A Study of Awareness and Use of Internet Facilities By Students At The Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa, Nigeria

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KEYWORDS: academic performance, awareness, computer literacy, Internet use, federal polytechnic

ABSTRACT:

The paper explored the extent of awareness and use of Internet facilities/services by students at the Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa. A survey research method was used in the study with the questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaires were randomly distributed to 150 students and 123 respondents completed and returned their questionnaires. Data for the study was analysed with descriptive statistics which include frequency and percentage. The findings of the study revealed that 51.1% of respondents were aware of the availability of polytechnic Internet cafe which provides access to the Internet on campus. The frequency of Internet use at the polytechnic cafe was relatively low as 51.2% of respondents reportedly used Internet facilities/services at the polytechnic cafe occasionally, and only 22.0% and 20.3% reported daily and weekly use respectively. Further analysis ofthe findings ofthe study revealed that there was a positive impact of Internet use on academic performance of respondents in the survey. The major problems affecting the use of the Internet at the polytechnic cafe were slow response rate of the Internet and lack of workstations. Based on the findings ofthe study, it was recommended that basic computer literacy programmes should be included in the academic curricula of thepolytechnic and the polytechnic administration should upgrade the Internet facilities at the polytechnic cafe including the provision of network facilities toward enhanced Internet access atthe polytechnic. The paper explored the extent of awareness and use of Internet facilities/services by students at the Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa. A survey research method was used in the study with the questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaires were randomly distributed to 150 students and 123 respondents completed and returned their questionnaires. Data for the study was analysed with descriptive statistics which include frequency and percentage. The findings of the study revealed that 51.1% of respondents were aware of the availability of polytechnic Internet cafe which provides access to the Internet on campus. The frequency of Internet use at the polytechnic cafe was relatively low as 51.2% of respondents reportedly used Internet facilities/services at the polytechnic cafe occasionally, and only 22.0% and 20.3% reported daily and weekly use respectively. Further analysis ofthe findings ofthe study revealed that there was a positive impact of Internet use on academic performance of respondents in the survey. The major problems affecting the use of the Internet at the polytechnic cafe were slow response rate of the Internet and lack of workstations. Based on the findings ofthe study, it was recommended that basic computer literacy programmes should be included in the academic curricula of thepolytechnic and the polytechnic administration should upgrade the Internet facilities at the polytechnic cafe including the provision of network facilities toward enhanced Internet access atthe polytechnic.