INTERNET AND ITS UTILIZATION AMONG THE STAFF AND STUDENT OF NUHU BAMALLI POLYTECHNIC LIBRARY, ZARIA, KADUNA- NIGERIA

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Abstract: *Internet has greater impact on education; particularly, higher education library by creating and promoting virtual learning environments, Learners thus formulate their virtual communities and interact freely with each other they can exchange their learning experiences, research findings and academic opportunities. The Internet revolution is not just limited to finding information but also to fostering relationships that bring people together. Internet has many functions in library include storehouse of information, communication without boundaries, online interactive learning, electronic/online research, innovation in the new world, improve interest in learning, global education, and Information catalogues. This paper has conducted survey on internet and its utilization among the Staff and student of Nuhu Bamalli Politechnic Library, Zaria Kaduna-Nigeria. Recommendations for functional use of Internet in Nuhu Bamalli Politechnic Library, Zaria Kaduna-Nigeria have also been given.*
Keywords: *Internet, Utilization, Information, Polytechnic Library*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The advent of internet and its use in education and training has change the learning scenario. The advancements in its capabilities and innovative styles of using it have generated new opportunities and spaces for students to share their learning experiences, ideas, and research findings through interactions in library. Such interactions and sharing are carried out through internet technology and the capabilities which facilitate (such interaction/ communications) are referred to social media. Social media is Internet based technology which promotes opportunities to social interaction; among its users. It is enhanced through new communication tools and sites that are called; social networking sites. These internet based tools and technologies have audio and visual capabilities along-with capturing, storing, connecting and retrieving features these include:

a) Blogs that make authors to publish/post their work and invite comments on it.

b) Wikis which have capability to promote and facilitate 'common creation' through joint academic ventures.

c) Social bookmarking is used to enable users for collating, tagging, and sharing websites of their interests

d) Media sharing spaces provide spaces and opportunities to the user community of posting and sharing pictures, podcasts and videos. RSS Feeds extend a variety of information sources to its users immediately on command.

e) Collaborative editing tools extend documents' sharing and editing facility to multiple users

f) Micro-blogging sites such as twitter provide spaces for publishing very short messages

g) Social networking sites or SNS's (face book, LinkedIn, etc.) have capabilities of promoting virtual communities to interact and communicate synchronously or asynchronously.

Currently, the use of internet appears to be in its momentum stage; changing the styles, and patterns of communication at macro, as well as micro level. The users' trend seems to be increasing and embracing internet for communication and academic purpose. However, the pace of using internet sites appears to be different in different countries and among various user communities (Smith, P. & et al., 2009).

Bidin, Z. & et al. (n.d.), explained that many people now use the Internet to update themselves with varieties of information in library. As such, the Internet is called a gateway of information. The Internet also affects the way people learn especially in higher learning institutions (Edmunds, Thorpe, and Conole, 2010). Indeed, to stay relevant, it is imperative for universities to stay abreast with the current technological development in teaching and learning. Library now are the tools for enhancing teaching and learning experiences, many universities have also installed the necessary infrastructure around their campuses. For example, the installation of wireless hotspots have enabled students to access the Internet easily and readily at anytime and anywhere at library. This means that they can use the Internet to search for information, interact with lecturers, access library materials and download notes from their lecturers" websites or in virtual library (Bidin, Z. & et al., n.d.).

1.1 Background of Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria

Ezema, I.J (2008), explained that over the years technical education has contributed in no small measures to the socio-economic growth of Nigeria. The crucial role of technical education was recognized more with the establishment of Yaba technical institute (now Yaba college of Technology) in 1948. This was a landmark to the foundation of polytechnics in Nigeria. The period of 1970-1980, witnessed proliferation of polytechnics with the enactment of decree no. 33 of 1979 (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1980).the decree gave birth to another tier of Nigerian Higher Education- the polytechnics. The first generation polytechnics, established by the decree, are those in Akure, Bauchi, Bida, Ida, Ilaro, Yaba and Yola.

According to decree, the function of polytechnics shall include:

1) To provide full and part-time courses of instruction and training in technology applied sciences, commerce, and management; and such other field of applied learning relevant to the needs of development of Nigeria in area of industrial and agricultural production and distribution and for research for development.

