

INFLUENCE OF THE INTERNET ON BUSINESS EDUCATION STUDENTS' RESEARCH IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ANAMBRA STATE

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Abstract

This study examined the influence of the internet on business education students' research in Colleges of Education Anambra State. Three research question and two hypotheses guided the study. Descriptive survey research was adopted for the study. The population of this study comprised of both NCE and Degree students of school of Business Education in Federal College of Education (Technical), Umunze and Nwafor Orizu College of Education. The population was six hundred and seven (607) which was made up of (383) three hundred and thirty five students (both Degree and NCE) from FCET, Umunze and (222) two hundred and twenty two students (both Degree and NCE) Nwafor Orizu College of Education of 2022/2023 session. Purposive random sampling was use to select the sample of 241 students for NCE and Degree from both Colleges of Education, Anambra State. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire. Method of data analysis that was adopted was mean and standard deviation to analysis research questions and the z- test was used to test the hypotheses of the study at 0.05 level of significance. The study identified Some of the positive influence of internet search on business education students' research include access to online journals, magazines and other information resources, enhance quality of students research, provide global sources of information and permitting researchers to discuss and share experiences among others. Again, Some of the negative influence of internet search engines include: provision of unwanted information to the students, causing students to lose our ability to focus and concentrate, most students are addicted to online social networks, *lack of face to face Communication in research work etc* Ways of curbing negative influences of internet search engines on business education students' research to include providing relevant materials to students on the internet usage, good mentorship to students about negative effects of internet, good councillor to students on the effects of internet on their health, providing good and related information in the visual library. It is recommended among others that that heads of institutions liaise with other stakeholders and supporting management to provide internet facilities, students should be taught how to search for academic information or materials online and there should be effective supervision of students on internet use by teachers.

Keywords: Business education, research and internet

Introduction

Business Education is a course of study that equips the individual with occupational skills and knowledge that will enable him/her fit into, and finds job satisfaction in the labour market. This field of study also offers every individual an opportunity to develop those abilities, skills and understanding of the vocational opportunity available (Obiakor, 2021).

According to Ademiluyi and Ademiluyi (2016), Business education deals with empowerment necessary to meet business challenges in a dynamic business world or society. It offers recipients the ability to cope with emerging changes in education, and in business where the person is expected to manifest all the skills acquired while in training (Learnard, 2016). Therefore, business education is planned for training and developing recipients to expose them in the field of business, and as a professional, consequently, expanding the way for imparting competences for economic development of the society (Anjugu, 2013). Business education are offered in higher institutions like universities and college of education. In Colleges of education Anambra State, Business education are offer at both NCE and Degree level. Business Education students at these levels do seminars, assignment and projects (James, 2013) . All these are done through embarking on research.

Research can be seen as a creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge (Dewing, 2022). It involves the unbiased collection, organization and analysis of

information to increase understanding of a topic or issue. A research project may be an expansion on past work in the field (John,2015). To test the validity of instruments, procedures, or experiments, research may replicate elements of prior projects or the project as a whole.

According to Lewis (2012), research serves as a knowledge building tool which most prominent reason students engage in research is to enhance their knowledge. Even if students are an expert in their field, there is always more to uncover. In researching about a topic entirely new to student, it will help build student unique perspective about it. The whole process of research opens new doors of learning and literary growth. Students reveal that research helps to restore and protect memory and enhances business education courses and problem-solving skills (Sandra, 2018). Therefore, it prepares the mind for a better understanding of concepts and theories. A person's learning capacity is improved and they can perform better in comparison who is reluctant to research (Lusk, 2022). Research has an undeniable role in the business industry. Successful companies have resources invested in research and development to have all the information they need of the market (Young, 2019). Your academic phase helps you prepare for any research tasks you will have to accomplish in the future. Most of the researches done by students in higher institutions of which Business education students in FCE Anambra State are inclusive were done through the use of internet.

Internet according to Oyedele and Oladeji 2016 is a system architecture that has revolutionized communications and methods of commerce by allowing various computer networks around the world to interconnect. The Internet (or internet) is the global system of interconnected computer networks that uses the Internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to communicate between networks and devices. It is a network of networks that consists of private, public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope, linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless, and optical networking technologies (Jayashree,2021).. The Internet carries a vast range of information resources and services, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents and applications of the World Wide Web (WWW), electronic mail, telephony, and file sharing (Raymond & Afua, 2016).

