Abstract

This study "Influence of ICTs on news writing, a study of practicing journalists in Owerri municipal council" has positive impact on news writing and reporting because the advent of modern technology has really done great thing in our country. It is relevant to journalism practice because every technological breakthrough brings with its new audience, new orientation, new prospects and challenges. For an organization to effectively sell its products to an audience efficiently and effectively, it must have an efficient and adequate information technologies and corresponding knowledge of their uses. The objectives of the study is to ascertain the influences of ICTs on journalism practice. It explored the impact of the technologies in news and information reportage. However, the research method used in the study is the survey research method on practicing journalists. The sampling technique used was the purposive sampling technique which is the non- probability sampling technique, also the sample size was determined using the Taro Yamane's formula (1964) which was 122. It used questionnaire to generate data and chi-square to test hypothesis. The findings showed that Owerri based practicing journalist were aware of ICTs, have access to ICTs and therefore make use of ICTs. ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage. It recommends that capacity building is essential in the exposure of media practitioners to the requirements of technologies.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Media need to be recognized as an important vehicle responsible of acquainting the citizens with well-defined national goals by informing them of their role, expectation and obligation. Media practice is public interest oriented. It is the means through which government, institutions, organization and all others in authority are held accountable to and by the public. It means that the content of the media influences people's thought and feelings and the world at large.

However, the alteration of the nature of communication experience in the society by the media, with the new technologies has become conspicuous. People attitude to the traditional media of televisions, music, radio, film and print has also changed due to the dynamic nature of the applied technology in their preference and delivery. Relative in the diaspora can interact with each other in cyber space (the digital world of communication).

In essence, the media and emerging technologies are bringing news ways of sending ideas, feelings, opinions, thoughts and information, new ways of hearing about the world, its identities and the future advance in the technology and their services have facilitated global information flour, which have fulfilled Marshal McLuhan's global village concept, where ones neighbor is no longer the fellow who lives next door. He would be in a remote part of the hemisphere separated from one only on time and distance but also be differences in language, culture, norms and value. What happens to ones known by the other within a split second (Agba, 2001:7)

Information technology is any artifact manipulated by man to aid him communicate personally, massively and above all, timely information and communication technology (ICT) have enhanced global neighborhood in terms of medially in communication and information dissemination around the globe Nodu (2004:32)

According to Okunna (2004:20) wherever we think of information or communication technology, our minds fly to the world of computer, satellite, fax machine, fibre optics, digital networks and ultimately the internet network. She explains further that they are variously called New Communication Technology (NCT) which makes possible Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) and have given rise to the information high way or information super high way. All this have to do with the online world, which Hibson in Okunna called Cyberspace.

Agba in OkunnaC.S. (2004) explains that NCTs refers to the technology which impacts directly on the manner in which the media receive the information prepare for distribution and distribute in it. Agba also attributes these new firms and processes of communication with greater speed, greater reach, clearer vision and capacity for two way flow of information.

Many newspaper houses in the western states like the TV and Radio also engaged in satellites publications in different cities across the country and beyond. Dominick (1993:184) gave example of such papers as the international herald tribute. Washington post, USA, today international world paper, the financial times of London, the economics and the wall street journal.

Satellite publication is not currently available in Nigeria, thus, the provision of the early editions and late edition of the same newspapers. If one buys a newspaper of National circulation in the overt, Edo or Delta States and one buys another copy of the same newspaper on the same

day as soon as the consumers crosses the Niger bridge into East, the difference in their content become evident. While one is early edition, the other is in late edition.

In addressing the relevance of Technologies, Owuamalam (2005:12) canvasses that the information high way, known as the internet, shows how maturity in the 21st century has transformed journalism to a state of art profession, where novices in the new technology seems to be left at the feet of relegated to the dungeon of intellectual abyss through either ignorance or inefficient compliance to the technology opportunities of the century, Owuamalam concludes.

Information technology is not in itself a medium but a social force, bringing changes to the media world. It has affected the publishing process like copywriting, reporting, editing, page making and filming. The internet and computer have facilitates journalist practice in contemporary times. The internet is one of the most prominent factors which has given credence to the statement that the world is a global village (McLuhan, 1974:100).

Nwabueze, (2005:163) defines internet as an interconnectivity of computers and some other devices like mobile phones which exchange information with the aid of telephone lines. The screen of any computer, connected to the internet, is a magic carpet. It transports a newer round the world in a few minutes without moving an inch.

Some print publications now use the net to coordinate activities of their reporters, pages are even planned in some out stations and send through the net to the head office where such pages are made part of the newspapers to be published. Most printed publication are produced regionally, but daily by specially designed production. Computers which are able to receive data either by phone lines, micro waves or satellites from where they are printed automatically Ikpe and Ibekwe (2006:67).

The computer is at the very heart of the convergence and its entry into the media industry has been a credible boom in terms of speed, innovation and accuracy, Ikpe and Ibekwe (2006). They believed that the computer earned this enviable position in the digital convergence because of its ability to transform text, number, sound and graphics into a digital form. The application if ICTs to the media industry has changed the working of the industry, it has influenced broadcast product content, circulation aesthetics and the quality of staff in each ICT driven establishment and created a new set of new carrier. The strategy has also brought people of different profession together. Like those in computer science, electronic engineering etc. In what Nwosu (2007:11) called Synergistic communication for development, where professionals from various fields poll ideas and resources together towards achieving a sustainable human development.

Journalism in the 21st century is an amalgam of training competence and expertise. It requires the sagacity of appreciating audience new and the ability to meet customers' aspiration for prosperity a shine on journalist Owuamalam (2006:125). It is only when journalist are abreast with technologies of the 21st century that journalism will be hailed as relevance to the need and service of the society. Journalist must note that at the punch of technology driver's communication button, one is ushered into the information super highway where the desired information about the world is at ones palm. They must discover appropriate use for each new technology to note that laptop computers, GSM handset and even video phones are useless if not put to appropriate use Owuamalam (2006:122).

ICTs have aided in every aspect of mass communication in Nigeria, advertising has survived through the years of early press to the modern times with increasing modernizations as a result of advancement in information and communication technology (ICTs) Obasi (2011:205)

Since ICTs have made it possible for individual who may reside as far off north. Say America assess the details of issues that go on in America, say Nigeria just as it is happening Owualamam (2006:177). Therefore ask:

- What therefore is the implication of journalism in the use of sophisticated and most modern equipment in the 21st century?

- How will the transformation affect journalists their roles and the performance in contemporary times?

- How would journalism grapple with the dictate of the new technology where power supply is epileptic and sometimes erratic or even with the embarrassing scarcity of fuel for power generation in Nigeria, the 7th largest producer of oil in the world.

It is the manner with which the media correspondents utilize these ICTs materials for effective gathering, processing and dissemination of news and information in what this research sets out to find out. Also, it becomes necessary to understand how journalistic effectiveness, efficiency, competence and training can be attained in the information jet.

