

Use Of Global System For Mobile Communication (GSM) And Its Effects On Students: A Case Study Of Olusegun Oke Library, Ladoke Akintola University Of Technology Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract: The study examined the use of Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) by students of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso. The study covered registered students using the library. Questionnaires were used to generate data. Response rate of 490 out of 500 representing 98% was obtained for the data analysis. Results showed that the reason why students used the mobile phone were mainly based on lack of internet in the library, lack of current / relevant materials in library, mobile phone give access to current and up- to-date materials, uncared attitude of library staff toward the provision of materials, mobile phone saves time/ cost of travelling to library for further information. Recommendation were offered towards the improvement on constraints to the effective use of mobile phone in the library such as insecurity of sites, high cost of downloading online resources, inability to print directly from mobile phone, information resources are not easily spread like conventional book/text. Etc.

Keywords: Global System for Mobile Communication, Information and Communication Technology, Students, University, Library, LAUTECH, Ogbomoso, Nigeria.

I. INTRODUCTION

Students are expected to use mobile phone to communicate with friends and relatives, carry out research as part of the requirements for graduation. Conventionally, students visit libraries and information centre to source for materials relating to their area of interest, however with the advent of information and communication technology, it is not out of place to see students going to the library with mobile phone. Mobile phones have become a necessity for students in Nigerian universities as it is not only serve as communication aid but are used to download information resources relating to their areas of study. According to Ajayi (2003), Africa has

about 2% of the world's telephone lines, which is less than those in Tokyo. It also has the lowest annual growth in teledensity, has 35 of the world's telecommunication least developed countries of the world.

The teledensity for Africa was 1.85 in 1977, while those for Europe, America and Asia were 34, 30 and 36 respectively. As for cellular phone, Thailand has more cell phone than the whole of Africa. Nwalo (2000), in his study found that the lack of telephones ranked among three most important problems in Africa's effort to join the information and communication technology (ICT) race. To be left behind in this age the deregulation of the sector in 1992, the establishment of the Nigeria Communication Commission

(NCC) in 1993 and the return to democracy in 1999 the stage was set for Telecommunication revolution and explosion with the GSM launch in 2001. Since then, mobile telephone has rapidly become the most popular method of communication in Nigeria. According to GSM Nigeria, (2003), Nigeria has been described in various forms as “one of the fastest growing GSM markets in the world”. Ikhemuemhe (2004) painted a picture of Technology in Nigeria. At less than four years of the 45 years of the existence of telecommunication in the country, the industry has recorded more than 150,000% growth from a teledensity of less than 1% in 1995 to about 5.2% in 2004. Mutala, Komanyane and Grand citing Brender (2001) report that cell –phone media is the norm among students in Japan as 90% own cell phone. According to Brender’s study, students in Japan, use cell-phones in the class for sending e-mail messages, surfing the web, shopping online, were listening to and down loading music and even watching videos.

This is why Japan is usually referred to as a nation of Telepathies. A study of cell phone use among the students of the University of Botswana Mutala, Kumanyane and Grand, (2005) also revealed that most students owned cell-phones. (71.6%) and were mainly used for communication (93%). This is an indication that the cell-phones currently used in Africa may not yet be as sophisticated as Japans. The most important function of cell-phone is voice communication. Jupiter Research/IPSOS- Insight consumer’s survey reported by an online research group gave a graphical picture of the function most frequently used by owners of cell-phones. This statistic shows that of the three primary features, voice communication is the most popular (73%), text message 38% and calculators 22%. The other secondary features include games snapping photographs, listening to music, reading e-mail and internet access.

In Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), this ubiquitous technology has become part of student’s daily life and is definitely shaping their identity and public behavior. Students seems to have forgotten old social rules to be conscious towards others especially in confined environment such as the bank, library, public transport, etc causing distraction. As it continues to change our behavior, what new rules ought to impose? This public disturbance is usually described as public madness has to be controlled. In an attempt to find solution to cell-phone nuisance, LAUTECH Library placed a form of restriction on its use on outright ban. In LAUTECH Library, the need to make the place a quiet and conducive environment for academic purpose informed the library management to place a ban for the use of cell-phones in the library.

