

Harnessing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Tools for Communication Research and Publishing in Southeast Nigerian Universities

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Abstract

Innovations in ICT tools and services have changed the nature of research and publishing in the 21st century, and improved access to information collection, storage and distribution. This paper examines the level of lecturers' utilisation of these provisions in communication research and publishing in Southeast Nigerian universities with a focus on state-owned universities. The data for this study were gathered from both primary and secondary sources while the analysis was done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, version 20.0). Results of the analysis reveal that lecturers with lesser years in service and research experience exhibit greater competence in the use of ICT tools than older and highly experienced lecturers; lecturers' utility of ICT tools and services is significantly very low; while high costs of ICT tools and services, publishing in impact factor and/or prized open access journals, together with poor ICT skills are responsible for low utility of ICT tools and services. This paper, therefore, recommends the provision of annual grants to lecturers for three papers on their presentation of journals' acceptance certificates. Secondly, compulsory ICT training programmes and examinations should be introduced as requirements for lecturers' promotion.

Keywords: ICT, Utility, Internet access, Electronic publishing, ICT competence, Lecturers, Communication research, Publishing.