Above all, this study seeks to ascertain the perception of journalist on the extent to which the ICTs have influence the media practice, as regards performance, efficiency, job substitution or loss amongst others.

1.2   Statement of the Problem

The modern technological era has increasingly paved the way and created impact in the communication world with the result and other reason, much emphasis therefore should be laid on procuring digitalized equipment, no matter what or much it cost. This action therefore will

help to enhance the quality and quantity of news and information contents. The problem therefore, is that new technologies cannot address the problems of news content and staleness in the media particularly the print medium.

As a relatively new and indeed vast field, the new information technology has been greeted with curiosity. It has touched off analyses of its native potentials and danger Ukonu (2006:98). Third world countries like Nigeria and Ghana have also joined in the search on how to adapt the potentials of the new information technology to the best use possible. The problem is that the ignorance about the capabilities of the NICT can affect their use and adaptation in contemporary mass media industries, Journalism practice cannot benefit from only adaptation.

NICTs adoption in the rural area is perceived at a misplaced priority, now journalistic practice can address this importantly too, is the study of the behavior of journalist (fear of job safety, carrier substitution) towards NICTs since their emergence in their work places it becomes necessary to ascertain if the fear of job loss and health hazards associated with NICTs are real or imagined as a hindrance to the adoption of the new technologies for news gathering and journalism practice.

1.3   Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the study is to:

1. To find out if practicing journalists in Owerri are aware of ICTs.
2. To ascertain the proportion of practicing journalists in Owerri that have received formal training in the ICTs.
3. To find out if the use of ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage.
4. To find out if practicing journalists in Owerri have access to ICTs.

1.4 Research Questions

1. Do practicing journalists in Owerri aware of ICTs?

2. How many practicing journalists in Owerri have formal training on the use of ICTs?

3. Does the use of ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage?

4. Do practicing journalists in Owerri have access to ICTs?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

H_0: A good number of Owerri based practicing journalists are not aware of ICT.

H_1: A good number of Owerri based practicing journalists are aware of ICT.

H_0: A good number of Owerri based practicing Journalists do not have access to ICT.

H_2: A good number of Owerri based practicing journalists have access to ICT.

H_0: ICT usage does not have positive impact on news and information reportage.

H_3: ICT usage do have positive impact on news and information reportage.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of Study

The scope of the study is Owerri, the capital city of Imo state. All journalists who practice in Owerri are represented in this study. These journalist practice in Owerri and where purpose chosen to represent the media practitioners in the state.

The study encountered various militating factors among which is lack of adequate finance. They serve economic situation of the country that reflect in the low par capital income

and high expenditures limits availability of financial resources. However the researcher employed judicious and careful prioritizing his need and the research need.

Again, the selected respondent were hard to come by due to their busy programme as schedule culminating from the nature of the job of media practitioners. This therefore hindered the administration and retrieval of questionnaire of the respondents' contacts to various media industries in Owerri (NTA, Orient TV, IBC, statesman, newspaper etc.) where the respondents work were continuously met and the respondents cooperate as sort. Time posed as serious impediments to the study as the research has other academic and otherwise interests to cover, but proper time allocation was applied by the researcher for better task accomplishment.

1.7   Significance of the Study

The study will provide the media owners, planners and practitioners' good reasons on why ICTs should be employed in their media operations. It will serve as a reference point for current and future information and communication technology users, researchers, scholars, and students.

It will also serve as a knowledge based for understanding ICTs potentials, dangers and how to utilize the benefits offered by the ICTs and encourages the people on how to manage the risks associated with ICTs users. In addition, the study will help to clear the doubt on whether ICTs emergence lead to job loses to media practitioners. Finally, the research findings will add to the existing literature in the area of information communication technologies.

1.8 Operational Definition of Terms

Mass Media: Mass media is an organization that controls technologies such as broadcast media (television, radio) and the print media (newspaper, magazine, books etc.).

Information Technology: Information technology is any artifact manipulated by man to aid him communicate personally, massively and above all, timely information and communication technology (ICT) have enhanced global neighborhood in terms of medially in communication and information dissemination around the globe.

Communication: Communication is the meaningful exchange of information between two or more participants.

Information: Information is conveyed either as the content of a message or through direct and indirect observation of something.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   Sources of Literature

The study adopts used sources that provided relevant and useable materials that direct bearings on the premises. The sources consulted are books, journals, magazines, newspapers and internet materials. These sources deal on contents related to information technology.

2.2   Review of Related Studies

An effort is made to show how the new technologies have affected therefore that in insight into the new technologies would highlight their relevance to journalism.

2.2.1   The concept of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Information and communication technology is fundamental to the realization of sustainable development. Communication by Adeboye (2001:45) is the vehicle of mobilize, motivate, inform, educate and persuade the citizenry. It is the vehicle used by policy planners and implementers to reach majority of people with development messages. However, Moemeka (2001:45) pointed out that past efforts at using the media to promote development has been unsuccessful because of the way the media were used. On Wuamalam (2005:118) asserts that: all communication is purposeful and deliberate and present message messages is the most acceptance form and format in format in order to enhance credibility and ensure believability.

From the foregoing, it can be deduced that communication has processes, which include generation production, transmission and reception of messages. The result produced and

experience for both source and receiver. The experience is replete on the effectiveness of the message which could be expressed in the form of acceptance, credibility and believability.

Today, however, these communication processes are evolving and this ensures efficient and effectiveness in communication. The evolution no doubt is made possible by new technologies which has broadened the communication horizon. Technologies is the way people use resources around them to meet their want and needs. The needs and aspirations of the communication environment arouse interest in the best technological approach to adopt in overcoming communication services. For instance, it has become easier and quicker for human beings the share their knowledge with one another.

This is due to great advance in communication technologies, like the use of computers, telephone and satellite that makes it possible for people to share ideas freely and very quickly. Communication is the way people have develop to send and receive messages. Communication technologies can be used to communicate with each other.

Modern managers no longer travel longer distance rather they sit comfortably in their offices and participate actively in international conferences and debate through satellites broadcast video (Nwodu and Nkozor 2003:75)

2.2.2   Trends in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

Nwodu, (2004) technological determinism theory and media practitioner's perception to cultural influence of ICTs on developing nations, Enugu. The trends in communication technology are easily explained by giving examples to some of the innovation that signaled the relevance. The trends appear in the form of computer telecommunication technologies, Nwodu observed that ICTs span through two broad categories which are telecommunication and

computer communication are respectively sub-categories, a review of Cable system, optic fibre communication, cordless telephone wireless system, intercom system, light weight computer.

All these brings to the relevance of the new technologies through the help of the optical fibre cable. Optical fibre cable in place of ordinary copper cable has improved the transmission of quality sounds and data sent over telephone lines. It helps in the transmission of radiant power.