Internet as a borderless network of networks is growing at phenomenal rates of fifteen percent every month and it is changing the way people do business, learn, promote ideas, communicate, shop, manage, exercise hobbies (Jayashree,2021). According to Walkyra and Guido (2012), listed out internet search engine as Google, facebook search, Microsoft Bing, yahoo Search, internet explorer, etc. Google is an American multinational technology company focusing on search engine technology, online research, online advertising, cloud computing, computer software, quantum computing, e-commerce, artificial intelligence, and consumer electronics (Henry,2018). . Internet Explorer is a discontinued series of graphical web browsers developed by Microsoft which was used in the Windows line of operating systems. Yahoo search is a yahoo internet search provider that uses Microsoft's Bing search engine to power results, since 2009, apart from four years with Google until 2019.

It is certain that business education students in Colleges of Education Anambra State use various internet search engine in doing their research but what is not clear is the influence these internet tools have on the research. However, there is no doubt that students will come across information of personal interest that may not be relevant to their educational activities thereby neglecting the primary aim of surfing the internet for knowledge acquisition. It is against this background that this study is organize to investigate the influence of the internet on business education students' research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.

Statement of the Problem

The Internet and the social media have dramatically changed both teaching and learning. In fact, most students' (an incredible 93 percent) first instinct, when confronted with a research problem, turn to Google or Bing to get information rather than going to the library (either print or electronic library), and despite the efforts made to discourage its excessive and inappropriate use, Wikipedia tends to make browsing for information very easy. However, it is not only students that are turning to the web, but also researchers and scholars, one can logically conclude that the Internet has had a strong influence on the how, where, and what students are studying.

Unfortunately, as a result of excessive dependence on internet, the standard of education is falling drastically and part of the fall is attributed to lack of books and up-to-date information in our Nigerian libraries (most especially libraries in higher institutions). Now, with the advent of ICT, there is a rapid revolution and breakthrough in learning but this does not come without its attendant problem of computer literacy, access to internet facilities, conducive learning environment, access to computers etc. Even with online learning being as widespread as it is, it is believed that not all students seize the opportunity to acquire knowledge. Though, one in three academic scholars considers the Internet to be inferior to face-to-face instruction or teaching. However as the Internet revolution rapidly unfolds, time will tell whether the Internet education or the information retrieved from the Internet can compete with traditional learning models.

Consequently, is pretty obvious that the internet has had a huge impact on education, but just how has the internet changed education most especially in research? Even though most students can pride themselves as being computer literate, the fact remains that some are yet to know how the internet works. Irrespective of their status, the need for them to exploit the internet for one purpose or the other cannot be under-emphasized. Against this backdrop, the researcher intends to establish the extent to which internet influence business education students' research in Anambra State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to investigate the influence of the internet on business education students' research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.

Specifically, the study will investigate:

- The positive influences of the internet search engines on business education research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.
- The negative influences of the internet search engines on business education research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.
- Way of curbing negative influence of internet search engines of business education students in Colleges of Education Anambra state.

Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the study:

- What are the positive influences of the internet search engines on business education research in Colleges of Education Anambra State
- What are the negative influences of the internet search engines on business education research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.
- What are the ways of curbing negative influences of internet on business education students' research in College of Education?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 of level of significance.

- There is no significant difference between the mean responses of degree and NCE students of business education on the extent to which internet positively influences students' research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.
- Significant difference does not exist between male and female business education students of Colleges of Education Anambra State on the extent to which internet negatively influences students research.

Empirical Studies

Ugwulebo and Okoro (2016), conducted a study on the impact of internet usage on academic performance of students.(A study of university of Abuja, Nigeria). Three research questions and three hypotheses guides the study. Survey research design was adopted for the study. Questionnaire was an instrument for data collection. The sample of the study comprised of 375 students which was randomly selected from each level of the entire students of the university. Data collected were analyzed using inferential statistics, frequency table and percentage.

The findings revealed that Internet is one of the beneficial tools in this era of information technology, not only for business but for academic point of view and enhances the skill and capability of students, which assist them in studies and professional life. The study recommends that the university should embark on information literacy/sensitization programme for students in order to effectively harness the various web based electronic resources it is subscribed to.

Oghenetega, and Igere, (2014) investigates the impact of the Internet on the academic performance of students in some selected tertiary institutions in Nigeria. A survey design was adopted in conducting their research. Questionnaire was the instrument employed for data collection. The study population of 6000 students drawn from the University of Benin, Benin city. Delta State University Abraka, Western Delta University, Oghara.

The study found that majority of the respondents were computer literates and that they make use of the Internet. It was discovered that students frequently access the internet from Cyber café, and that they consult the Internet in order to retrieve relevant academic materials. Majority of the students rated the Internet for academic pursuits to be on the average. It was also revealed that power outage, slow Internet speed, lack of computer terminals, insufficient computer, were some of the problems militating against effective Internet access in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Summary of Review of Related Literature.

