

Preference of internet usage over books: Its impact on the academic performance of selected BSBA students

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Abstract - *Internet is becoming an integral part of the daily life for many people and it is spreading quickly. It is quite obvious that nowadays, most students are computer literate/addict. Their eyes are focused in the computer doing their school requirements, but oftentimes playing games downloaded in the internet. This study was conducted to know the impact of the preference of internet usage over books on the academic performance of BSBA 2A and BSBA 3B students. It also aimed to investigate the use and usability of internets from the perspective of users in an academic environment particularly the students. The researcher used the descriptive method in conducting the study and had administered a survey by distributing questionnaires to the selected BSBA students. Two (2) sections of students (BSBA 2A and BSBA 3B) were used as respondents of the study, forty (40) BSBA 2A in Principles of Economics and 20 BSBA 3B in Marketing Management, a total of sixty (60) students. Based on the results, eighty five percent (85%) or fifty one (51) students have increased their midterm grades as shown in Table 6. Lastly, sixty seven percent (67%) or forty (40) students considered Internet as a contributing factor that increased their grades, 20% (12 students) considered books, and 13% (8 students) said that their study habits that have influenced the increase in their Midterm Grades.*

Keywords: *Internet/E-Book, printed books, tech-savvy students, e-version, preferences*

Introduction

The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks used by billions of users worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of private and public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope that are linked by copper wires, fiber-optic cables, wireless connections, and other technologies. Every year, more of the world's people become connected to the network, its bandwidth increases and its use becomes more integrated to all that happens in the globe. Connectivity to this network has become a key to opportunity, success and fulfillment for individuals. Technology has changed the world, and the learning and teaching environment has also changed. A study was conducted in Saudi Arabia regarding the Internet service penetration among different social categories and study users' preference on Internet access times, communication system used for the connection, and the technical attributes of the Internet connection. The results revealed that email access was the main purpose for Internet use for most of the participants. Young users were found to use the Internet more frequently for chatting and entertainment than old users. Improving the speed and quality of the Internet connection were found to be more important than decreasing the price of the service.

[1]

For the past years, various studies have also been carried out which have demonstrated the increase in the use and the progressive penetration of internet in the academic and scientific sector (universities and research centers). According to Principe (2005) in his dissertation, there are two factors influencing the students' academic performance; the Internal Factors such as class schedule, class size, classroom environment, homework, professor role in the class, exams and technology; and the External factors such as extracurricular activities, family, and work activities.[2] The E-book is beginning to have a significant role both in the classroom and distance learning, as well as in research activity.[3] There are studies conducted on the factors influencing the academic performances of students, but there is no study conducted on the impact on the students' preference of Internet usage over books in SDCA.

Objectives of the Study

This study explains the impact on the preference of internet usage over library books on the academic performances of selected BSBA students. It also explains the reasons why students prefer e-books than printed books. Suggestions will also be discussed to balance students' use of both the e-books and the printed books. This will lead students to maximize the use of books in the library considering that most of the books are American authored books which are too expensive.

Statement of the Problem

The study focuses on the preference of internet usage over books by the selected BSBA Students: its impact on their academic performance. Specifically, it also concentrates on finding for the answer of the following questions which involve the problem of the study:

1. What are the impacts on the preference of internet usage over books on the academic performance of selected BSBA Students?
2. What are the reasons why students prefer using internet than printed books?
3. What are the strategies to balance students' use of both the internet and the printed books?

Review of Related Literature

As more people around the world gain access, to all the tools of the digital age, the internet will play a greater role in everyday life. And so far, people in emerging and developing nations say that the increasing use of the internet has been a good influence in the realm of education, but some people are more likely to say that the internet is a negative rather than a positive influence on morality and personal relationships and the economy. Despite all the benefits of these new technologies, the use of internet is a negative rather than a positive influence on morality, and they are divided about its effect on politics. [4]

According to Zickuhr (2013), Americans ages 16-29 are heavy technology users, including in using computers and internet at libraries. Highly educated individuals are more likely to say that internet is a positive influence on the academic performance of students. The increase in internet usage has led students not to use printed books in the library. The results of a study revealed that email access was the main purpose for Internet use for most of the participants. Young users were found to use the Internet more frequently for chatting and entertainment than old users. Printed resources have been replaced with electronic resources and the habits related to newspaper,

magazine, course material and book reading have undergone changes. [5] However, a study revealed that college students still prefer print textbooks. The preference for print was also much higher-at 62% - in the 18 - to 35-year-old bracket, which account for 75% of the respondents. Contrary to what most would expect, the younger and supposedly tech-savvy students are not all that into e-textbooks. The survey also reveals that Education and Library & Information Science students, representing 49% of the total respondents, used printed textbooks more than other majors, including Business and Science. This study also revealed reasons for preferring print, which ranged from “ease of use” (54%), “note-taking ability” (35%) to “physical feel of book” (11%). For those favoring the e-version, factors cited include “light weight” (34%), “convenient access” (23%) and “search function” (16%). “Cost” was cited by only 15% of the respondents as a factor in purchasing the e-version. [6]