Optical fibre cable is a method of transmitting from one place to another, by sending pulses to light through an optical fibre. The light from an electromagnetic carrier wave that is modulated to carry information.

Optic fibre was successfully developed in 1970 by corning glass works, with attenuation low enough for communication (about 20dbkm)and at the same time as semi-conductor lasers were developed that were compacted and therefore suitable for transmitting light through fibre optic cable for long distance and high demand applications john, (2008).

The cable system, Nwagbo (2004:145) writes, is said to excel in the fidelity of signals delivery and reproduction because it can process vast frequency (UHF). The use of coaxial and fibre optic cable, as relay and distributed paths, ensure that the signal are free from atmosphere jamming and interference which are common with conventional broadcasting. Cable system to Nwagbo is a communication mode, which use wire and television programme from a common distribution center called "head end" to a terminal reproduction devices, which is usually located in a subscribed home or some of agreed location. An examples of cable transmission is that of the cable news network (CNN) whereby it is around. The dock broadcasting has woe and endeared the whole of itself.

The cordless telephone demonstrate convenience and portability. The mobile table phones, among. Other are examples, there are also light weight computers that can be carried in brief cases. People gave great access to information because the devices are close to hand whether to people in their car, airplanes or away from the office on business travel. Laptop and palmtop computers are vivid example. These invaluable equipment are essential in modern day journalism.

2.2.3   Relevance of the technological era on Mass media activities

The ICTs are revolutionizing a lot of friends in the society including the media. There is currently a drive toward new media where the power of new technologies are opening and extending the frontiers of media land scope. Observing this trend, it is pertinent to note that the growth of industries and quoi- industrial establishment over the years. Have fostered significantly the emergence and diversification of technology in many countries.

The mass media are marked by high investments and competitions. The modern media are also in competition with that Dominick (2001) calls machine assisted mass communication. The internet has facilitated online services particularly with regards to television, newspapers and cable television. Dominick (2001:235), states that the internet has facilitated the sharing of communication at a faster rate by people across the world.

The arrival of computer has had enormous impact in the production process in the media industry. For instance, many of the newspapers adopting complete new programme that assist page layout on screen. The modern technology has helped to eliminate the need for compositors to set types, since correspondents have done the key stroking and the story already exist in an electronic form. When this has been done, Ufuhu-Biri (2006:235), observe that the new editor

recall them on his computers of video display terminals (VDT) and do their editing and all formatting right on the computer. The lithography sections recall then complete pages and do their work.

The modern lithography machines and printing machine are digitalized thereby eliminating time wasting. The machine print faster, collate, count and so other necessary finishing, addition, color separation is done on digital equipment against the previous analogies ones. Thus, print journalism has become less clumsy and more interesting no wonder Ufuhu-Biri (2006:227) retrogressed that early publishers used guide printing machine and that the print media operation was cumbersome.

The journalism and the global system for mobile communication. (GSM)

The global system for mobile communication is one of the most prized possessions among media correspondent today. With this devices, the reporters would not need to scramble for public phones with other reporter ordinarily in effort to relay news back to base. It has the benefits of mobility and economic of time. It also provides audio-visual services (MMS) and GRPS. These services are provided by GLO, MTN, AIRTEL, ETISALAT and other networks in the country. Often times, journalist do not need to get a cyber café office before access the internet. The GSM video call provides the audio video displaying of the caller (journalist or reporter). And the receiver (editor) with this, the reporter can feed the editor with live events as they unfold and can forward pictures all through mms.

Telegraph system owed its importance to the need for sending ones messages associated with the growing networking railways in the 19th century, this tool made it easy for messages to be transmitted as they are typed in composed offline the messages sent are recorded on a tele-

printer, its advancement over postal services is that, it is fast and messages can be acknowledged quickly.

Fax machine, Daniel (2001) is a machine or device with dialing buttons which correspondents use in sending stories written on sheet of papers to their respective media houses Headquarters. Fax machine cannot work on its own except it is connected to a telephone line in the office on house as the operator like it.

The internet, Agba (2003:253) writes, is the most technological advanced medium of communication. It is multimedia information super highway that facilitate business, sports, politics, entertainment and other endeavors across international boundaries. It is a technological revolutionary boundaries and revolution of monumental capacities. In fact, it is the information revolution that has turned the world into a global village. It is man's most attempt to miniaturize the physical earth. The internet has made journalism very simple and interesting. Many mass media organization are on the net. This assures electronic circulation of the print media which transcends over national boundaries.

This has resulted to the widening of the circulation capacity of most print media organization from regional and national circulation in electronic that is the on-line (net) access. Also, the internet has one can read the dailies on the net as early as 3-4pm, before the circulation at day break. Today, newspaper offers news stories with their details on the net frequently timely and regularly.

Again, most online newspapers have embraced e-commerce, some newspaper through adverts from partnership with retailers to get a small portion of each online sale through adverts. The internet has become a powerful instrument of editorial production and advertising research.

Letters to the editions are most frequently retrieved from the internet through e-mails, stories are adopted while pictures are sourced from the internet to compliment local materials. Internet is also particularly useful for the newspaper to source local stories from where correspondents are not available, making and down loading advert materials with ease, like the broad band technology.

The communication satellite operates by receiving electronic signals from the ground "unlinks" on earth stations and retransmit them through downlinks to other station.

Journalism and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTS)

Journalism practice have been made easier and faster because of ICT. Ulla Carlsson (2005:204), argues that, "the development of innovative information technologies and the ongoing processes of deregulation and concentration of ownership, have spurred the pace of globalization especially communications satellites and digitalization-not least the internet has an enormous impact".

ICT has made reporters, editors and other news contributors closer. It has created a network that leaves reporters and editor in close contacts at any one time. The editor can at any one time call the reporter who is situated in any place as long as there is telephone network there, and get a story from him/her. Also reporters file stories at any given time via the internet.

Ulla Carlsson (2005) stated "once fully adopted and adapted, the ICT will transform the newsrooms into cabled and networked centers with all journalists discharging stories on to a network, editors picking them before sending them to the page designers or casters in the case of electronic media". ICT also has made broadcasting easy, clear and standard.

ICT has made communication process participatory. It is no longer only the journalist who is involved in this field, but the audience too. With ICT, diffusion, two step flow and extension approaches of communication no longer hold. Communication is bottom-up. In other words, ICT has helped to bring closer communicators and receivers to the extent that feedback is swift. This in turn makes communication process participatory, useful and development focus as it centers on the audience.

ICT has developed the journalism profession. Journalists are able to receive training just online while they work. Journalists also listen to stories from other stations and copy the style they are written in.

ICT has facilitated knowledge management in the newsroom. Ahiabenu (2007), identifies strategies for knowledge management using technology in developing a mission statement for news organizations and creating a resources of useful information and knowledge easily available on demand for all newsmen.