The review of related literature for this work was organized under conceptual framework, theoretical framework, theoretical studies, and empirical studies. Under conceptual framework, Internet is a virtual library which is seen as virtual space containing a vast amount of information and document including books, pictures, video, graphs, and musical sounds that can be consulted. Similarly, Business education was conceptualized as a planned process for imparting competences for economic development of the society.

Under the theoretical framework, teaching theories were reported to give the study its theoretical base. Several topic that were discussed under the theoretical studies includes forms of internet used by students, positive influence of internet tools on students research, negative influences of internet tools on students research, and ways of curbing negative influence of internet tool on students research. This was followed by the reviewed of empirical studies.

The review of empirical studies revealed that most of the studies were conducted in different environment of present study (Anambra state). None was done on influence of the internet tools on business education students' research in public Colleges of Education Anambra State. This creates a gap in literature which the presents study intends to fill.

Methodology

The study was a survey research design. The research was conducted in public Colleges of Education in Anambra State namely; Federal College of Education (Technical), Umunze, Anambra State and Nwafor Orizu College of Education Anambra State. The population of this study comprised of both NCE and Degree students of school of Business Education in Federal College of Education (Technical), Umunze and Nwafor Orizu College of Education. The population was six hundred and seven (607) which was made up of (383) three hundred and thirty five students (both Degree and NCE) from FCET, Umunze and (222) two hundred and twenty two students (both Degree and NCE) Nwafor Orizu College of Education of 2022/2023 session. Purposive random sampling was use to select the sample of 241 students for NCE and Degree from both Colleges of Education, Anambra State. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Influence of Internet Search Engine on Business Education Research" (IISEBER) which will be developed by the researcher. The questionnaire has two parts. Part A contains personal data of the respondents while parts B contain research questions of the study. The questionnaire was structured on a four rating scale namely: Strongly Agree (SA= 4), Agree (A=3), Disagree (D=2) Strongly Disagree (SD=1).The instrument for data collection was subjected to a thorough and careful examination by two experts in School of Business Education and one from Measurement and Evaluation in FCET, Umunze. The researcher was administer the questionnaires to the respondents personally in their various classes and offices there by the researcher was expected collect them on the spot after they was answered. Method of data analysis that was adopted was mean and standard deviation to analysis research questions and the z- test was used to test the hypotheses of the study at 0.05 level of significance. Any response receiving a mean score rating of 2.5 and above was regarded acceptable while mean score rating below 2.5 was regarded as unacceptable or rejected. Similarly, cluster mean value of 2.5 and above was considered a high extent while a cluster mean value below 2.5 was considered as low extent. Any hypothesis with the significant value above 0.05 probability level was not be rejected otherwise, it was rejected.

Data Presentation

The presentation and analysis were done according to research the questions

Research Question 1

What are the positive influences of the internet search engines on business education research in Colleges of Education Anambra State?

Table 1: Mean Responses on the Positive Influences of the Internet Search Engine on Business Education Students' Research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D	N	REMARK
1.	Access to online journals, magazines and other information resources	121	100	12	5	241	3.43 Agree
2.	Enhance quality of students research	96	77	53	15	241	3.05 Agree
3.	Internet search engines help students to collaborate with their fellow students	123	109	5	4	241	3.45 Agree

4.	Provide global sources of information and permitting researchers to discuss and share experiences	82	79	44	36	241	2.85	Agree
5.	Improve learning and prepare Students	56	46	74	65	241	2.38	Disagree
6.	Internet Search engines provide new learning opportunities for students	105	98	27	11	241	3.23	Agree

Source: Field Work

From Table 1 shows items of 9,10,11,12and 14 with mean scores of 3.42,3.05,3.45,2.5, and 3.23 were agreed by respondents on positive influences of the internet on business education research in Colleges of Education, Anambra State. While item 13 with mean score of 2.38 disagree.

Research Question 2

What are the negative influences on business education students' research in Federal College of Education Anambra State?

Table 2: Mean Responses on the Negatives Influences of the Internet Search Engine on Business Education Students' Research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D	N	REMARK
7.	Search engines provide unwanted information to the students	93	66	44	38	241	2.88 Agree
8.	Internet search is causing students to lose our ability to focus and concentrate	73	70	50	48	241	2.69 Agree
9.	Frequent used of internet search engines has reduced student study time.	66	71	54	50	241	2.63 Agree
10.	Most students are addicted to online social networks	53	67	67	54	241	2.49 Agree
11.	Some criminals use the internet for spreading computer viruses	83	87	41	24	241	2.90 Agree
12.	Some criminals use the internet for spreading computer viruses	121	79	32	9	241	3.29 Agree
13.	Lack of Face To Face Communication in research work	67	79	57	38	241	2.72 Agree

Source: Field Work

Table 2 shows that respondents agreed in all the items as a negative influence of the internet on business education research in Colleges of Education , Anambra State.