2) To arrange conferences, seminars and study relative to the field of learning specified in "1" above and

3) To perform such other function as the opinion of the council may serve to promote the objectives of the polytechnic.

Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic came into being on the 2nd of February along with its library, 1989 wide Kaduna State Edict No. 3 (subsequently amended in 2004). The Edict charged the Polytechnic to among other things provide for training and development of techniques in Applied Science, Engineering and Commerce as well as in other spheres of learning. The Polytechnic courses of instruction (in full-time and Part-time) leading to the award of Diplomas, Certificates and other distinctions of Scientific, Technological and other subjects are available at all times in order to meet the requirements of State and the manpower needs of the Country (NBP website, n.d.). The institution has the following campuses:

1) Main Campus: Former UPE Zaria along Zaria-Kaduna Road

2) School of Applied Science: Former CAS, Gaskiya, Zaria

3) School of Management Studies: Former ERC, Gaskiya, Zaria

4) School of Agric Technology: Samaru Kataf

2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The developing nations are striving assiduously to catch up with the trend because the efficacy of IT in enhancing library services, educational pursuits and general administration, in institutions of higher learning has been widely reported (Chisena, 1995; Salanje, 1995; Bolarinwa, 2001 and Chandrasekharan, 2001). Thus, due to the current demand of information society, the Nigerian institutions of higher learning have been compelled to bridge the gap in the provision and utilization of IT as is the case in the advanced countries. Consequently, various technological institutions have mounted different IT courses and programmes for better appreciation, literacy and adaptability by the students and the entire academic community. Surukat, I.F. (2011), explained that the introduction of the Internet technology has tremendously impacted on library service delivery by tertiary institutions in the developed countries. In Nigeria, however, efforts are just being made to strengthen the use of Internet particularly in the institutions of higher learning. In addition, funding made by Governmental agencies such as the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Education Tax Fund (ETF), some international bodies such as the World Bank/International monetary Fund, corporate bodies (e.g. MTN) and other Non-Governmental Organizations also provide support for ICT and Internet projects on campuses. Scholars, researchers and lecturers are also gradually embracing the Internet due to its numerous advantages on library services.

Azeez, A.L. (2010), explained that the advent of the internet has revolutionalised the life of the global community in all ways. Apart from transacting businesses of different kinds through the internet, its usefulness seems to manifest greatly in the academic circles too, where students and lecturers use the internet in library for research and relaxation. Even though most undergraduate students can pride themselves as being computer literate, the fact remains that some are yet to know how the internet works and utilize on library services. Irrespective of their status the need for them to exploit the internet for one purpose or the other cannot be underemphasised.

Against this background, the researchers wish to establish the specific research on internet and its utilization among the staff and students of Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic library, Zaria.

3.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. Though each research study has its own specific purpose, this study concentrates on the following objectives:

1) To finds out the purposes use of Internet by staff and students of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library, Zaria.

2) To examine the academic use of internet by staff and students of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library, Zaria

3) To evaluate the opinion about internet in promoting teaching and research of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library staff and students, zaria.

4) To identify the problems militates against a full and effective utilization of Internet by staff and students of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library, Zaria.

4.0 RESEARCH QUESTION

The following research questions will be answered

1) What are the purposes use of Internet by staff and students of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library, Zaria?

2) What is the academic use of internet by staff and students of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library, Zaria?

3) What is your opinion about internet in promoting teaching and research of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library staff and students, Zaria?