ICTs in journalism again allow different communication options and increase plurality of views. This popular participation in journalism deepens citizens' understanding of their society, economy and politics. In Nigeria, like in many other African countries, where broadcast media are state owned and broadcast content largely government dominated, ICTs allow the people contribute more and thus stem government dominance and overbearing.

Rambau (2010), through internet citizens can challenge the contents of state owned broadcasting organizations this democratic options are closed in traditional media set up due to the cost of implementing it and licensing and regulatory condition which makes it tougher for anyone to, besides the state owned broadcasting network.

Professor Guy Berger (2005) stated that time and cost of research are lowered using ICTs. Also, it is easier to manage staff work flow and performance using ICTs.

2.2.3   ICTs challenges for journalism and solutions

Poor and inadequate training of journalist in the one of ICTs which determines the efficiency and effectiveness of media performance is a major challenge to journalism firm level studies (Deco: 2005), observed that the use of ICT has positive in firm performance and productivity, but that benefits occurs primarily or say when accompanied by other changes where skills have been improved and organizational changes have been introduced is typical of it all. The improvement of skills can be made possible by training and retaining of journalists to be abreast in ICTs unfolding trend.

According to Owuamalam (2005:122), it is assumed that no journalist would want to be relegated to the dungeon of intellectual abyss through either ignorance of in efficient compliance to the technological opportunities of the study.

The second challenge is on the over curiosity of ICTs user. That is, the never-ending quest to get it right in this information dynamic world. Salua (2007:210) observed that "journalism is not only getting complex but increased information overloaded gradual eroding of news sources, integrity, increased difficultly in typing device and sometimes falsified digital files.

In consideration of the information and data available on the internet as a tool for the new technologies. The question is how does the journalists cope with this? How would the Nigerian mass media adapt and apply the information and communication technologies to their performance? Against this back drop Baran in Salau (2001:209) remind us that internet does not distinguish between true and false biased and objective and trivial and important.

However, they cautioned "once misinformation has been loosed on the net, it is almost impossible to catch and correct it. Journalist are therefore, cautioned on the retrieved, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information for public consumption. They should be assured that the use of the new ICTs enhance objectivity most importantly the confirmation of the authenticity of information source must always come into play. The Federal Government banning of channel TV Lagos in September 2008 for broadcasting false news about Yar'Adua's resignation, which is claimed was sourced from the news agency of Nigeria (NAN) Website is a typical example.

A proper verification of news and information and their sources would be the key to surmounting the curiosity from the quagmire. Thus, pre- empting the mistake would seem more responsible and acceptable to the public.

Thirdly ICTs are responsible for enhancing business prospects of technologically advanced countries and persons with the technical appetence and capability. The result being burgeoning big media conglomerate agents. In business and state elite who treat media audience or says the public as consumers rather than citizens, the line between profit and reporting seems more obscure that it traditional notion of media having a public interest obligation disappears, making globalization and consolidation topics of mainly scholastic positions.

Also, ICTs posed much challenges for journalism in the developing Nations. Worthy of note is that while the new technologies are being celebrated elsewhere, it remains a fairy tale to some disadvantaged countries of the world. In some African countries, for instance, the technologies are not available, accessible or affordable.

Okunna (2004:18) observes that, the developing world are fond of complaining above the dichotomy between the information, rich countries of the north and our own information poor countries of the south. The basis of this dichotomy, Okunna (2004) disserts, derives from control of information and communication in their criticisms condemned the imbalance to describe the new internet information technology, as a form of electronic apartheid.

It is ironical therefore, that is the face of this condemnation, the center periphery master-servant scenario in global communication in replicated in most developing counties where the information- Rich minority urban area horde it over the information poor majority rural areas, a typical apartheid relationship. Okunna (2004:19) for instance, while the urban base newspaper maybe looked on the net, the community newspaper lack in the use of new ICTs at least in their deliveries. Nigeria shares restricted to urban areas. A bad omen which Owuamalam (2008:12) called urban arrogance.

Other Information and Communication Technologies (ICTS) challenges

Aside journalism, ICTs poses serious dangers and threat that hinder technological adoption, Agba (2001:95) outlined some of the problems of the ICTs as follows.

Computer crime is a phenomenon which emphasizes the fact that computer systems are deliberately infected with viruses thereby causing untold havoc. Criminal hackers illegally access and obtain confidential information, sometimes stealing money. Such activities have devastating effects on thousands of users of personal computer.

Techno-phobia means no urge to learn and manipulate computer operation. In a survey carried out on Japanese companies, it was found that only 20% of their executives could use computer.

Ignoring human in favour of information machines. More attention is paid on computers and other electronic gadgets through which information is accessed, while reverse is the case to human beings who actually use information in order to make sense of the world and other useful factors for betterment of the world.

In parenthesis, this study adopted McLuhan technology determinism theory which it's two sub-thesis as:

1. We shape our tools and they in turn shape us.

2. The electronic age, the rise of global village (McLuhan, 1963)

McLuhan's theory submits that inventions in technology in media invariably cause cultural change. This means that the change in modes of communication shape human existence. It also shape human behaviour, acumen skills and ways of doing things. This means that today's career of media men are shaped by the new ICT tools, applied in media industry.

When McLuhan spoke of the global village, he clearly had the web of electronic network that encircle the world in mind. His interest was to probe the casual relationship between media technology and culture, Nwodu (2004). Historical facts even supported thought of technological determinist that it is machine and their development that derive historical, economic and cultural changes Nwodu (2004: 74).

Instant communication on a worldwide base is presently transforming society. The media are increasingly dealing with a world without frontiers. Thus, the new world technology of digitalization with its precision information technology (Dominick 2002:164) has provided veritable awareness for international relations never witnessed earlier than now. Agba (2002)

observes that information super highway, known as internet, a stage of the art profession where novices in the new technology seem to be left at the fact of archival relevance.

The implication of journalism in the 21st centuries is that practitioners must be trained to adopt to technological innovation of the modern society Owuamalam (2002: 122). He further posits that, they must discover appropriate use of each new technology. It means that laptop computers, GSM handsets and even idiophones are useless if not put to appropriate use to fore stall the dilemma of working on the media are not being a member of the global village. Ikpe and Ibekwe (2006:71) advised that one needs to needs to learn the requisite skills as to connect with everybody and everywhere, instantaneously.

2.3   Theoretical framework:

Uses and gratification theory

Uses and gratification theory (UGT) is an approach to understanding why and how people actively seek out specific media to satisfy specific needs. This theory is an audience centered approach to understanding mass communication diverging from other media effect theories that question "what does media do to people?" uses and gratification theory focuses on "what do people do with media?."

The communication theory is positivist in its approach based in the socio-psychological communication tradition, and focuses on communication at the mass media scale. The driving question of this theory is; why do people use media and what do they use them for? Uses and gratification theory discusses how users deliberately choose media that will satisfy given needs and allow one to enhance knowledge relaxation, social interactions/ companion, diversion or escape

It assumes that audience members are not passive consumers of media. Rather, the audience has power over the media consumption and assumes an active role in interpreting media into their own lives. Unlike other theoretical perspective, uses and gratification theory holds that audience are responsible for choosing media to meet their desires and needs to achieve gratification. This theory would then imply that the media complete against other information sources for viewers gratification. The theory was put forward by Jay Blumler and Elihu Katz (1974).