Research Question 3

What are the ways of curbing negative influences of internet search engines on business education students' research in College of Education?

Table 3: Mean Responses on the Ways of Curbing Negatives Influence of Internet Search Engine on Business Education Students' Research in Colleges of Education Anambra State.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D	N	X	REMARK
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14. Giving limited time on internet use to students	90	65	54	32	241	2.88	Agree
15. Providing relevant materials to students on the internet usage	145	88	6	2	241	3.56	Agree
16. Good mentorship to students about negative effects of internet	176	46	9	10	241	3.60	Agree
17. Good councilor to students on the effects of internet on their health	67	73	54	47	241	2.66	Agree
18. Providing good and related information in the visual library	134	65	37	5	241	3.36	Agree

Source: Field Work

From Table 3, items 25,26,27,28, and 29 with mean scores of 2.88, 3.56, 3.60, 2.66, and 3.36 were accepted as the level of the ways of curbing Negative influence of the internet on business education research in Colleges of Education, Anambra State.

Test of Hypotheses

Ho1: There is no statistically significant difference between the mean responses of students' on positive influence of the internet search engines on business education students' research in Federal College of Education (Technical), Anambra State.

Table 4: z- test comparison of the mean rating of students' on positive Influence of the internet search engines on business education students' research in Federal College of Education (Technical), Anambra State.

Categories	N	X	SD	DF	z-Cal	z-Cri	Decision	FCE(T), Umuze	200
	3.42	0.54	239	0.19	1.96		Accept the null		
NOCEN	41	3.33	0.45		0.15		hypothesis		

The data in the above table depicts the z-test analysis between the mean responses of students' on positive influence of the internet search engines on business education students' research in Federal College of Education (Technical), Anambra State. The two group of respondents had a z-cal calculated value of 0.19 and a z-critical value of 1.96. Since z-cal value (0.15) is less than z-critical value (1.96) at 0.05 level of significance, the null hypotheses was therefore accepted.

Ho2: There is no statistically significant difference between the mean responses of students' on the remedies to the negative Influence of the internet search engines on business education students' research in Federal College of Education (Technical), Anambra State.

Table 5: z- test comparison of the mean rating of students' on positive Influence of the internet search engines on business education students' research in Federal College of Education (Technical), Anambra State.

Categories	N	X	SD	DF	z-Cal	z- Crit	Decision	FCE(T), Umuze	200
	3.31	0.44	239	0.14	1.96		Accept the null		
NOCEN	41	2.99	0.33		0.11		hypothesis		

The data in the Table 5 depicts the z-test analysis between the mean responses of students' on negative Influence of the internet search engines on business education students' research in Federal College of Education (Technical), Anambra State. The two group of respondents had a z-cal calculated value of 0.14 and a z-critical value of 1.96. since z-cal value (0.11) is less than z-critical value (1.96) at 0.05 level of significance, the null hypotheses was therefore accepted.

Discussion

The findings from research question one revealed internet search engines have positive influences on business education students' research in Colleges of Education students' research in Colleges of Education Anambra State . This is in line with the study of Leonard (2016), that carried a research

on the level of search engines that helps in educational research such as yahoo search engines, ask.com search engine, bing search engine, and google search engine.

The findings in research question two found out that the internet search engines have negative influences on business education students' research in Colleges of Education Anambra State. This is relation to the study of Jayashree (2021) that carried a research on the negative influences of search engines on academic performance of secondary school students such as Google have negative influence on students' academic performance of students, bing to some extent have negative influence on students' academic performance of students, yahoo, ask.com, yandex also to some extent have negative influence on secondary school students academic performance

Finally, the findings in research three found that the ways of curbing negative influences of internet search engines on business education students' research in College of Education; giving limited time on internet use to students, providing relevant materials to students on the internet usage, good mentorship to students about negative effects of internet, good councilor to students on the effects of internet on their health, providing good and related information in the visual library.

Conclusion

The purpose of the study was to investigate the literature review on the impact of internet use on students learning outcomes. From the findings, the internet is very useful in the learning outcomes of students, however there are several negative impacts that can cause students to decline in their learning outcomes and therefore they have to set time boundaries for themselves when using the internet and authorities should assist students to overcome some of the challenges faced by students in learning electronically with the internet.

Recommendations

The researcher made the following recommendations based on this Study's research objectives, analysis, and findings.

- 1) It is recommended that Heads of Institutions liaise with other stakeholders and supporting management to provide internet facilities. This is significant because internet facilities in schools are crucial in supporting students research.
- 2) The School ICT Laboratories should be well equipped with internet facilities to assist student research and Study.
- 3) Students should be taught how to search for academic information or materials online.
- 4) There should be effective supervision of students on internet use by teachers .

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