

Perception of Students About Online Registration: A Case Study Of Federal University Of Technology Minna

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ABSTRACT

Registration is one of the crucial tasks faced by the students at the beginning of every session; this research work looked into online registration which is the usage of Internet for registration. Descriptive statistics were used, a total 200 questionnaires were distributed to the students who have used both manual and online registration systems, 182 were returned. 83 respondents (45.6%) have used Internet more than 4 years, 161 respondents (88%) engaged others to register for them online, 167 respondents (91.8%) preferred online registration to manual. 102 respondents (56.1%) encountered problems during online registration, 122 respondents (67%) indicated that its not time consuming. The study revealed that online registration is better and preferred by the students to the manual, it also recommend future research to the type of problems faced by the students.

INTRODUCTION

The advent of the Internet has improved tremendously the type of services provided by educational institutions across the globe. Till recently (decade) students in Nigeria universities used to do their registration manually, this involves filling of course forms, registration form, acceptance form and many other forms. This will then be submitted to the appropriate departments or faculties as the case may be.

No doubt this system has its inherent problems like being too cumbersome to do and sluggish in nature. There is also total dependence on faculty or departmental registration officers which may not be available at all times. Loss of forms advertently or inadvertently and unnecessary queuing to obtain course forms are also experienced. All these lead to wasting of time and in most cases delay

in processing of forms due to large number of students. Also in some cases due to corruption in the system some students have to pay through their nose before they can register for courses in some departments.

Some or all the problems highlighted above paved way for the introduction of the university online registration system. This is to follow the global trends of using internet for registration purposes. As at present many Nigeria universities have fully embraced the idea while some are still having the plan in the pipeline. First among this is the Federal University of Technology Minna.

This online registration apart from solving or reducing to the barest minimum some of the problems highlighted above also allows individual students at their own convenience to do their registration.

The academic sector increasingly uses the Internet as a communication medium for internal and external purposes. Apart from the publication of general interest information, universities' websites may allow students and staff to apply online, answer surveys, register for e-learning sessions, get lecture notes, browse the library catalogs, send and receive e-mails, check academic results, print documents. This of course is not an exhaustive list of services that universities may wish to offer (Asuquo, 2007). Cisce (2004) affirms that the internet places at the disposal of all gateways to various forms of information and the capacity to access them on a world wide level.

Among the teaming growth in website is the institutional or educational websites which are being owned by schools or institutions. These types of websites are very important considering the type of services they render viz; informing the populace about the school, online registration, giving guidelines to students seeking admission either for undergraduate or post graduate studies (academic or research), showing research areas for those interested in research, displaying admission list among others (Adepoju & Osofisan, 2008).

According to Gambari & Okoli (2007) further stated that ICT has had more impact on administrative services such as admission, registration, fee payment and purchasing than on the fundamentals of classroom teaching and learning.

A major advantage of using the Internet in education is convenient access to information. Students may find that using the Internet from home, at university, or increasingly, from Internet-connected devices such as mobile phones and Personal Digital Assistants, is more convenient than going to an office with their limited opening hours. (Moray, 2002)

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this research work is to

1. Examine students attitudes toward online registration
2. Know how effective and efficient is the university online registration system
3. Determine the extent to which students embrace online registration
4. Know whether online registration is perceived as an acceptable form of registration by students (universities students) in comparison to manual registration.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The students of FUT Minna form the population of the study. It excludes 100 level and 200 level because they never participate in the manual method of registration. They are drawn from the five Schools covering about 10 departments with special focus on departments that are IT driven.

A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed with 182 returned which is 91% of the distributed items (Response rate). The four schools in the university namely School of Science and Science Education, (SSSE), School of Engineering and Engineering Technology (SEET), School of Environmental Technology (SET) and School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT) were represented. The results of the analyses were collected and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Distribution according to sex

Sex	Frequency	Percent (%)
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Male	109	59.9
Female	71	39.0
Not indicated	2	1.1
Total	182	100.0

From the table above one hundred and nine (109) respondents were male which is 59.9%, and seventy one (71) respondents were female, which is 39% while two (2) of the respondents did not indicate their sex which is 1.1%. This means that the male respondents were more than the female.

Table 2: Distribution according to age

Age	Frequency	Percent (%)
16-20 Yrs	6	3.4
21-25 Yrs	106	58.2
26-30 Yrs	50	27.5
Above 30Yrs	15	8.2
Not indicated	5	2.7
Total	182	100.0

Table 2 above shows that six (6) of the respondents were between 16 and 20 years old, which gives 3.4%, and one hundred six (106) of the respondents were between 21 and 25 years old, which is 58.2%. Fifty (50) of the respondents were between 26 and 30 years old, which is 27.5%, and fifteen were above 30 years which is 8.2% while five (5) which is 2.7% did not indicate their age. It means that the age between 21 and 25 have the highest respondents.