Uses and gratification theory was developed from a number of prior communications theory and research conducted by fellow theorists.

Stage 1

In 1944, Herta Herzog began to look at the earliest forms of uses and gratifications with her work classifying the reasons why people choose specific types of media. For her study, Herzog interviewed soap opera fans and was able to Identify three types of gratification categories based on why people listened to soap operas, were emotional, wishful thinking and learning.

In 1970 Abraham Maslow suggested that uses and gratification theory was an extension to the needs and motivation theory. The basic for this argument was that people actively looked at satisfying their need based on a hierarchy. These needs are organized as Maslow's Hierarchy of needs n form of a pyramid with the largest, most fundamental needs at the base and the need for self-actualization at the top. From the bottom-up the pyramid contains biological/ physical, security/safety, belonging/social, Ego/self-respect and self-actualization at the top.

In 1954, Wilbur Schramm developed the fraction of selection a formula for determining which form of mass media an individual would select. The formula helped to decide the amount of gratification an individual would expect to gain from the medium over how much effort they had to make to achieve gratification.

Stage 2

In 1969, Jay Blumler and Denis Mc Quail studied the 1964 election in the United Kingdom by examining people's motives for watching certain political programs on television. By categorizing the audience's motives for viewing a certain program, they aimed to classify viewers according to their need in order to understand any potential mass media effects. The audience motivations they were able to identify help lay the ground work for their research in 1972 and eventually uses and gratification theory.

In 1972, Denis Mc Quail, Jay Blumler and joseph and Brown suggested that the uses of different types of media could be grouped into 4 categories which are: Diversion, personal relationships, personal identity and surveillance.

In1973-1974, Mc Quail, Blumler and Brown were joined by Elihu Katz, Micheal Guravitch and Hadassah Haas, in their media exploration. The collaborative research began to indicate how people saw the mass media.

Stage 3

The most recent and interest surrounding uses and gratification theory is the link between the reason why media is used and the achieved gratification.

Uses and gratification theory researchers are developing the theory to be more predictive and explanatory by connecting the needs, goals, benefits and consequences of media consumption and use along with individual factors.

Work in uses and gratification theory was trial blazing because the research of Katz, Blumler and Gurevitch built on Herzog's research and caused a paradigm shift from how media influences people to how audiences use media, diminishing the dominance of the limited effects approaches to mass media studies.

The theory discovers two types of TV viewers or users; they are;

A. Time-consuming (habitual): Information seekers who watch TV for ritualize uses such people due to TV screen to avoid doing other things. So, TV become a source of diversion for them escapism.

B. Non-time consuming (Non-habitual): They are the entertainment seekers who also seek information, but mainly attend to TV entertainment (musical instrumental use and film watching) these TV seekers use the medium content for information/ entertainment, by selecting station (channel) for their choice.

Practicing journalists has found out the usefulness of information and communication technology very useful and essential in gathering news material and therefore they are gratified. ICT has made news gathering easier and faster.

The driving question of this theory which is;

1. Why do people use media? Or we could say why do practicing journalist use ICT? They use these technologies (internet, G.S.M, fax machine, telegraph etc.) to make the work easier, faster and stress free and are satisfied and gratified using these technologies.

2. What do they use them for? Practicing journalists uses ICT in gathering news, communicating to one another (reporters) in their various beat where they are sourcing for news.

Practicing Journalists uses ICT for solving problem or difficulty and shows gratification for it.

2.4   Summary of literature review

The world has been enshrined into a global village, resulting from technological emergence and advance in today's era. Advance in modernization and information technologies have made work easier for media practitioners and further helped extensively in the production as well as packaging of media programme.

Thus application of these productions of convergence (ICTs) in the media industry has undoubtedly changed industrial operation performance in the area of product content circulation, aesthetics, the quality and number of employees. It has also created asset of career for those in the industry and others in other profession, such as computer science and statistics among others.

A checklist of designation of media employees today, shows a considerable change in nomenclature and role. In the print media, the traditional work scope of workers has expand to some extent. Hence, today, people find themselves available in a profession they have built a carrier around. For instance, ICTs have introduced non-linear editing and this help in headline casting.

Journalists must therefore be trained to comprehend with the trend in the industry as this will make them to train and detrained (capacity building) to be breast with the trend in the technologically driven society.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1   Research design

Ohaja (2003:11) sees research design on the structuring of investigation timed at identifying variable and the relationship to one another. This is useful in research work because it helps the researcher to build and develop what is known as mutual image and the relationship of ICT in journalism practice in Owerri.

The research will adopt survey research method which will be based on a personally administered questionnaire. The researcher chose this method because survey research works on the premises that help the researcher to select sampling techniques, instrument or data collected and allows the researcher to go into the field and select a sample size which is used conclusively on the entire population. In addition Sobowale (2001:45), describes the survey design method as the most flexible means of obtaining infraction. Wilbur and Dominick (2003:103) enumerated the advantages of the survey method to include, reduce cost, case of collection of data from a variety of people and recourse to already existing data. It is accepted that the obtained responses can provide answer to the research question necessary for addressing the journalists' perception of ICTs influence in the media practice.

3.2   Area of the study

The researcher's area of study is Owerri municipal council, precisely on practicing journalists in Owerri municipal council. The research's topic is on "Influence of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in News gathering, a study of practicing journalists in

Owerri municipal council" and choosing practicing journalists in Owerri metropolis is the most appropriate area of the study.

3.3   Population of the study

The population define the scope within which the research findings are applicable. Nworgu (1991-68) posits that, the population is designed to expose the result if the investigation, which can be generated to achieve a common phenomenon. The population of practicing journalists in Owerri obtained from the office of the chairman of Nigeria Union of journalists at press center, Owerri was one hundred and seventy-six (176). It is the population of journalists that is essential for this study.

3.4   Sample and sampling technique

According to Nworgu (1991:69) sample size therefore is a smaller group of elements drawn through a definite procedure, from a specified population. The elements making this sample size are those that are actually studied. However, the sample size for this study using Taro Yamane's formula (1964) for determining sampling size from a study population.

The formula is n= $\frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$

Where n= sample size

N= the finite population

e= level of significance/ error margin (0.05)

I= unity (a constant)

$$n = \frac{176}{1 + 176(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{176}{1 + 176(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{176}{1 + 0.488}$$

$$n = \frac{176}{1.441} = 121.54696 \cong 122$$

n= 122

Statesman newspaper, heartland FM Owerri, Orient TV and all other journalists who were working for other identified national dailies in Owerri.