4) What are the problems militates against a full and effective utilization of Internet by staff and students of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library, Zaria?
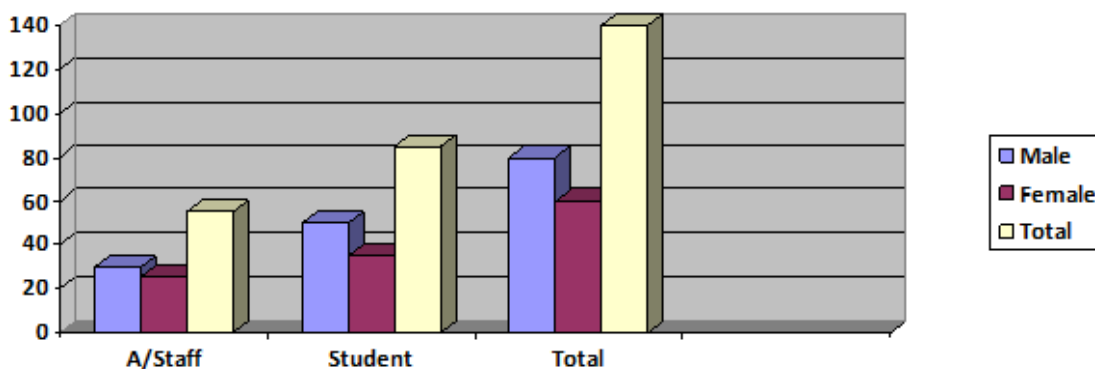
5.0 METHODOLOGY

The survey study was carried out in Nuhu Bamali Polytechnics library, Zaria. The staff and student have been used as sample for the study (random sampling); the data gathered were analyzed using tables, frequencies and percentages for better understanding and interpretation of findings. The paper is also organized according to the research questions and objectives of the study. Out of 150 questionnaires 140 were returned successfully by the respondents, Basic details about the participants in the survey are shown in bellow Tables. The demography of respondents revealed that the ages between 15 – 30 had the highest percent distribution of 50(35.71 %) respondents; followed by ages 31-40 with 39 (27.85 %). Ages 41-50 is represented by 30(21.42 %) respondents and the least representation were the 51 and above years with 21(15 %) respondents. In terms of marital status, most of the respondents, i e. 81(57.85 %) were married while 59(42.14 %) were single. The response on gender type revealed that there were 80(57.14 %) male respondents whereas female respondents were 60(42.85 %).

6.0 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Table 6.1: Status of gender Distribution (participants)

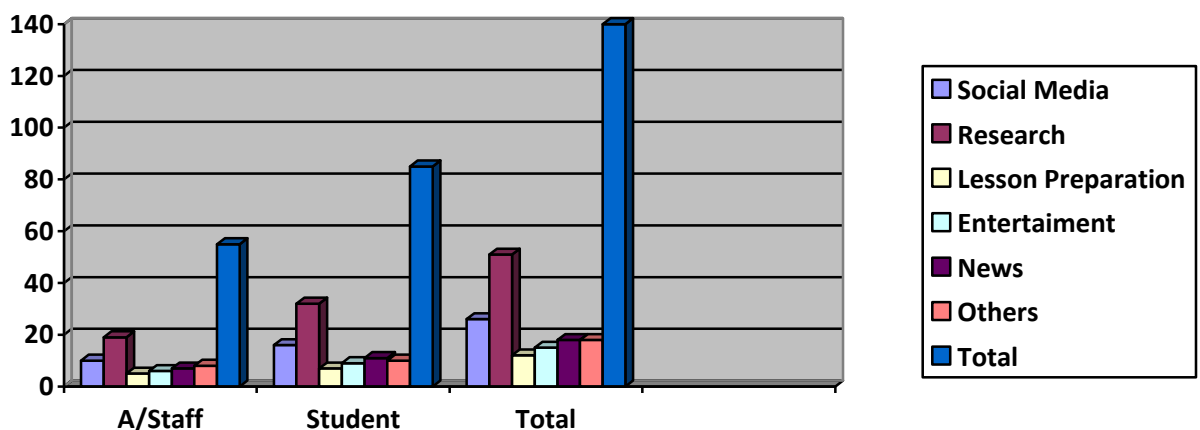| Gender	Staff		Student		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Male	30	21.42	50	35.71	80	57.14
Female	25	17.85	35	25	60	42.85
Total	55	39.28	85	60.71	140	100

As the above table shown that 30 respondents (21.42 percent) were male staff, 25 (17.85 percent) were female staff, 50 (35.71 percent) were male students, while rest of the respondents were female students, 35 (25 percent).

