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SITE 2009 Preface

Coming of Age in the 21st Century: Leading the Profession Forward, One Small Step at a Time

or

Twenty More Years of Success in Technology and Teacher Education? Yes We Can!

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2009 marks the year the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) celebrates its 20th year of operations. As is appropriate for such landmarks, the conference in Charleston will be the site of birthday celebrations to mark the event. There will be the opportunity to consider where we have come from as a Society, but more appropriately, the conference week will provide all who attend an opportunity to consider where we might go in our second twenty years.

Being the leading professional association focusing upon technology and teacher education across the globe brings with it certain responsibilities, and in the volatile political and economic context of this new millennium, a new set of organisational skills, attitudes, behaviours, and tools are necessary to ensure continued success as a learned professional organization.

In 'coming of age' in this challenging context, SITE is recognising the expanding global nature of its responsibilities and is making adjustments to accommodate these changing expectations within the organization and with its external partners and collaborators.

For those seeking signs of these changes, there are three major areas where progress towards achieving those new responsibilities is obvious:

- Increasing success in using a distributed leadership model within the Society
- Expanding global initiatives and outreach
- Creating a new publication for disseminating high quality research

SITE's distributed leadership model continues to expand and become more dependent upon the contributions of individual members. Most of you will have noticed an increased role for SIG members, SIG Chairs and Council Chairs in the annual process of reviewing papers for the conference. It is fair to say that the contents of this book of Proceedings is the direct result of that process of involving more and more SITE members in the review process, and moving the point of decision for acceptance of conference proposals closer to the location of the expertise that ensures the quality of the peer review process that SITE has been proud of throughout its twenty year history. SIG chairs now have the responsibility for ensuring that members of their Special Interest Group contribute their discipline knowledge to the analysis of conference proposals and that the papers meet the discipline standards appropriate for a 21st century SITE! The Vice Presidents of SITE who Chair each of the Councils support this process and coordinate the review of papers adding an additional layer of peer review and quality control to the process.

This sharing of responsibility across the society is also a fundamental part of the process of selecting Award Winning Papers each year. This year, all full paper submissions were considered for an Award through the review process begun by SIG members, and in some cases, other professional associations. Several review steps later, those papers exhibiting extraordinary creativity, having an average score from reviewers of 4.5 on a 5 point scale, and/or receiving a recommendation for consideration for an Award during the review process, and meeting the format

requirements were considered. There were almost 50 papers this year in the pool of potential award winners. Those papers making it through this multi-layered review process that began with SIG members, have been selected or confirmed by the President of the Society to receive one of a number of SITE awards and these awards will be presented during the week of the conference.

It is appropriate at this point to recognise the work that has been done in the past by a handful of dedicated SITE members who have shouldered the load for shepherding this process to a successful conclusion each year as the editorial board for the book of Conference proceedings. Dee Anna Willis has been doing this job for the entire life of the association, Roberta Weber for the last eight years, Roger Carlson for seven years, and Karen McFerrin for the last six!! No matter what way you look at it, these folk, need to be congratulated for their unswerving devotion to the cause of excellence and their dedication in positioning SITE as a learning society that maintains very high standards in its conference publications! This year represents a transition year for the review process, and these four long time SITE members have supported the transition process through sharing their editorial wisdom in a way that guarantees that SIGs will have a foundation of excellence to carry forward the proposal review and award winning paper selection process in future years.

As further evidence of a shift in responsibility appropriate for a new millennium, SITE has expanded its role in other areas of professional activity. Two of many upcoming examples define this shift well. Early this year, in association with Kean University in New Jersey, SITE will support a study tour of China that will provide an opportunity for members to meet educational leaders of that country and experience a fascinating culture that is playing an increasingly large role in global affairs and that is already playing a major part in defining educational initiatives and partnerships in education for this new century. Further, the tour of China <<http://site.aace.org/chinatour.pdf>> is an opportunity for SITE to take its long tradition of collaboration and developing partnerships with other associations and other organisations in new directions.