The non-probability sampling technique was adopted for the study, under which the purposive sample technique was used. The researcher used specific characteristics. For instance, all the correspondents are journalists who also work in the media industries in Owerri. This was done so on to make the work less cumbersome. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents based on their availability.

3.5   Description of research Instrument

The questionnaire is the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire will be in two parts; part one will be on the demography of the respondents like; gender, age, marital status etc. and part two will contain questions relating to the study underway.

The questionnaire will consist of about 13 close-ended questions appropriate to elicit the desire information.

3.6   Validity of data gathering instrument

The instrument (questionnaire) used is valid because the researcher discussed the questions with her supervisor who certified it as meeting the requirements of this study, also because it is the most appropriate instrument for data collection in survey study because; it removes the influence of the researcher in gathering information for research.

3.7   Reliability of data gathering instrument

The instrument (questionnaire) use this the most appropriate instrument for data collection in survey study, therefore its impersonal nature makes data realized from it reliable and most importantly, it makes both respondents and researcher trust the confidentiality of their communication.

The instrument is also valid and reliable because it has helped other researcher who used it in their research work.

3.8   Method of data collection

The methods of data collection used is the primary source, which is a data originated from the researcher for the purpose of the study at hand Churchill (1991:28). The primary data was collected through the use of questionnaire which was self-administered to the respondent.

3.9   Method of data analysis

The method of data analysis used is the simple percentage and frequency tabular presentation in which appropriate descriptive analysis was used to infer meaning to the data in the table. Also coding sheets was used in assembling the responses from the questionnaire.

In testing of the hypothesis collected for this study, the chi-square goodness of test will be used because it is reliable and scientific in nature and widely used by social scientists.

The chi-square formula is $x^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$

Where x^2 = chi-square

O = observed frequency

E = expected frequency

$\sum$ = summation

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1   Data presentation and analysis

In this study, the researcher distributed a total of 122 copies of a 13 items questionnaire to the respondent, our of 122copies of the questionnaire, 116 copies representing 95% of the total number were returned and found useable, while the remaining 6 copies were either badly filled or unreturned, which is 5% of the total number of distributed questionnaire copies. The study therefore, made use of the valid 116 copies of questionnaire, to represent 100 percent.

TABLE 4.1.1 Sex and age distributed of the respondent

AGE RANGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
20-29	20	10	30	26%
30-39	30	18	48	42%
40-49	15	12	21	23%
50 and above	16	5	11	9%
TOTAL	71(61%)	45(39%)	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.1. Shows that of the 116 respondents, 45 representing 39% were female, while 71 respondents representing 616 were male. Above (26%) were between 20-29 years. Those between the ages of 30-39 were 48 (42%) of the sample, consisting of 18 females and 30males. Twenty-Seven respondents were between the ages of 40-49 years 15 males and 12 females while 11 (9%) respondents, 50 and above were 5 females and 6 males.

TABLE 4.1.2 Marital status of the respondents

RESPONDENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Single	42	36%
Married	74	64%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.2 shows that, of the 116 respondents, 42 representing (36%) were single while 74 representing (64%) were married.

TABLE 4.1.3 Qualification of respondents

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
OND/ NCE	16	14%
B.SC	74	64%
M.SC	26	22%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.3 shows that of the 116 respondents, 16 representing (14%) were OND/NCE holders, 74 representing (64%) were B.SC holders, 26 representing (22%) were PHD holders.

TABLE 4.1.4 Work experience

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1-10years	39	34%
11-20years	37	32%
21-30years	31	27%
31 and above	9	8%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.4 shows that of the 116 respondents, 39 (34%) respondents fell under 1-10 years, 37(32%) respondents were between 11-20 years, 31 (27%) respondents were between 21-30 years, and 9 (8%) respondents were under 31 and above.

Section B

This section of the research work will deal with the questionnaire questions that boarders that border the research topic.

TABLE 4.1.5 To determine the numbers of practicing journalists in Owerri that were aware of ICTs.

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	107	92%
No	0	0
No opinion	9	8%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.5 shows that of the 116 respondents, 107 representing (92%) were aware of the ICTs, while no respondent answered no and 9 respondents were undecided (8%).

TABLE 4.1.6 To determine which of the ICTs do the respondents know

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Computer	40	34.5%
Satellite	9	7.8%
Cable	20	17.2%
Digital Broadcasting	5	4.3%
Internet	42	36.2%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.6 shows that out of the 116 respondents, 40 of the journalist representing (34.5%) knows computer, 9 representing (7.8%) knows satellite, 20 representing (17.2%) knows cable, 5 representing (4.3%) knows digital broadcasting and 42 representing (36.2%) knows the internet.

TABLE 4.1.7 Question on the benefit of ICTs in mass media practice

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Agree	30	25.9%
Strongly agree	52	44.8%
No opinion	5	4.3%
Don't agree	20	17.2%
Strongly don't	9	7.8%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.7 Shows that of the 116 respondent, 30 representing (25.9%) agrees that ICT has great benefit in the mass media practice, 52 representing (44.8%) strongly agrees, 5 representing (4.3%) has no opinion, 20 representing (17.2%) don't agree, 9 representing (7.8%) strongly don't agree.

TABLE 4.1.8 Question to know if practicing journalist in Owerri have access to ICTs

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	66	59.9%
No	50	43.5%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014.

Table 4.1.8 shows that out of the 116 respondents, 66 of the journalists representing (56.9%) have access to ICTs, 50 representing (43.5%) said no to the question.

TABLE 4.1.9 Question to know if practicing journalist make use of ICTs in the discharge of their duties.

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	70	60.3%
No	40	34.5%
No opinion	6	5.2%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014.

Table 4.1.9 shows that out of the 116 respondents, 70 of the journalists representing (60.3%) makes use of ICTs in the discharge of their duties, 40 representing (34.5%) do not make use of ICTs in the discharge of their duties, 6 representing (5.2%) have no opinion.

TABLE 4.1.10   **To know how often these ICTs are used in discharging duty**

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Very often	100	86.2%
Often	16	13.3%
Seldomly	0	0
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.10 shows that out of majority of the respondent, 100 representing (86.2%) said that ICTs are more often used in the discharge of their duty, while 16 respondent representing (13.8%) said less often. This shows that ICTs are more often used or frequently use in the discharge of duty.

TABLE 4.1.11 **To determine the proportion of respondents with ICTs formal training**

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	81	69.8%
No	26	22.4%
No opinion	9	7.8%
TOTAL	116	100

SOURCE: Field work, 2014

Table 4.1.11 shows that out of 116 respondents, 81 respondents representing (69.8%) are with formal training in the use of ICTs, while 26 respondents representing (22.4%) answered no to the question, indicating that they lacked the formal training and 9 respondents representing (7.8%) were undecided.

TABLE 4.1.12To determine respondents view if ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage.

