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Internet Use and Library Patronage among Students in Selected Senior Secondary Schools in Lagos State

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***Abstract*:** The use of the library is inevitable for students' learning, academic pursuit and self-development. School libraries provide information materials for use by the students as well as the Internet. The study investigated the correlation between Internet use and library patronage among students in selected senior secondary schools in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos state, Nigeria. The study adopted a survey research design. The findings showed a marginal preference for Internet use as complement to Library patronage. It was further revealed that the Internet use saved time, was more informative, and less expensive with more useful resources. The result showed no significant relationship between Internet use and library patronage. The study concluded that steps must be taken by relevant authorities to encourage library patronage. Therefore, the study recommended the provision of functional school libraries to further promote library patronage and enhance students' academic achievement.

Keywords: Internet use, Library patronage, Senior secondary school students, Ojo Local Government Area, Lagos.

Introduction
Education is very crucial in the development of the individual and society and it cuts across different stages of human growth and development (that is, kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary) with specific and achievable goals. Secondary education is the education children received after primary or basic education and before the tertiary stage in Nigeria. The goals of secondary education are to prepare the individual for useful living within the society and for higher education by offering diversified curriculum to cater for the differences in talents, opportunities and future roles;

inspiring students with a desire for self-improvement and achievement of excellence among others (FGN, 2004). To achieve the goals, secondary school education is in two stages: a junior secondary school stage and a senior secondary school stage each of three years duration. These schools have laboratories, workshops for technical and vocational subjects, counselling unit, basic health facilities, educational resource centre, and school library.

Libraries are very important in any academic institutions as they are gateways to knowledge. Secondary school students and their teachers need library resources and the proficiency of a librarian to thrive in their academic pursuit. A school library is a learning space where students read, make inquiries, and carry out research. The library could be physical or digital; containing information materials either in physical of electronic format. A school library helps the students in their information-to-knowledge journey and builds them up socially and culturally. A school library supports school programmes as well as the teaching-learning process by providing relevant materials to meet their various information needs. School libraries also promote reading and the use of libraries. It was indicated that reading of library materials positively affect students' vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, writing and spelling skills (Ullah & Farrog, 2008). Also, it was noted that the reading scores for students in schools that improve their library programmes were higher than scores for schools with no such advance.

IFLA (2015) asserted that libraries and librarians are meant to be agents of changes academically, socially, politically, economically and in other areas of life. Akanbi (2002) opined that a well-established school library manned by professional staff will help personalised learning and advance students/pupils performance throughout the school program. Libraries are for dissemination of information in all areas of the nation. Okiy (2006) stated that it is knowledge that allows people to contribute profoundly to national development and that library is essential to the provision of the right kind of information resources that empowers the educational institutions to produce highly resourceful people. In addition to the contributions of libraries to human development, information technology too has impacted on the society in so many ways.

One of the areas in which information technology is used is education. Learning is made easy with the use of technology, especially the Internet. Vast amount of information is available on the Internet. The Internet allows cost-effective information delivery services, collaborative and distance learning, it has myriad websites and services to help students obtain information and gain knowledge for improved academic performance and to exchange ideas and share knowledge.

Statement of Problem

Libraries support learning and teaching in schools but, it has been observed that there is low patronage of libraries in Nigerian schools. This may be due to the advent of new information and telecommunication technology tools such as mobile phones and iPad which often occupy students' time. Therefore, this research is carried out to ascertain the effect of internet use

on library patronage among secondary school students in selected schools in Lagos State, Nigeria. The outcome of the study is expected to encourage the patronage of the library for excellent academic performance of students in secondary schools.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to find out the relationship between Internet use and library patronage by senior secondary school students in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State.

The specific objectives were to:

1. find out the availability of physical library and the internet in Senior Secondary Schools in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State;
2. determine the comparative advantage of the Internet resources' usefulness, time consumption, and expenses to that of the physical library resources, in Senior secondary school students in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State;
3. ascertain the Senior Secondary School students' preference between the Internet resources and the physical library resources in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State;

Research questions

1. Are physical libraries available in Senior Secondary schools in Ojo Local Government of Lagos state?
2. What are the comparative advantage of the Internet resources' usefulness, time consumption, and expenses to that of the physical library resources, in Senior secondary schools in Ojo Local Government of Lagos state?
3. What are the Senior Secondary School students' preference between the Internet resources and

the physical library resources in Ojo Local Government of Lagos State?

