

## **Application of Internet Sources in Communication Research among Communication Students in Universities in Lagos State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

In recent times, the approach to research has shifted considerably from analogue to digital. Communication research is not exempted with the introduction of Internet sources to data gathering processes. In view of this, the National University Commission's (NUC) Benchmark Minimum Academic Standard (BMAS) stipulates that communication students in Nigeria should be tutored in this area. However, little is known about how the students apply this knowledge in doing research in communication. Using university students in Lagos as a sample population, this study used the survey method to examine how communication students apply Internet sources in their studies. Drawing from the assumptions of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and the Uses and Gratification Theory, a seven-item questionnaire was administered to 454 students in communication departments of the selected institutions. The findings reveal that majority of the students would use Internet sources in their communication research. A significant percentage also believe it makes their work stress free although a sizeable percentage (44.6%) still believe using the Internet sources does not make a difference. Based on the findings, it was recommended that university authorities should endeavour to provide Internet services at affordable rates for students use.

**Keywords:** Digital/Virtual library, ICT, Internet, Communication Research, Communication Students, BMAS, NUC.