Table 6.2 the purposes use of Internet by staff and students of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library, Zaria

Use	Staff		Student		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%e	Freq.	%
Social Media	10	7.14	16	11.42	26	18.57
Research	19	13.57	32	22.85	51	36.42
Lesson preparation	5	3.57	7	5	12	8.57
Entertainment	6	4.28	9	6.92	15	10.71
News	7	5	11	7.82	18	12.85
Other	8	5.71	10	7.14	18	12.85
Total	55	39.28	85	60.71	140	100

Participants were asked about their specific purposes uses of the Internet. It is clear that 51(36.42percent) respondents use Internet for research purposes, followed by 26 (18.57percent) respondents use for social media, 18 (12.85 percent) respondents use Internet for news, same figure 18 (12.85percent) for other purposes, while 15 (10.71percent) participants use the Internet for entertainment, and rest of 12 (8.57percent) for lesson preparation.

Table 6.3 The academic use of internet by staff and students of Nuhu Bamali polytechnic library, Zaria

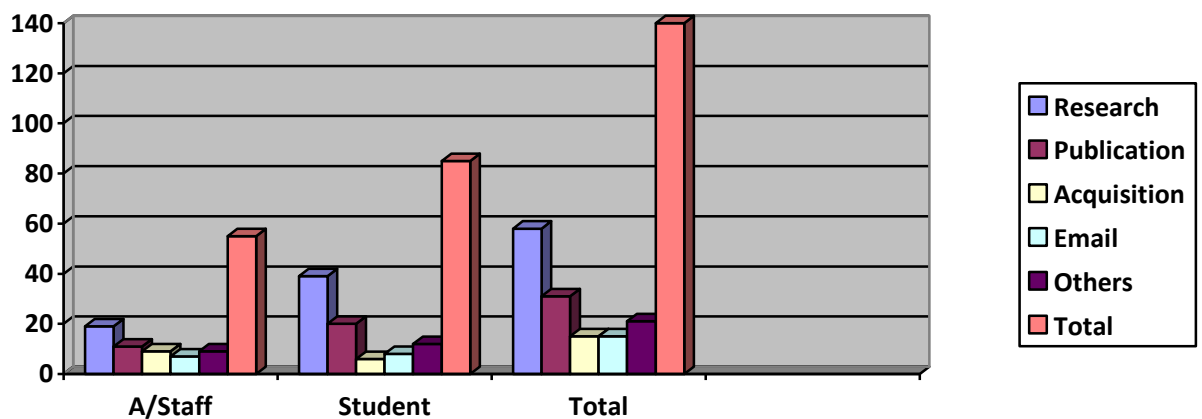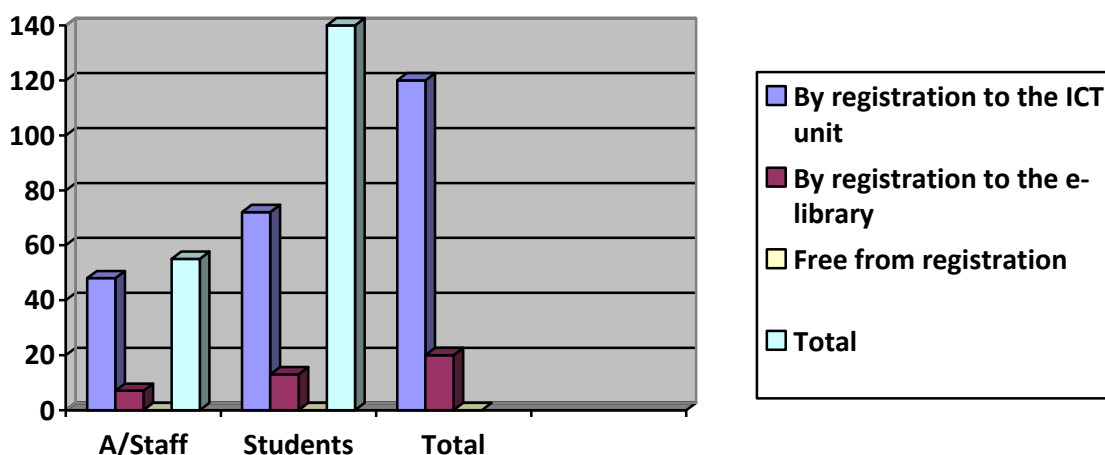| Use for	Staff		Student		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Research	19	13.57	39	27.85	58	41.42
Publication	11	7.85	20	14.28	31	22.14
Acquisition	9	6.42	6	4.28	15	10.71
E-learning	7	5	8	5.71	15	10.71
Others	9	6.42	12	8.57	21	15
Total	55	39.28	85	60.71	140	100

Table 5.7 makes it clear that 58 (41.42percent) respondents (A/Staff & Students) mostly used internet for research purpose to access information followed by Publication 31(22.14 percent) then, 15 (10.71percent) used internet for Acquisition purpose, 15(10.71 percent) used internet as tools for E-learning and last 21 (15 percent) used it for variety of other Academic use respectively.