Research Hypothesis

H0: Internet use by senior secondary school students does not significantly affect their library patronage.

Literature Review

There are different types of library located in different places in human society. Irrespective of their location, libraries are very important to the development of individuals and the society. However, emphasis is going to be placed on the importance of the school library in this paper. School libraries are those libraries found in primary and secondary schools and they play very important roles in nurturing pupils and students at this foundational stage of education.

The fact that the importance of the school library cannot be overemphasised was mentioned by Chan (2008) who did a critical review of literature relating to the impact of school libraries on student achievement and discovered that most of the researchers found out that school library services had positive influences on student achievement. Similarly in discussing the significance of libraries to educational development of secondary school students, Udoh-Ilomechine (2008) observed that school libraries were important for the success of children and their teachers as they provided materials that meet their various areas of information needs as well as aiding their independent studies.

In lending their voices to the importance of school libraries, Jato, Ogunniyi and Olubiyo (2014) revealed that school libraries were important in

having good scores in tests and examinations as irregular use of school libraries resulted in poor academic performance of secondary school students in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The importance of school libraries was also discussed in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) School Library Guidelines (2015) which stated that school libraries are crucial for providing information and essential for personal, social and cultural growth. In addition, they aid thinking, reading, literacy, interpersonal and learning capabilities. Having considered the importance of school libraries to academic performance, the role of computer and Internet use in education will be discussed as the Internet is also considered to be a major source of information.

The study of computer knowledge in Tema Senior High Schools confirmed that computer literacy and usage were high among both students and teachers. Results of the study by Amenyedzi, Lartey and Dzomeku (2011), indicated 92% of the teachers in Tema schools were computer literate, less than 15% use the Internet for improving their teaching and learning. Less than 25% of the students use the Internet for research work. Less than 40% of the students use the computer and Internet for entertainment and less than 40% use the Internet for e-mail and browsing.

Amenyedzi, et al (2011) said, the rapid development in ICT has made tremendous change in the 21st. century as well as the demands of modern societies. The use of ICT in Ghanaian schools and African countries is gradually increasing and dramatically growing. This growth is the result of the efforts of Ghana education Ministry to raise the standard of education in the country. According to Afolabi (2016), library resources in school play a significant role in the educational development of the students. He stressed that these resources are important to the teaching and learning of school subjects which may affect the students' academic performance. The authors have mentioned many positive things ICT has brought but did not mention library patronage by students. However, their report favours awareness and use of the Internet for academic works by secondary school students in Ghana. Sarfo and Ansong-Gyimah (2011) obtained similar reports about ICT development in Senior Secondary Schools in Ghana, but there was no reference to library patronage and use of the Internet by secondary school students.

In the study of computer literacy in Lagos state, Nigeria, Osunwusi, and Abifarin (2013) cited Jegede and Owolabi (2003) who observed the differences in computer education integration in Nigerian secondary schools where computer education was only taken in Federal Government Unity Schools and was scarcely offered in any of the state secondary schools which constituted more than 80% of Nigerian schools. Osunwusi and Abifarin (2013) found that, in Lagos state, ICT facilities were not readily available in secondary schools and there was low ICT utilization in secondary schools. The findings of Samuel (2010) also revealed low Internet access among secondary school students in Lagos State public schools.

Yebowaah (2017), Internet provides a collaborative environment for sharing as well as information on a wide, divergent and variety of subjects. He noted that despite the potentials of academic libraries, yet students have been found to consult Internet sources for information relative to the use of library resources. Shehu et al. (2015) cited in Yebowaah (2017) opined that Nigerian students' preference for Internet over library was influenced by the relative accessibility of the internet and they added that the Internet can be accessed often than the library especially when the library materials are not in electronic formats.

However, Kiptalam and Rodrigues (2010) in their study of Internet Utilization in Kenyan secondary schools revealed that use of Internet and its integration in the teaching and learning in secondary education is getting more wide spread. The study also found out that most schools were actually expending a substantial part of their annual budget on maintaining Internet connectivity. The findings of Kiptalam and Rodrigues though did not touch on library patronage and the use of Internet for school work, its widespread in secondary schools in Kenya is a sign that Internet use is developing and may soon cover all schools in Kenya.