However, students still smuggle them into the library and receive calls while others are reading. To control the problem, the management further placed a ban on bringing them into the library. Such notices were placed at strategic places in the library. Security was placed at the checking point, and students who carry cell-phones into the library had them confiscated for a period of two days. When this did not deter them, students with cell-phones were refused to entering into the library and notices were displayed informing them that cell-phones confiscated will be kept for two months Reports had been received at the reader’s service unit about cell-phone

theft at the entrance where students kept their bags at their own risk. It’s the attempt to find a solution to the problem of cell-phone usage in LAUTECH Library that has elevated this research.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The University libraries provide important materials in the field of knowledge in teaching and research. The important duties were to make available and control both local and International books and journals to create the interface with the world knowledge system. For this reason, it has been observed that there is no justification for huge amount of money spent on the university libraries if the unnecessary noise that students are making by misusing the availability of cell- phone they have in hand at all time. Uncontrolled of loud- speaker cell-phone conversation always disturb other library users and those that searching for reference or periodical materials and circulation services. Some cell-phones at the same time offer obstructive music in line with the traditional ringing tones can also act as a source of noise in the university libraries. Furthermore, it can create a bad effect on the concentration of the users reading.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- ✓ To find out those that own cell-phone among students that registered with the library.
- ✓ To know those students that always uses cell-phone in the library.
- ✓ To identify the frequency at which users make use of their cell-phone.
- ✓ To establish the reason why students prefer using the mobile-phone.
- ✓ To find solution to the problems caused by cell-phone use in the library.

III. RELATED STUDIES

Various literatures relevant to study were reviewed. In Nigeria, according to Ugboma (2008), the deregulation of the telecommunication sector and advent of Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM) created a friendlier and purposeful telecommunication environment. No doubt mobile phone have made life more easy and comfortable (Bedo, 2005).

McNeal and Hooft(2006) argues that despite the global proliferation of cell phone they have not been widely used in education, as many adults are still reluctant to allow the widespread access to the devices in formal educational settings. The GSM and computers as noted by Kareem, Olaewe &Odeniyi (2008) as agencies of ICT form the backbone of modern day telecommunication in Nigeria, and the entire world at large. Obaro (2006) pointed out that the mobile phones are very expensive to maintain as it eats deep into one’s feeding money. Also high tariff and poor services affects students use of mobile phone. Iwhiwhu, Ruteyan and

Eghwubare (2010) in their study revealed that Delta State University library does not use mobile phones for library services as a result of lack of telecommunication infrastructure, high cost problems with the technology, and lack of staff training and awareness. They further argued that since a majority of library users owned a mobile phone, incorporating it into library services will promote a good relationship between library users and staff and enhance library services.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions were framed in order to elicit data for the study:

- ✓ What number of students that registered with the library and own cell phone?
- ✓ How many students that is always uses cell phones in the library?
- ✓ How long has students who use library been using cell-phone.?
- ✓ What are the specific reasons that account for the use cell-phone?
- ✓ What are the constraints to effective use of cell-phone in the library?

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on the use of GSM and its effect among the students using Olusegun Oke Library LAUTECH, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria. It covers all the eligible students as users of libraries.

SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY

The significant of this study features in the following:-

- ✓ The findings of this study will correct some erroneous impression that some universities libraries lack of internet facilities and thereby implore the university management to provide internet facilities so as to meet up with the global systems.
- ✓ The findings of this study as a matter of urgency to correct the impression that it is the mobile-phone that can give access to the current and up-to-date materials by providing current and up-to-date materials for the users to be able to competes and change with the global systems.
- ✓ The finding of this study will implore the management to train and retraining the staff of library to improve on the basis of uncared attitude to the students and other users of the library.
- ✓ The findings of this study will also implore the management to make the library resource materials available either through online-public-access-cataloguing or manually by displaying the materials on the shelf so as is accessible to the students and the users of the library.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The target population for this study was registered student users in Ladoke Akintola University Library, Ogbomoso. Sets

of questionnaire were distributed to students (users) who were duly registered with the library. This was meant to elicit responses on student's use of GSM in the library. A total of five hundred (500) copies of questionnaires were administered to students registered users of the library. Out of these figures four hundred and ninety (490) questionnaires representing 98% were filled and returned and use for the purpose of data analysis while 10 representing 2% were not returned.

FACULTIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Engineering	150	31%
Agriculture	90	18%
Environmental Science	45	9%
Management Science	95	19%
Science	110	23%
Total	490	100

Table 1: Faculties and Respondents Distribution.

V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Out of the 500 administered questionnaires, 490 were completed and returned representing a response rate of 98% of the 500 respondents, 340 (69%) were males while 150(30.6%) were females, majority of them came from faculty of engineering. The sampled population represented various faculties with the faculty of engineering topping the list with 150(31%), because the faculty has the highest number of programmers', which made it higher than other faculty in population and are the major users of the library.

RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	483	98.6%
No	7	1.4%
Total	490	100

Table 2: Number of students that made use of mobile phone.