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	81	69.8%
No	26	22.4%
No opinion	9	7.8%
TOTAL	116	100%

SOURCE: Field work, 2014

In table 4.1.12, out of 116 respondents, 81 representing (69.8%) agrees that ICTs has positive impact on news and information reportage, 11 respondents representing (22.4%) do not agree that ICTs has positive impact on news and information reportage, 9 respondents representing (7.8%) has no opinion towards this question.

4.2 Testing of hypotheses

Sample of chi-square goodness of fit test statistics (x^2) will be used. This is to determine if there are existed significant differences between the frequencies and research variables. Chi-square (x^2) is therefore a measure existing between the observed and expected frequencies.

Using x^2 formula;

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(0-E)^2}{E}$$

Where x^2 = chi-square

O= observed frequency

E= expected frequency

∑= summation

Decision rule

Accept alternative hypothesis (H₁) when calculated value is greater than the table value and reject the alternative hypothesis when the table value is greater than the calculated value.

Hypothesis one

H_0: A good number of Owerri based practicing journalist are not aware of ICTs

H_1: A good number of Owerri based practicing journalist are aware of ICTs

TABLE 4.2.1 Assessment of Owerri based journalist are aware of ICTs

VARIABLES	OBSERVED FREQUENCY	F_e	F_0-F_e	$(F_0$-$F_e)^2$	$\dfrac{(F0 - Fe)^2}{Fe}$
Yes	107	38.7	68.3	4664.9	102.5
No	0	38.7	-38.7	1499.7	38.7
No opinion	9	38.7	-29.7	882.1	22.8
TOTAL	116				£= 182

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

From the above, X^2=182, df =2, a= 0.05, x^2i= 5.99

X^2(calculated chi-square) = 182

Df (degree of freedom) = 2

A (percentage error) = 0.05

X^2i (table chi-square under 2 def) = 5.99

To calculate expected frequency (F_e) all the observed frequency (F_o) were added and divided by the number of observation.

$\therefore 107+9= \frac{116}{3} = 38.7$

To get the calculated chi- square for each of the observed frequency

Thus: 107-38.7=68.3

9-38.7= 29.7

0-38.7=-38.7

$68.3 \times 68.7 = \frac{4664.9}{38.7} = 120.5$

$(-297)^2 = \frac{882.1}{38.7} = 22.8$

120.5 + 38.7 + 22.8

For df= k-1

Where k= number of cases

      1=constant number

$\therefore$ 3-1=2

df=2

Decision rule

      If $x^2 > x^2i$ reject null hypothesis

Response of the question were tested analyzed using the chi-square. The test and the analysis showed that calculated chi-square is 182, while chi-square table (x^2i) under two degrees of freedom and at 0.05 level of significance in 5.99 for a non-directional test.

However the decision rule is whenever the calculated value (x^2i) is greater than the table chi-square value (x^2), the null hypothesis should be rejected, but where the reverse is the case, the same hypothesis will be accepted. Thus considering the fact that the calculated chi-square value is greater than the table value, the alternative hypothesis was accepted and null rejected. Based on this statistical support, the findings indicated that significant proportion of Owerri-based practicing journalist is aware of ICTs.

Hypothesis two

H_0: A good number of Owerri based practicing journalist do not have access to ICTs

H_1: A good number of Owerri based practicing journalist do have access to ICTs

TABLE 4.2.2 Evaluation of the proportion of Owerri based journalist that have access to ICTs

VARIABLES	OBSERVED FREQUENCY	F_e	$F_0 - F_e$	$(F_0 - F_e)^2$	$\dfrac{(F0 - Fe)^2}{Fe}$
Yes	61	38.7	22.3	49.3	12.9
No	46	38.7	7.3	53.3	1.4
No opinion	9	38.7	-29.7	882.1	22.8
TOTAL	116				£= 37.1

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

From the above, $X^2=37.1$, df $=1$, a$= 0.05$, $x^2i= 5.99$

X^2(calculated chi-square) $= 37.1$

Df (degree of freedom) $= 1$

A (percentage error) $= 0.05$

X^2i (table chi-square under 2 def) $= 5.99$

To calculate expected frequency (Fe) all the observed frequency (Fo) were added and divided by the number of observation.

$\therefore$ 61+49+9=116÷3= 38.7

To get the calculated chi- square for each of the observed frequency

Thus: 61-38.7=68.3

46-38.7= 7.3

9-38.7=-29.7

$(22.3)^2=\dfrac{497.3}{38.7}= 12.9$

$(7.3)^2=\dfrac{53.3}{38.7}= 1.4$

$(-29.7)^2=\dfrac{882.1}{38.7}= 22.8$

22.3+7.3+-27=37.1

For df= k-1

Where k= number of cases

1=constant number

∴ 3-1=2

df= 2

Decision rule

   If $x^2 > x^2i$ reject null hypothesis, otherwise don't reject.

   The test shows that the calculated chi-square is 37.1, while the chi-square table (x^2i) value under two degree of freedom at a probability level of 0.05 is 5.99. The findings revealed that the chi-square calculated value, which is 5.99 based on the statistical support, the alternative hypothesis is accepted. On this note, it can be deduced that average proportion of Owerri-based practicing journalists have access to ICTs.

Hypothesis three

H_0: ICTs do not have positive impact on news and information reportage

H_1: ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage   .

TABLE 4.2.3 Analysis of respondent's perception of positive impact of ICTs on news and information reportage.

VARIABLES	OBSERVED FREQUENCY	F_e	F_0-F_e	$(F_0$-$F_e)^2$	$\dfrac{(F0 - Fe)^2}{Fe}$
Yes	81	38.7	42.3	1789.3	46.2
No	26	38.7	-12.3	161.3	4.2
No opinion	9	38.7	-29.7	882.1	22.8
TOTAL	116				£= 73.2

SOURCE- Field work, 2014

From the above, X^2=73.2, df =2, a= 0.05, x^2i= 5.99

X^2(calculated chi-square) = 73.2

Df (degree of freedom) = 2

A (percentage error) = 0.05

X^2i (table chi-square under 2 def) = 5.99

To calculate expected frequency (F_e) all the observed frequency (F_o) were added and divided by the number of observation.

∴ 81+26+9=116÷3= 38.7

To get the calculated chi- square for each of the observed frequency

Thus: 81-38.7=42.3

26-38.7 = -12.7

9-38.7= -29.7

$$(42.3)^2= \frac{161.3}{38.7}=4.2$$

$$(-29.7)^2=\frac{882.1}{38.7}= 22.8$$

46.2+ 4.2+22.8= 73.2

Decision rule

If $X^2>X^2i$, reject null hypothesis

The test shows that the calculated chi-square is 73.2, while the chi-square table (x^2i) value under two degree of freedom at a probability level of 0.05, is 5.99. The finding revealed that the chi-square calculated value, which is 5.99 based on this statistical support, the alternative hypothesis is accepted on this note, it can be deduced that average proportion of Owerri based practicing journalist agree on the positive impact of ICTs on news and information reportage.