In writing on collaboration and ICT use in libraries, Chisita and Abdullahi (2014) seek collaboration and ICT use in library functions. They were also of the opinion that patronisers of the library should possess ICT skills to make the very use of the facilities. The authors advocated the need to ensure that users are equipped with the appropriate skills and knowledge to

enable them to make optimum use of each of the resources.

The results of various researches have revealed divergent opinions on ICT availability, the degree of Internet accessibility and the effect of Internet use on secondary school students. The findings of Samuel (2010) revealed low Internet access among secondary school students in Lagos State public schools while the research of Young (2011) implied that excessive use of the Internet negatively impacted on the performance of students. On their part Chen, Hsiao, Chem and Chen (2014) in line with Young (2011) believed that Internet use among secondary school students was on the increase due to increase in availability of computers, smartphones and high level of Internet connectivity in various homes but they were also of the opinion that the use of the Internet had its negative side.

Also in line with Young (2011), Almasi, Zhu and Machumu (2017) believed that despite the fact that there was improvement in Internet use for educational purposes; most secondary school students used the Internet for social and recreational purposes, the resulting effect being time wastage, late submission of school assignment, poor performance in school and truancy. Kumah (2015) compared Internet use and library use among students and the study revealed that students do not circumvent the library in their search for information. The finding of the study also showed that the use of the Internet was more in comparison with library use and that the students preferred the Internet source of information to library.

Thus, literature has revealed that school libraries are very important to

the academic success of secondary school students; that the degree of ICT availability and Internet use vary from school to school and that Internet use had effects on secondary school students in various ways. However, none of the reviewed literature showed its effects on library use. Therefore this study is carried out to see the effect of Internet use on library patronage.

Methodology

The study was a descriptive survey research. The population of study was the senior secondary school students in Ojo Local government area of Lagos State, Nigeria. Four secondary schools were purposively selected which comprised two public and two private schools in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State. A sample of eighty (80) students participated in the study using convenience sampling technique; twenty students from each of the schools. Seventy three out of the

eighty students responded to the purpose of collecting data. A response rate of 91.25% was obtained. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics; frequency and percentages. SPSS version 20 was used to analyse the data.

Findings and Discussion

Respondents' Profile

Eighty students were drawn from four secondary schools comprising of two public and two private schools in Ojo Local government area of Lagos state. Twenty eight (28, 38.4%) of the respondents were art students, 20 (27.4%) were commercial students while the remaining 25 (34.2%) were offering science. Majority of the students' ages range between 14-16 years, 37 (50.7%); some were between 17-20 years 26(35.6%) and very few of them 4(5.5%) were between ages 11-13years. Forty eight (65.8%) of the respondents were male while 25 (34.2%) were female.

Table 1: Availability of Physical Library

Available	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid Percent
Yes	58	79.5	86.6
No	9	12.3	13.4
Missing System	6	8.2	
Total	67	91.8	100.0

Table 1 shows that 58 (79.5%) of the respondents indicated that they had physical libraries in their schools; 9 (12.3%) said no to the question on availability of physical library and 6 (8.2%) did not respond to the question. This shows that the schools had one form of library or the other even if it

was not a standard one and perhaps the students who responded by saying no felt that the libraries were too substandard to be referred to as library; but at least the fact that there were libraries means the respondents had the opportunity to compare the physical library and the internet.

Table 2: Comparison of Library and Internet with respect to Time

Internet	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Saves time	44	60.3	71.0
Time consuming	18	24.7	29.0
Missing System	11	15.1	
Total	62	84.9	100.0

In Table 2, a total of 62 students responded to the question on comparison of physical library and internet. Forty four 44 (60.3%) were of the opinion that using the Internet saves time while 18 (24.7%) felt that using the Internet is time consuming. Eleven respondents were undecided. This shows that in the area of time saving, most of the respondents were in favour of the Internet.

Table 3: Information comparison of Library and Internet

Internet	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
More informative	59	80.8	93.7
Less informative	4	5.5	6.3
Missing System	10	13.7	
Total	63	86.3	100.0

Table 3 shows that 59 (80.8%) responded in favour of the Internet while 4 (5.5%) favoured the library; 10 (13.7%) did not respond to the item on comparison of information between the library and internet. This means that majority of the students believe that the internet is more informative than the library.