Another study was conducted which received a lot of attention, and one section in particular that seemed to spark conversation was “print vs. e-books” showdown. It was found out that people prefer e-books for a variety of situations, when they need a book quickly, when they want a wide selection, or when they want to read “on-the-go” while commuting or traveling. Print, meanwhile, is the preferred format for “social reading”, such as sharing books with others or reading with a child. The verdict was split: 45% say e-books are best while 43% prefer print books.[5] However, according to Steven D. Krauze (2007), printed books are preferable than e-books when doing a research paper.[7]

Methodology

This study used the Descriptive Method. This involves the description of the situation as it exists at the time the study was conducted. The research is descriptive in nature since it tries to describe the preference of BSBA 2A and BSBA 3B college students. The researcher used a sample of sixty (60) students as the respondents, that is, forty (40) BSBA 2A and twenty (20) BSBA 3B. Purposive sampling was used using sixty respondents who were requested to answer the prepared questionnaire. Each respondent was given a questionnaire which was administered personally to them as their seat work. Sixty (60) students were used as respondents, that is, forty (40) BSBA 2 and twenty (20) BSBA 3A. The activity was done in the classroom which the researcher considered as the respondents’ Seatwork. The study led to the answer of the statement of the problem on what are the impacts on the preference of internet usage by the BSBA 2A and BSBA 3B students, what are the reasons why students prefer using the internet than printed books. After answering the questions, the data which are the Primary Data were collected, tabulated or analyzed and interpreted using the Frequency Percentage Method of analyzing data. After analyzing the Primary Data, the Secondary Data were also collected from journals taken from the web (Internet).

Data Presentation and Analysis

Data were collected, summarized and analyzed using the Frequency Percentage Method. The researcher used two sections of her classes, 40 BSBA 2A in Principles of Economics and 20 BSBA 3B in Marketing Management, a total of 60 respondents. Majority of the students utilized internet as their major reference in making their assignments, reports and case studies/researches. Below are the tabulated results of the study with corresponding percentages.

Table1. References used by students in answering assignment, reports and case studies/researches

References	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Internet/E-book		
Assignment	48	80%
Reports	44	73%
Case Studies/ Research	40	67%
Library book		
Assignments	12	20%
Reports	16	27%
Case Studies/ Research	20	33%

Table 1 shows that 80%, 73%, and 67% of the students' preferred internet in making their assignments, reports, and case studies/research, respectively, while 20%, 27%, and 33% of the students used the library books in making their assignments, reports, and case studies or research, respectively. This simply means that students really preferred internet rather than printed books in accomplishing their school requirements. Only very few of our students utilized books as their major reference.

Table 2. Preferred References

Preferred References	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Internet		
Assignment	51	85%
Reports	48	80%
Case/Research	35	58%
Library Books		
Assignment	9	15%
Reports	12	20%
Case/Research	25	42%

Table 2 shows the preferred references used by the respondents, only 17% preferred printed books while majority, 83% preferred internet due to convenience and easy access since books are hassle and it will take them more time in finding for the information they need. They will also be having a problem carrying those heavy books in going home and sometimes they have to be penalized if books are not returned on the due dates.

Table 3. Presence of Internet at home

Internet at Home?	Frequency (F)	Percent age (%)
Yes	25	42%
No	35	58%
If None, research is done in		

Computer shops		
Library	10	29%
	25	72%

Table 3 shows that forty two percent (42%) or twenty five (25) of the respondents have internet connection at home and fifty eight percent (58%) do not have internets at home but 72% of those who don't have internets at home are doing the school projects in the library, only 29% are doing school requirements in the computer shops.

Table 4. Hrs. spent per day in each reference

References	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Reading a book		
1-2 hrs	7	12%
3-4 hrs	1	2%
5 hrs and above	1	2%
Surfing the Internet (Doing research)		
1-2 hrs	11	18%
3-4 hrs	20	33%
5 hrs and above	20	33%
Gaming/Movie		
1-2 hrs	4	7%
3-4 hrs.	3	5%
5hrs and above	2	3%

In Table 4, 12% spent 1-2 hours in reading books and 18% spent the same number of hours in surfing the internet. Only 2% spent 3-4 hours in reading books but 33% spent 3-4 hours in surfing the internet. Two percent (2%) also utilized more than 5 hours in reading books and 33% also surf the internet for more than 5 hours doing researches. Some of those who use the internet do not only do researches but they are doing games or viewing movies to relax. This proves that students are really internet dependents.

Table 5. Did the internet help students in accomplishing their school requirement?

