

The Effect of GSM on Reading Culture of Students/Users of the Library: A Case Study of the University of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

¹M.S. Omirin and ²T.O. Olutuase

¹Faculty of Education, ²University Library, University of Ado-Ekiti, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

Abstract: This study examined the effect of GSM on Reading culture of students or users of the Library. Literature was searched and questionnaire distributed to 300 students in two groups. Group A consist of students of faculty of Arts and Education. Group B consist of faculties of sciences and Engineering. This survey design was used since library is seen as a nest or incubator where scholars are hatched.

Key words: GSM, culture, library, environment, scholars

INTRODUCTION

A major development affecting library profession in the 21st century is information and communication Technology with its Internet websites. The Telephone and the mobile phones (GSM phones). According to GSM Nigeria (2003), Nigeria has been described in various ways as one of the fastest growing nation. It is this that paved way for library and information managers in making calls, sending fax, accessing E-mail and receiving messages and accessing the internet to serve library users better.

While it is also a serious mounting but yet concealed problem of readership way of abusing the library and library reading environment. There is evidence of its dramatic increase despite all strenuous efforts to control its spread.

University of Ado-Ekiti, (UNAD) was founded in 1982 with 136 students in the three faculties of science, Arts and Social Sciences. It was know as Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti before its name changed to UNAD after the creation of Ekiti State. Since then, there has been developing and expanding. Over the last two decades, the institution's library development has been a tremendous one. Many students now visit the library and enjoy using it. The developments have since been fraught with the problem of Global System for Mobile Telecommunication (GSM). Realizing that people for variety of reasons use libraries and that the libraries are to serve varieties of purposes.

Eze (2005) said a library user who makes or receives calls using the mobile GSM phone in an indiscriminate manner while reading in the library pollutes the library environment with noise and makes it uncondusive for other patrons who are using library resources for private studies. An ideal library environment is a quiet, condusive

and serene environment. It is created to support learning and private studies. When this idea is no longer obtainable due to human activities such environment is said to be abused and is no longer condusive for the library to meet its established objectives.

Eze also said that making and receiving calls indiscriminately in libraries by user and staff members create unnecessary noise in the library. It therefore render the reading system or culture unacceptable. Eze further explained that as the GSM phone technology becomes more popular, cell-phone in library is proliferating.

Adetoro (2005) quoted Adeoti-Adekeye (1996) in his study and reported that most students love reading in a healthy environment devoid of noise and air pollution. There is no gainsaying about the succor that GSM has brought to many Nigerians especially the scholars. GSM entered Nigeria community in 2001 and have been highly commended by individuals and corporate organizations.

The Nigeria Tribune of 8th September, 2005. Information system reported that, the advent of GSM in august 2001 marked a geometric shift in Nigerian telecommunications industry.

In a pilot survey by the researchers, it was discovered that the reason advanced for the use of GSM is of the fact that students are now using it as calculator and many at times set its alarm to awake them when there is need to go for another lecture.

However, the students agreed that the use of GSM in the library constitute noise but majority (about 86%) indicate that it is a thing they can not do without having close to them. This is why the researchers get more interested in this survey realizing that this a bad influence on reading culture of the students and problem of abusing the library reading environment through indiscriminate phone calls, text messages, alarm and abuse of library personnel among others.

Alegbeleye in his own view said the reason why libraries exist is to provide adequate and timely information of the right type to users in the right environment. Therefore both use and user studies are expedient areas of investigation to the librarians.

Achebe (2005), opined that the effort of information managers in Nigeria is to provide a comprehensive service that will assist people in cultivating life long reading habits, intellectual development and the creation of well informed society. Achebe further revealed how the Library Board Laws in Nigeria pursue one of its functions jealously. This is by improving the reading habits of citizens in the State and providing facilities for continuing education.

Elaturoti (1990) said that school libraries serve as a supporting instrument for educational programme of the school while it also develop students habit of reading both for pleasure and for gathering useful information.

Adeoti Adekeye (1996) buttress this idea when he observes that library serve as a training ground for students who love reading personal books for assignment, for general study and for relaxation.

Statement of the problem: The University libraries constitute important components in the infrastructure of knowledge in research and teaching. The fundamental duties were to administer and make available a local collection of books and periodical to create interfaces with the global knowledge system. Despite this, it has been observed that the currently there is no justification for the huge amount of money expended on the school Library if the unnecessary noise students are now making by grossly misusing the availability of GSM that they have in hand at all times.

Excessive loud cell-phone conversations can disturb other library users and interrupt reference interviews, bibliographic instruction or circulation services. Some cell-phones even offer obtrusive music in lieu of the traditional ringing sounds. This also acts as a source of noise in the library therefore creating a bad effect on the reading culture of the users.

Purpose of the study: Purpose of the study is to examine the effect of GSM on the students reading culture and to find out the frequency with which the users are bringing in the GSM phone into the library, and to determine the effect of GSM on reading culture and learning activities. Further more the study will reveal strategies that can be used to check the students from bringing in GSM into the library.

Research hypotheses: The following null hypotheses were generated and tested at 0.05 level of significance:

HO₁ : There is no significant difference between male and female library users in the use of GSM.

HO₂ : There is no significant difference between staff and students in the use of GSM in the library.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A survey design was used for the study this enabled different categories of library users to be involved in the study for possible generalization of the findings. The population consisted of all users of the library (both staff and students) on regular and part time programmes.

A sample of 300 respondents was selected using stratified random sampling technique for the study. A questionnaire was constructed by the researchers, which consists of two parts. Part A was on respondents' characteristics while Part B was a set of questions on the ethics of using the library. The instrument was validated using the test-retest method, and a reliability coefficient of 0.73 was obtained, which was considered high enough. Face and content validities were ensured with the help of experts in library studies.

The instrument was administered on the subjects personally by the researchers and the responses collected immediately, with a return rate of 100%. The data collected were analyzed using student t-test.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows a t-calculated value of 0.84 and a critical t-value of 1.96. This shows that the result is not significant, since the $t_c < t_t$. Hence, the stated null hypothesis was upheld, indicating that there is no significant difference between male and female library users in the use of GSM.

Table 2 shows a t-calculated value of 1.07, which is less than the critical t-value of 1.96. this indicate that the result is not significance.

Hence the stated null hypothesis was upheld. That is, there is no significance difference between staff and students in the use of GSM in the library.

Table 1: Student t-test summary table of male and female

Sex	N	\bar{x}	S.D	df	t_c	t_t
Male	210	35.8	3.59	298	0.84	1.96
Female	90	27.1	4.07			
Total	300					

p>0.05

Table 2: Student t-test summary table of staff and students

Group	N	\bar{x}	S.D	df	t_c	t_t
Staff	10	32.6	3.19	298	1.07	1.96
Students	300	37.4	3.32			
Total	310					

p>0.05

DISCUSSION

The finding of this study revealed that there is no significant difference between male and female library users in the use of GSM. This result agreed with the finding of Eze (2005) who also found out that sex has no effect on the use of GSM in the library. But the finding contradicted that of Achebe (2005).

This study revealed that both staff and students use GSM in the library. This supported the work of Adetoro (2005) but contradicted the finding of Eze (2005).

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