Table 6.4 Access to internet services

Access to e-library	Staff		Students		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
By registration to the ICT unit	48	34.28	72	51.42	120	85.71
By registration to the e-library	7	5	13	9.28	20	14.28
Free from registration	00	00	00	00	00	00
Total	55	39.28	85	60.71	140	100

In order to understand how the users have access to internet services respondents were asked and made appropriate answer. The above result indicate that the users have access to internet services by registration to ICT unit with score of 120 and (85.71percent) respondents, followed by 20 (14.28 percent) respondents who say by registration in the e-library, while free from registration score 0 (0 percent) that means there is no one can have access to the internet services without registration either by ICT unit or e-library

Table 6.5 The level of use of various internet services

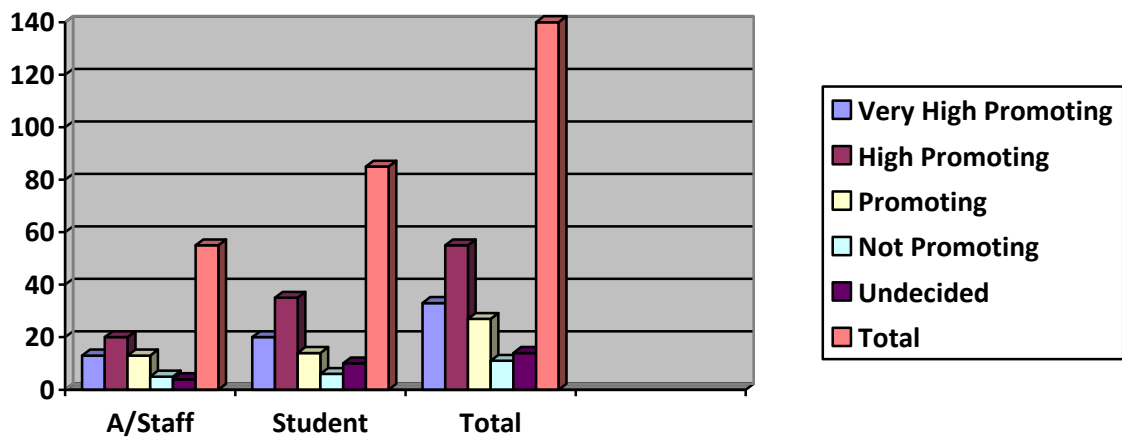| Used of Internet Services	Staff		Students		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Searching service	6	4.28	9	6.42	15	10.71
On-line databases	4	2.85	6	4.28	10	7.14
Online public access catalogues (OPAC)	2	1.42	4	2.85	6	4.28
Scholarly websites	12	8.57	14	10	26	18.57
Email	5	3.57	9	6.42	14	10
E-learning	2	1.42	4	2.85	6	4.28
E-conference	2	1.42	5	3.57	7	5
YouTube	9	6.42	15	10.71	24	17.14
Social media (facebook, twitter, LinkedIn, etc)	10	7.14	14	10	24	17.14
News	3	2.14	5	3.57	8	5.71
Total	55	39.28	85	60.71	140	100

Participants were asked to indicate the level of use of various internet services. The results revealed that scholarly website had a score of 26 (18.57percent); you tube and social media each score 24 (17.14percent), searching services score 15 (10.71percent) respondents. Email

score 14 (10 percent) respondents, online database scores 10 with (7.14percent) while news scores 8 (5.71percent) respondents. E-conference score 7 with (5 percent) respondents, online public access (OPAC) and E-learning each score 6 (4.28 percent) respondents.

