good tool for teaching and learning and for exploitation of information. The general acceptability of the Internet revealed that Internet is and has become an inevitable tool for effective teaching and learning of all subjects and for exploitation of all information.

According to Vanguard News (2016), the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) said that the number of internet users on the country's telecom networks increased to 83,362,841 at February, 2015. The data revealed that there was an increase of 1,316,176 internet users on both the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and the Code Division Network in February. From the above information there is need to integrate information and communication technology through the provision of Internet facility in the tertiary institutions and to introduce full ICT studies in the curriculum of tertiary institutions in this 21st century.

1.2. The Need for Integrating Internet Facility in the Curriculum of Tertiary

1.2.1. Institutions in Nigeria

Available facts as indicated in the review above revealed that Internet is an inevitable tool for effective teaching and learning on all subjects. Various comments on the successful use of the internet were highlighted by the authors. Le Roy (2001) stressed that there is every necessity of integrating Internet facility into teaching and learning in the tertiary institution education curriculum of Nigeria because the Internet is only a part of the school library which helps in liberating the students from the bonds of educational entrenchment as well as quicken all learning activities.

The knowledge, and information age requires that students and lecturers should demonstrate competences, abilities and skills about the use of computers and other related ICTs like Internet in learning, delivery, development, prescription, assessment of instruction, writing of assignment and effective use of Internet as an aid to problem solving, educational research and electronic information access as one of the broad aims of tertiary institution education in Nigeria (ISTE 2003). Among others is to equip students to live effectively in a modern age of global science and technology.

To this end, the curriculum of tertiary institution is supposed to be vocational and academic, teach all the basic subjects, and enable students to acquire further knowledge and develop skills. Nwachukwu (2004) clearly opined, from the earliest time, that Internet has provided access to information for scholars and researchers. He further stressed that Internet has become the repository of all the society has achieved. Therefore, by the introduction and integration of Internet facility (technology) in the tertiary institution curriculum, the future of the growing students will yield fruitful output to this our great nations as Khan (2009) postulated that Internet acts as a motivator for some students by means of providing them with additional learning activities not readily available in the classroom. The use of Internet services and its integration in learning in tertiary institutions have brought a lot of changes in the life of students. By the feat, students can interact with their friends (chatting), communicate with international students, carry out class assignments Prepare for examinations, update their knowledge and read latest news with the aid of that internet services (Ndanwu, 2014).

Internet is disadvantageous to those who cannot operate or use computer. The totality of the above is that there is need for government of Nigeria to consider the inclusion of Internet in the educational curriculum of tertiary institution to help the students develop learning ability, knowledge, information and skilled acquisition which are the raw materials needed for today's educational system. Such skill fosters economic security and well being and should be part of condition for the integration of Internet technological facility in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The researchers are of the opinion that the inclusion or integration of Internet facility in the tertiary institutions' curriculum, should pave way for the teachers (lecturers) and students computer/Internet skill competency both in the classroom and worldwide.

2. Conclusion

The need for deployment of Internet facility in the tertiary institution curriculum are numerous. Some of them as revealed by the authors are:

- Internet quicken all learning activities.
- Internet has become the repository that all have achieved.
- Internet acts as a motivator.

Therefore, if the necessary integration, does not take place in the tertiary institution curriculum the products of our educational system might turn out to be ill-equipped for life in the 21st century. This article, therefore, calls for integrating of Internet facility in the tertiary institution curriculum.

3. Recommendation

- There should be continuous and periodic training of teachers on computer and internet skills acquisition. This will provide them with practical and functional knowledge of the computers.
- The federal government of Nigeria should facilitate the integration of Internet facility into the curriculum of schools through the federal ministry of education in this global age especially at the tertiary institution level.
- The philanthropist and the federal government of Nigeria should liaise with the relevant ministries of education to create avenue for the availability of fund for the purchase of computer facilities such as Internet service providers, nodes and hosts.
- The federal government of Nigeria, should liaise with the Ministries of Education and policy makers to produce policy on promoting the use of the Internet for information.
- There should be continuous and periodic training of teachers. Preparing teachers for Internet facility training is considered a key to achieving a breakthrough competitive advantage in attaining curriculum in Nigeria.

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