Table 4: Comparison of Expenses on Internet and Library

Internet	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Less expensive	34	46.6	54.8
More expensive	28	38.4	45.2
Missing System	11	15.1	
Total	62	84.9	100.0

Table 4 shows that in responding to the item on comparison of expenses on the library and internet; 34(46.6%) responded by saying the internet is less expensive and 28(38.4%) say the internet is more expensive. Again, the majority of the respondents are in favour of the internet as they believe it is cheaper using the internet. Eleven 11(15.1%) did not respond to the item.

Table 5: Comparison of Usefulness of Resources

Internet Resources	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
More useful	57	78.1	87.7
Less useful	8	11.0	12.3
Total	65	89.0	100.0
Missing System	8	11.0	

Table 5 shows that 57 (78.1%) of the respondents believed that the resources sourced from the Internet were more useful than library resources but 8 (11.0%) believed that library resources were more useful while 8 (11.0%) were undecided. This also shows that the majority of the respondents were pro-internet.

Table 6: Comparison of Preference of Internet and Library

Internet	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
More preferred	49	67.1	79.0
Less preferred	13	17.8	21.0
Missing System	11	15.1	
Total	62	84.9	100.0

Table 6 reveals that 49 (67.1%) of the respondents preferred the resources from the Internet to those of the library while 13 (17.8%) prefer those of the library; 11(15.1%) did not decide for either of them. This is another point to buttress the fact that majority of the respondents were on the side of the Internet.

Table 7: Students' Perception of Influence of Internet on Library Use

Internet use	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Decreases use of library materials	15	20.5	22.1
Increases use of library materials	11	15.1	16.2
Has a little effect on library use	38	52.1	55.9
Has no influence on library use	4	5.5	5.9
Missing System	5	6.8	
Total	68	93.2	100.0

Table 7 shows influence of internet on library use. Fifteen (20.5%) of the respondents said using the Internet result in decrease in use of library material; 11(15.1%) say their use of the library has increased; 38 (52.1%) say using the Internet has little effect on their use of library while 4 (5.5%) say using the Internet has no influence on the way they use the library. Five (6.8%) did not respond to the item. This means that using the Internet has little effect on the majority of the respondents' use of the library.

Hypothesis Testing
H0: Internet use by senior secondary school students does not correlate with their library patronage.

Table 8: Correlation between Internet use and Library Patronage

		Internet use	Library patronage	Sig. *P*	Remark
Internet use	Pearson Correlation	1	0.166	0.181	Not significant
Library use	Pearson Correlation	0.166	1	0.181	Not significant

Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the hypothesis at α =0.05 level of significance. The result shows that Internet use does not have a significant correlation with library use by the secondary school students in Ojo Local Government area in Lagos State(r =0.166, *p>0.05)*. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted which says that Internet use does not have a significant relationship with library patronage. This means that Internet use by the students does not affect the use of the library.

Conclusions

The importance of school library has been considered and it is so glaring that it is the power house and backbone for academic achievement of students. The Internet has also been viewed as a very important tool for learning due to the enormous amount of information it contains which makes scholars to spend much time on it. It has been discovered that the Internet is taking the shine off the library unless something is done to save the school library; this could be through the provision of funds to increase current and relevant materials; availability of qualified staff to make the information materials easily accessible to the library users; and having a media section in the school library for students 'access to computers and Internet. Doing these will save the

library from going into extinction, as the study reveals that using the Internet saves more time, is more informative, less expensive and has more useful resources. This suggests that the use of the Internet to source for information was more preferable to using the school library by the senior secondary school students in Ojo Local Government area of Lagos State.

Recommendations

The following are the recommendations from this study:

1. Mandatory provision of functional school libraries in all secondary schools should be looked into by the Lagos State government and all stakeholders.
2. Lagos State Government and all stakeholders at all levels should provide funding for libraries to ensure availability of adequate reading materials.
3. Qualified librarians should be employed to man school libraries so that relevant information, educational and recreational materials are selected and acquired for learning and self-development of students.
4. Provision of a media section in the library where library patrons can have access to computers and Internet by librarians.
5. Reading habits of students should be encouraged by subject teachers

giving assignments that will compel students to use the library.

6. Parents/guardians need to monitor their children/wards to ensure they

are using the Internet for the right purposes and using the right amount of time in the library.

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