From table 2 above, 483(98.6%) of the participants made use of their mobile phone while 7(1.4%) did not use their mobile phone.

Frequency of use	No of respondents	Percentage
Daily	440	90
Forth nightly	30	6
Occasionally	15	3
Rarely	5	1
Total	490	100

Table 3: How long have students been using mobile phone

From table 3 above, 440(90%) of the students used their mobile phone on daily basis, 30(6%) used it forthnightly, 15(3%) used their mobile phone occasionally while 5 (1%) uses their mobile phone rarely.

Reason	Freq%
Lack of Internet	154 100
Lack of current/relevant materials in libraries	124 80.5
Mobile phones gives access to current and up-to-date materials	150 97.4
Saves time/ cost of travelling to library	102 66.2
Uncared attitude of library staff	93 60.4
Inaccessibility to available resources	83 54
Low level of satisfaction derived from available resources	18 11.7

Table 4: Specific reasons that account for the use of mobile phone

Table 4 above displayed reasons for students ‘use of mobile phones in Ladoke Akintola University of Technology libraries. 154(100%) confirmed lack of internet facility while 124(80.5%) indicated lack of current/relevant resources in libraries. 150(97.4%) indicated that use of mobile phone gives them access to current and up-to-date materials while 102(60.4%) said that use of mobile phone save time and cost of travelling to libraries. 93(66.4%) reflected non-chalet attitude of library staff while 83(54%) posited that inaccessibility to available resources is one of the reason. 18(11.9%) pointed out low level of satisfaction derived from available resources as reason.

Constraints	Freq	%
Insecurity of sites which causes damage to phone	150	97.4
High cost of downloading online resources	146	94.8
Information resources are not easily spread like conventional book/text	135	87.7
Incompatibility of software/format of online resources	129	83.8
Inability to print directly from mobile phones	58	37.7
Availability and disappearance of some sites	16	10.4

Table 5: Constraints to effective use of mobile phone

from table5 above 150(97.4%) contended that insecurity of site which causes damages to phone while 146(94.8%) of the participants indicated that high cost of downloading online resources as challenges. 135(87.7%) agreed that the information resources are not easily spread like conventional book/text 129(83.8%) viewed that incompatibility of software/format of online resources as problem while 58(37.7%) of the participant viewed inability to print directly from mobile phone as a constraints. 16(10.4%) was see availability and disappearance of some sites as challenges.

Findings therefore reveal that insecurity of sites, high cost of downloading online resources, incompatibility of software/format of online resources and inability to spread online resources like conventional books are the constraints encountered.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study revealed that the use of mobile phones in Ladoke Akintola University of Technology library had become part of student’s daily lives, in which they know library is silent environment for a purposeful study. The study revealed that the students had forgotten the social rules in the library as 90% of them used mobile phones for communication amongst other uses in the library.

Consequently, the use of mobile phone in the library causes distraction and makes concentration difficult as affirmed by 90% respondents. The use mobile phones in the library do not only cause the distraction, it also constitutes a nuisance, and hence, must be controlled. The investigation further showed that despite the prohibition of using mobile phone in the library, yet a worrisome proportion still smuggle and used mobile phones in the library regardless of examination periods. The campaign and crusade against the

use of mobile phone in the public places should not be an institutional concern only but national issues. Therefore, ban on the use of mobile phones in public places such as libraries should be a legislative backing by National Assembly, with Government penalties well spelt out sufficiently publicized.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

In line with the findings of this study the following recommendations were put forward:

- ✓ Use of Anti-virus software: students should endeavor to install anti-virus software as this will go along the way to solve the problem of insecurity.
- ✓ 2. Installation of Internet facility in libraries: managers of university libraries should ensure that internet facilities are available in their institutions’ libraries as this will help to ameliorate the problem of high cost of internet access.
- ✓ Use of compatible phone/software: Students should endeavor to make use of mobile phone that is compatible with software that can help them have a broad view of online resources.
- ✓ Savings of download resources: student should endeavor to save online resources downloaded in special folders as this will solve the problems of site disappearances.
- ✓ Use of mobile phones that are users friendly: students should endeavor to make use of mobile phones that are users’ friendly that has the capacity to print as well as this will enable them to print online resources directly from their phones.
- ✓ Subscription to Online Journals: Libraries should make effort to subscribe to electronic journals (e journals) that will be of great value to the students. This will reduce the time spent by students in searching for electronic journals that are available online.
- ✓ Compliance with Professional Ethics: Librarians should ensure that practicing librarian comply with certain professional ethics required of them.

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