Table 3: Level of Internet Experience

Year	Frequency	Percent (%)
Less than 1 yr	20	11.0

Between 1 and 2 yrs	24	13.2
Between 2 and 3 yrs	49	26.9
More than 4 yrs	83	45.6
Not indicated	6	3.3
Total	182	100.0

Table 3 above shows that twenty (20) of the respondents have less than one year level of Internet experience, which is 11%, twenty four (24) of the respondents have between one to two years Internet experience, which is 13.2%. Forty nine (49) of the respondents have between two to three years Internet experience, which is 26.9%, eighty three (83) of the respondents have more than four years of Internet experience which is 45.6%, while six (6) of the respondents did not indicated their level of Internet experience which is 3.3%. It means that many respondents have more than four (4) years of Internet experience.

Table 4: Involvement of others to do online registration

Engage some one	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	21	88.5
No	161	11.5
Total	182	100.0

Table 4 above shows one hundred and sixty one (161) of the respondents did not engaged the services of another person to register for them, which is 88% while twenty one (21) of the respondents did engage others in doing registration for them which is 11.5%. This is based on fact that many of the students have considerable number of years in internet experience.

Table 5: Distribution according to preference of online registration to manual

Preferred online registration	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	167	91.8

No	14	7.7
Not indicated	1	0.5
Total	182	100.0

Table 5 above shows that one hundred and sixty seven respondents (167) preferred online registration to manual, which is 91.8% and fourteen (14) respondents preferred manual which is 7.7% while one (1) of the respondent did not indicate.

Table 6: Is online registration cheaper than manual?

Cheapness	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	86	47.3
No	92	50.5
Not indicated	4	2.2
Total	182	100.0

Table 6 above shows that eighty six (86) of the respondents which is 47.3% indicated that online registration is cheaper and ninety two (92) which is 50.5% indicated that manual is cheaper; while four (4) which is 2.2% did not indicate. So students still find online registration more expensive than the manual.

Table 7: Do you encounter problem during online registration?

Encountering problem	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	77	42.3
No	102	56.1
Not indicated	3	1.6

Total	182	100.0
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Table 7 above shows that seventy seven (77) respondents encountered problem during online registration, which is 42.3% and one hundred and two (102) did not encounter any problem which is 56.1% which three (3) of the respondents which is 1.6% did not indicate.

***Table 8: Distribution according to time not wasted during online registration (efficiency)**

Time not wasted	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	122	67.0
No	58	31.9
Not indicated	2	1.1
Total	182	100.0

Table 8 above shows that one hundred twenty two (122) respondents indicated that time is not wasted during online registration which is 67%, and fifty eight (58) indicated that time is wasted which is 31.9% while two (2) did not indicated any option, which is 1.1%.

Table 9: Distribution according to availability of Internet facilities

Availability of internet facilities	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	122	67.0
No	58	31.9
Not indicated	2	1.1
Total	182	100.0

Table 9 above shows that one hundred and twenty two (122) respondents indicated that Internet facilities are available which is 67%, and fifty eight (58) respondents indicated that Internet facilities are not available which is 31.9%, while two (2) respondents did not indicate their interest which is 1.1%.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This research revealed that a large percentage of students of the Federal University of Technology, Minna welcome the online registration system and preferred it to manual system, because it saves time, less cumbersome and effective. It also reduces the stress of registration for them.

Though the facilities are not cheap to obtain by students yet they still embrace it. It is therefore necessary for relevant authorities to look into it so as to make it cheaper than what is obtained now, because for any technology to gain wide usage it must be affordable.

Some problem encountered by them in the course of doing the registration include difficulty in getting financial details timely available on the net. Also the problem of slow internet connectivity due to low bandwidth which was formerly been pointed out by Alhassan & Adepoju (2007) from the survey they carried out about IT firms in Minna metropolis still persists. This has resulted in increasing the expenses students spent in doing online registration and that is why most of them viewed it as being expensive. It is hoped that relevant actions will be taken to improve this because it will go long way to reduce cost and time wastage.

Despite all these short comings notwithstanding Nigerian students still embrace it warmly at least to be relevant in this era of technological advancement. It is the believe of the authors that with time online registration for students will be done stress free at reduced or no cost and internet facilities with high bandwidth will be readily available for usage.

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