Problems	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Report		
Yes	10	20%
No		
Assignment		
Yes	20	39%
No		
Case Studies/Research		
Yes	21	41%
No		

Table 5 showed that more than 40% of those who are internet dependents proved that internet has helped them much in making their case studies and researches, 39% in doing their assignments and only 20% in making their reports. This also showed that most of their researches

or case studies were done with the aid of internet. It proves that greater help is contributed by using internet in doing their researches.

Table 6. Did their Midterm Grades increase?

Increase in Grade?	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Yes	51	85%
No	9	15%

Table 6 showed that 85% of the students have an increase in their Midterm Grades which is contributed by the use of internet disregarding other reasons except study habits.

Table 7. Factor/s that influenced the increased in students' Midterm Grades

Factors	Frequency (F)	Percent age (%)
Use of Internet	40	67%
Use of Books	12	20%
Study Habit	8	13%

Table 7 shows that 67% considered Internet as a factor for the increase in the students' grades. This proves that internet is an important reference for students' academic performance as shown by more than 50% of the internet dependents, while only 20% said that the increase in their grades was due to the use of books and 13% said it is because of study habits.

Table 8. Reasons for using Internet/E-books

Reasons	Frequ ncy (F)	Percent age (%)
Speed/Quick access to information	48	80%
Portability	46	77%
Easy to use, convenient and informative	50	83%

Table 8 shows the reasons for using the Internet. 80% proved that internet gives students ease and speed in accessing the information, 77% said that it is portable, unlike books they will be carrying heavy loads in going home, and 83% admitted that internet gives a quick access to information. These are the reasons why there is internet preference over printed books.

Table 9. Reasons for not using printed books in our library (DLRC)

Reasons	Frequen cy (F)	Percentage (%)
Books are not updated	25	42%
Availability of books	20	33%
Takes time to get information	15	25%

In table 9, the respondents mentioned their reasons why they don't use printed books in the library. Forty Two (42%) said that books in the library are not updated which means that the library lacks the latest editions of books. Thirty three (33%) percent said the library has very few books. There are some books with only 1 copy which is for reserved only.

Summary of Findings

Findings show that Internet is a vital tool for college students for the following reasons: speed/quick access to information, portability and easy to use, convenient and informative as shown in Table 8. A proof can also be seen in Table 2 wherein Internet is preferred than printed books. The respondents do not prefer printed books in the Library because of the following reasons: books are not updated, the Library lacks the latest edition, only few books are available, so only few students can be served with those few books. Aside from this, it takes time for students to get the correct information which they need because they have to brows the pages of books first before they can get the topics they want as shown in Table 9. Based on this study, preference of internet usage over books gave a positive impact on the academic performances of the selected BSBA students as seen in Table 6 which showed the increase in their Midterm Grades. The respondents also considered the preference of internet usage as a contributive factor of the increase in the respondents' grades. It was also observed that as shown in Table 3, seventy two (72%) of those who don't have internets are doing their assignments, researches in the library. A proof to this is that one of the library assistants mentioned that most of the time the computer units in the library are occupied. Some of the students are just sitting down queuing/waiting for their turn to use the computer units in the library because this is the place where students hang out to get necessary information.

Conclusion

Based on this study, the preference of internet usage over books gave a positive impact on the academic performances of the selected BSBA students as shown in Table 6. This is proven in the increase of the respondents' Midterm Grades. They also added that the use of internet is one of the contributive factors for the increase in their Midterm Grades. This also proves that the increase in their grades is a measure of the positive impact on the internet usage preference over books on the academic performance of the students' Midterm Grades.

Recommendation

As mentioned, there is a positive impact on the internet usage preference over books on the academic performance of BSBA students. This is because of the following reasons: speed/quick access to information, portability and easy to use, convenient and informative as shown in Table 8. This is proven in the increase of the respondents' Midterm Grades.

Although there is a positive impact of preferring internets than books, there should be strategies to observe to balance students' use of internet and books. What the Library is doing now is to give award to top borrowers which the researcher thinks is not enough. Some students are just borrowing books but not reading them, they are just after of the award. Some criteria should be added for the students to be worthy of the award like extending their due dates in borrowing books. Library can selectively reduce title duplication between print and e-books and still support library user information needs. Titles in the books should not be converted to e-books.

Some of the strategies to attract students to borrow books in the library are already done. Just like the good news not only to the respondents of this study but to all students who are internet dependents. The library now has just purchased lots of books which are really updated. These books might be of great help to them as they are the latest editions of books. They were purchased during the book fair in MOA. The School President is concerned on the students' needs particularly books. Based on Library record on Library Usage of BSBA Students (2014-2015), only 253 books were used among the 484 books during the first semester and 231 during the second semester. The usage of books increased during the first semester AY 2015-2016 to 351 from 253 but it decreased during the second semester from 231 to 192. This is according to Cathryn Ann Dimapilis, the Librarian. With the presence of more books now the record on Library Usage of BSBA Students will surely improve.

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