Table 6.6 Opinion about internet in promoting teaching and research

Opinion	Staff		Student		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Very high promoting	13	9.28	18	12.85	31	22.14
High promoting	20	14.28	35	25	55	39.28
Promoting	13	9.28	14	10	27	19.28
Not promoting	5	3.57	8	5.71	13	9.28
Undecided	4	2.85	10	7.14	14	10
Total	55	39.28	85	60.71	140	100

Participants were asked about their Opinion about internet in promoting teaching and research. Table 5.12 reveals that 55 (39.28percent) respondents score for High promoting, while 31 (22.14percent) respondents say that it is very High promoting, followed by 27 (19.28percent) respondents who say it is promoting, while 14(10percent) for undecided respondents, and rest of 13 (9.28percent) respondents who score for not promoting.

Table 6.7 the problems militate against a full and effective utilization of Internet

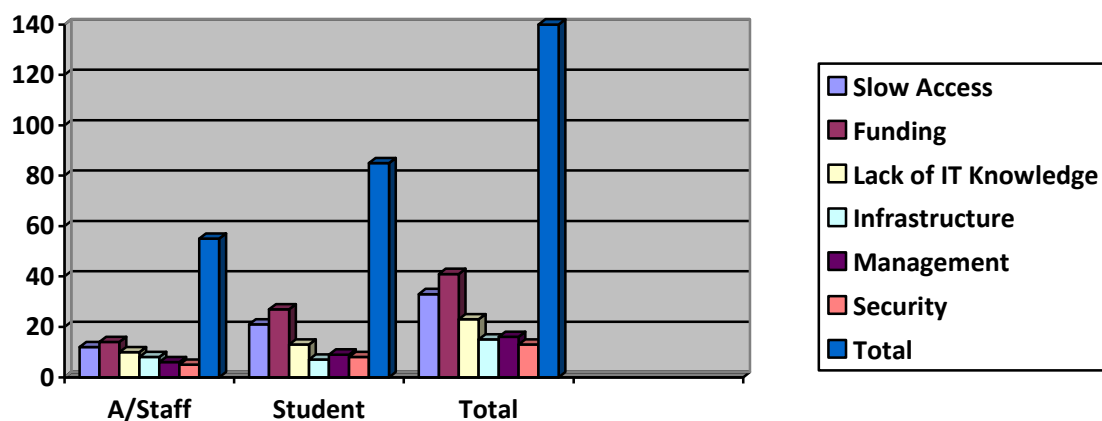| Constraints	Staff		Student		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Slow access	12	8.57	21	15	33	23.57
Funding	14	10	27	19.28	41	29.28
Lack of IT Knowledge	10	7.14	13	9.28	23	16.42
Infrastructure	8	5.71	7	5	15	10.71
Management	6	4.28	9	6.92	15	10.71
Security	5	3.57	8	5.71	13	9.28
Total	55	39.28	85	60.71	140	100

Table 6.8 provides information about problems encountered while using the Internet. 41 (29.28percent) participants in the survey had indicate the problem in funding policy, followed by 33 (23.57percent) respondents who encountered problem with slow access, 23 (16.42percent) respondents indicate lack of IT knowledge, while 14 (10.71percent) had difficulty on infrastructure and management and rest of 13 (10 percent) respondents who report on Security problems.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Our investigation showed that the majority of the Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic library, Zaria use the Internet for many purposes; and have realized the benefits the Internet has to offer students in higher school of learning. A large percentage of the students declared that the satisfied with the Internet services and that has impacted greatly on their academic and social life. The students in their response indicated that the Internet when put to proper use offers a great number of benefits. They generally believe it serves as research tools, helps to

search for more information on a particular subject, provides avenue to contact relatives and friends, widens knowledge, and gives information on education, politics and social events.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

1) The Kaduna state government of Nigeria should tackle the problem of power failure by installing Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) devices to ensure steady use of electricity.

2) Staff should be encouraged to attend regular workshops seminar to update their knowledge on the use of internet facilities for their academic responsibilities.

3) Government should consider as a matter of urgency development of information policy that will address freedom of information with respect to social aspect of Internet use.

4) More funds should be made available by the authorities of the institutions under study for running and maintaining the Internet facilities. The present situation where by the institutions sometimes install but fail to maintain or paid the service provider on time should be stopped.

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