

CHAPTER 3 ICT AND HISTORICAL STUDIES

Objectives

At the end of this chapter, students should be able to:

- explain the meaning of ICT;
- categorize its three basic components;
- indicate the importance of ICT to the study of history.

Introduction

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has become an integral part of modern development, its devices and skills touch every human effort socially, economically and politically. In like manner, it has influenced the models of studying and recording history.

3.1 Meaning of ICT

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an innovation which enhances study, teaches interactive and communicative skills. It is an electronically - based tool used in a systematic process of gathering, creating, processing, storing, retrieving and spreading of information by the print, broadcast, computing and telecommunication media.

In the early 1940's uptill to late 1960's, ICT was thought to be more relevant in the information industry, in mathematics statistics and the core physical sciences. However, with the emergence of ICT programmes and facilities, ICT has been applied to other fields of human endeavour including history and the social sciences. History has been taught using oral and written traditions, archeological finds and teacher-student interaction in a formal school setting, but ICT has enhanced and simplified the teaching and learning of history because of its appeal to our senses and of assessing information.

Three basic components of ICTs are:

- Processors of information, such as computer systems.
- Disseminators of information, such as telecommunication systems; and
- Facilitators to the presentation, such as multimedia facilities.

The computer systems include the hardware and software programmes used for the collection, storing and processing of information. Other softwares used for storing of information include: videotapes, video compact disc (VCD), digital versatile disc (DVD) and the Compact Disc Read Only Memory (CD-ROM). The hardware parts basically include the systems unit, the monitor and the keyboard.

The telecommunication systems are used for the dissemination and delivery of information. The system includes: radio, television, telephone, cell phone, satellite communication, e-mail, facsimile services, internet facilities, videotext, teletex, audio conferencing and video conferencing.

The multimedia facilities which help in instruction and presentation of facts and information include: synchronized sound-media kits, interactive video, computer multimedia and the use of power point presentation.

3.2 Importance of ICT in Historical Studies

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in recent times has made the collection, analysis and interpretation of historical data, synthetic and unifiable. It has also advanced the study, teaching and learning of history in the following ways:

- i. It has made the study and learning of history more vivid and easier. ICT has taken care of certain limitations of the study of history by including audio, audio-visual and visual elements in the process of teaching and learning of history. For instance, events can be brought closer to an individual via; the internet; postings on facebook and television coverage and cable news coverage; without waiting for a teacher or for textbook documentation.
- ii. ICT has introduced the use of the e-library in the study of history. E-library facilitates the interconnection of major world library centers to permit easy access and assessment of historical data globally.
- iii. ICT makes collection, analysis and interpretation of historical data simple through the use of telecommunications and power point presentations.
- iv. Through satellite cables, outside broadcasting transmission on both television and radio networks and through internet facilities, ICT can provide global coverage, transmission and recording of events as they happen. This is aptly demonstrated by the CNN and BBC networks.
- v. A lot of historical data can be found in the websites. These are rich up-to-date and credible data. Visiting the websites on the internet gives one good access to these facts and knowledge.
- vi. Information and Communications Technology is made up of many modern gadgets which help in the recording and interpretation of history. These technological devices include: the video with its CD, VCD and DVD softwares, the computer, interactive video, multi-media, improved photographic cameras, audio, visual and audio-visual technologies that complement printed materials, artifacts and oral skills.
- vii. ICT helps teachers to capture the attention of students in class. It has elevated the instructional skills and strategies of the teacher as well as learning styles of students of history.
- viii. ICT assists historians in the areas of research and further studies. It is a tonic in the thought processes of researchers.
- ix. In a history consortium ICT devices are used for keeping financial records and transactions, records of physical facilities and personnel records.

Summary

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is relevant in history as it helps the retrieval, storage and management of data in both studying, teaching and learning History through its processing, disseminating and facilitating processes.
- The importance of ICT in history stems from the fact that it introduces innovation in the study of History, makes it lively, interesting and understandable. It also quickens and simplifies the way history is taught, studied and learnt.

Revision Questions

Objectives

1. ICT is more relevant in the study of _____.
 - A. Ethnography
 - B. Physics
 - C. Research Studies
 - D. History and the social sciences
2. One of the ways we can learn history is by the use of _____.
 - A. Archeology
 - B. Climatology
 - C. Weather forecasting
 - D. Commercial goods
3. The most essential attribute of ICT is that it is _____.
 - A. Computerized
 - B. Digital
 - C. New
 - D. Electronical
4. One of the benefits of using ICT is that it is _____.
 - A. Cost effective
 - B. Innovative
 - C. Multisensory
 - D. Skill Oriented
5. ICT systems can be categorized into _____.
 - A. Four
 - B. Three
 - C. Six
 - D. Two
6. The Power Point presentation is a facility of the _____.
 - A. Software

- B. Hardware
 - C. Digital versatile disk
 - D. Multimedia system
7. A _____ is not so important in the operation of the computer system.
- A. mouse
 - B. systems unit
 - C. monitor
 - D. keyboard
8. The electronic library which has interconnections of many libraries is the _____.
- A. cable network
 - B. website protocols
 - C. virtual Library
 - D. documentary
9. The instructional approach to history is most facilitated by _____.
- A. teacher interaction
 - B. book reading
 - C. e-library
 - D. audio-Visual materials
10. In capturing current events, history makes use of _____.
- A. satellite communications
 - B. archeological finds
 - C. data capturing machine
 - D. over head projectors

Essay Questions

1. Give a brief definition of ICT.
2. What was the state of studying history prior to the emergence of the ICTs?
- 3a. Identify three basic components of ICTs.
- b. Give a vivid explanation of each component.
4. Explain briefly the components of hardware and software in a computer system.
5. Give five reasons to demonstrate the prospects and importance of ICT in the study of history in Nigeria.