4.3   Discussion of findings

The outcome of the study made some useful revelations. The overall result indicates that though a good number of Owerri based practicing journalists, (92%) are aware of ICTs, there is a noticeable drop in the access of ICTs by Journalists in Owerri (52%) considering their high rate of ICTs awareness. Result shows that limited access and lack of proper training (48.3%) for journalists without formal training in the use of ICTs were responsible for this observed situation.

Again, the result indicated that the journalists quite agreed that ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage and that the use of ICTs have not limited the chances of

employing more journalists in the news media in Owerri and indicates that ICTs are welcomed in the mass media, though lack of formal training and limited access and uses pose serious hindrance for journalists practice in Owerri.

Specifically, three null hypothesis were subjected to empirical test in the study. The three hypothesis were rejected. Thus, the first hypothesis which stated that a good number of Owerri-based practicing journalists are not aware of ICTs were rejected which means that Owerri-based practicing journalist are aware of ICTs. The second hypothesis which stated that a good number of Owerri-based practicing journalists have no access to ICTs. The third hypothesis stated that ICTs do not have positive impact on news and information reportage was also rejected to mean that ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage. Firm level study observe that the use of ICTs have positive impact on firm performance and productivity. But that benefit occurs primarily or only when accompanied by other changes for example, where skills have improved an organizational changes have been introduced.

Dominick (2005:84) argued that when we say that emergence of a new mass medium, seldom kills the existing media. Instead, the existing media change and adapts. The adaptation according to Agba (2001) shows that these technologies have made work easier and also aesthetics and values in the production of media programmes.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1   Summary

Technology advancement in information and communication has great influence on the gathering processing and dissemination of news and information. Thus, the global trend has revolutionized the media industry and every media correspondent striving hard to meet up with the pace at which it is moving.

This is why media establishments are now discarding the old system of giving out news and information, thereby paving way for the news invention that has affected the operation of the media houses positively.

However, the study has investigated influences of ICTs on journalism (a study of Owerri based practicing journalists) a sample of 122 was selected for the study based on purposive sampling; for journalists in the mass media establishment in Owerri (Orient TV, Statesmen newspaper, FM radio etc.). The journalists were purposefully sampled based on their availability. Other of the 122 copies of their questionnaire distributed, 116 copies were found useable for data analysis, having analyzed the general data, the overall findings revealed that significant proportion of Owerri based practicing journalist were aware of ICTs. Also the study reveals that 52.5% of journalists in Owerri have access to ICTs.

Other findings indicated that 48.3% respondents (journalist) lacked formal training in the use of ICTs which 43.9% of the journalism have been trained formally. The implication is that mass media owners may not have considered it wise to send their staff to special workshops,

seminars and conferences regarding that they lacked the necessary technological tools, Nwodu (2004:81).

Another finding indicated that ICTs used has positive impact on news and communication or information reportage, this was supported statistically, where 69.8% of journalists affirmed that ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage, 22.4% answer no while 7.8% could not say anything.

5.2   Conclusion

In accordance with the test conducted in chapter four the following conclusion were reached;

That Owerri based practicing journalists are aware of information and communication technologies. A good number of practicing journalists in Owerri have access to ICTs. Noticeable number of practicing journalists have not received formal training on the use of ICTs. Information and communication technologies have positive impact on news and information reportage. Media owners barely expose their newsmen to information and communication technologies.

5.3   Recommendations

Considering the findings made from the study, it was discovered that there were short comings on the part of the media practitioners, owners and the media industries. To this end, the following recommendations are made;

1. The media organization should provide their staff with adequate and state of the art tools for gathering and reporting news, such provision would enable them meet the

requirements of the news taste, brought about by science, technology, education and development in the world culturally, politically and socially.

2. Workshops, seminars and conference should also be organized by the media organization to the use of ICTs. This capacity building strategy will help to improve the efficiency and capacity the journalists in the ICTs era.

3. Various governments should encourage media establishments for staff training. This will help to check mate the control of the production and utilization of these information processing and telecommunication systems which are at the present, in the hands of industrialized nations and in some instances of few trans-national companies (Mac Bride et al 1980-95).

4. The various governments in developing countries should assist their journalisst to obtain proper training in the ICTs as well as make the technologies easily accessible to the journalists. This remains the only way to project the cultural values of developing nations and by extensions, save such values from total domination by alien cultures via ICTs.

5. Finally, undergraduates in the mass communication and other disciplines should be encouraged, as part of their information, to engage themselves in the use and manipulation of the new information and communication technologies, to get the acquainted with the tools for the purpose of familiarity and efficiency.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of mass communication,

Caritas University,

Amorji-Nike Enugu,

Nigeria.

Dear Respondent,

I, OkwaraChinyere Francisca with registration number mc/2010/442, from the above institution is carrying out a study on the "Influence of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in news gathering, a study of practicing journalists in Owerri municipal council".

Please, kindly supply the following information to the best of your knowledge. All information disclosed shall be treated in strict confidence and for research purpose only.

Thanks for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

OkwaraChinyere Francisca.

Mc/2010/442.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A- Demographic Data

1. What is your sex?

   (a) Male [ ] (b) female [ ]

2. What is your age bracket?

   (a) 20-29 [ ] (b) 30-39 [ ] (c) 40-49 [ ] (d) 50 and above [ ]

3. What is your work experience?

   (a) 1-10yrs [ ] (b) 11-20yrs [ ] (c) 21-30yrs [ ] (d) 31- above [ ]

4. What is your academic qualification?

   (a)OND/NCE [ ] (b) B.sc [ ] (c) M.sc [ ]

5. What is your marital status?

   (a) Single[ ] (b) married [ ] (c) divorced [ ] (d) widowed [ ]

Section B

Research Questions

6. Are you aware of ICTs?

   (a) Yes [ ] (b) no [ ] (c) no opinion [ ]

7. Which of the ICTs do you know?

   (a) Computer [ ] (b) satellite [ ] (c) cable [ ] (d) digital broadcasting [ ] (e) internet [ ]

8. Do you agree that ICTs have great benefits in the mass media practice?

   (a) Agree [ ] (b)strongly agree [ ] (c) no opinion [ ] (d)don't agree [ ] (e)Strongly don't

   agree [ ]

9. Do you have access to ICTs?

   (a) Yes [ ] (b) no [ ]

10. Do you make use of ICTs in the discharge of your duties?

   (a) Yes [ ] (b) no [ ] (c) no opinion [ ]

11. How often do you make use of ICTs in the discharge of your duties?

   (a) Very often [ ] (b) often [ ] (c) seldomly [ ]

12. Have you received any formal training in the use of ICTs?

   (a) Yes [ ] (b) no [ ] (c) no opinion [ ]

13. Does ICTs have positive impact on news and information reportage?

   (a) Yes [ ] (b) no [ ] (c) no opinion [ ]