In 2010, another opportunity for SITE to model its leading international role in technology and teacher education presents itself on the international stage. The 2010 Symposium on the Future of Teacher Education and School Leader Education will take place at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia in the last week of July. SITE leaders and members will play a central role in this international initiative, as will partner associations around the globe. The new millennium brings challenges for many organisations both in terms of mere survival and in terms of redefinition of purpose and approach. The process of preparing professional educators is no less in need of serious and unrestrained analysis. This symposium will present an international opportunity for the greatest minds in teacher education to gather together in one place and consider where the profession is going and where it should be going. SITE will play a leading role in this process of considering and redefining the future for a profession that is crucial to the success of nations and to the health and well being of the individuals who build nations. It is timely and appropriate to step back and take a look at the potential impact of changing times and changing capabilities on a profession that has a solid foundation of tradition related to learning, leading, and teaching. As a leader in the field, it is appropriate for SITE to figure prominently in this process! Watch the SITE website for further details in the coming months.

A final piece of evidence related to the changes SITE is fostering in order to respond to the challenges of the 21st century relates to the 'tools' that are being made available to SITE members. Many of you will be more than aware of the technology based 'tools' that have become available to SITE members during the last few years. Innovations in communications, knowledge building, sharing, and 'archiving' have been implemented in SITE keynotes, and on the website. The SITE Blog, and the Screening Room are two excellent examples of the innovations brought to life by the work of individuals or small groups of individuals within the Society. The latest tool is one designed to support the academic work of SITE members and expand the support provided by the Society to the academic standing of its members. The new publication, *Research Highlights in Technology and Teacher Education 2009*, provides another means by which SITE members are able to have their research published in a heavily refereed book. The review process is rigorous and in its first year 121 papers were submitted for consideration. Only 45 of those were accepted. This equates to an acceptance rate of 37%. Such a submission response from SITE members is indication enough of the need for this publication. The fact that it represents such high standards in its review and acceptance process is indicative of the quality of the work that SITE members contribute to the growth of the profession. Those involved in this new publication initiative are to be congratulated for their dedication to the ideals of support and excellence that have been the hallmarks of SITE since its inception. Keep your eyes open for the advent of this new publication!!

Responding to change is replete with challenge. To respond successfully to change requires a strong commitment to collaboration, cooperation, 'reasonable-ness', and intelligence. SITE demonstrates all of these capabilities through its members, its focus on partnering with other associations and organisations, and its growing awareness of the need to think globally, act locally, and lead initiatives designed to advance the profession. In supporting such changes and demonstrating a ... *new set of organisational skills, attitudes, behaviours, and tools... necessary to ensure continued*

success as a learned professional organization ... SITE is positioning itself well for its second twenty years of success as a 'friendly society' and a learning community of some prominence! The content of this book of proceedings is evidence of that.

Herein, there are well researched explorations of issues and topics recognising the impact on learning of new ways of thinking and doing appropriate for the technology-rich, global, diverse learning environments of the 21st century. The content of these papers reflects the growing awareness of global trends and the pressing needs of local concerns. Topics represented here cover the full gamut of interests in educational circles and incorporates work supported by the SIGs of the SITE Information Technology Council:

- Assessment/E-Folios
- Development of Future Faculty
- Digital Video
- Distance/Flexible Education
- Equity & Social Justice
- Games & Simulations
- Information Technology Diffusion/Integration
- International Education
- New Possibilities
- Research & Evaluation
- Graduate Education and Faculty Development
- Technology Leadership

and the work supported by the SIGs of the SITE Teacher Education Council:

- Arts & Interdisciplinary Education
- Assistive Technologies
- Early Childhood Education
- English Education
- Human Languages Education
- Information Technology Education
- Information Literacy Education (Library & Media Science)
- Mathematics Education
- Science Education
- Social Studies Education
- Special Education
- Technology, Pedagogy and Content Knowledge (TPACK)

If you are interested in following up your interest in any of these topics, please go to <<http://site.ace.org/sigs/>> for further information and to meet the people involved in each area.

In addition, many papers contained within this volume cover more than one of these areas, and there are many papers that cannot be easily contained within these descriptors. The best way forward of course is for you to dive deeply into this extraordinary collection of papers and explore for yourself. This publication is designed to assist you in that process.

SITE is above all else a well developed learning community dependent upon individuals who are willing to contribute their work and their time unselfishly for the benefit of the larger community. All our efforts at SITE are aimed at supporting that process. This volume is the latest contribution to that global 'commons of knowledge' that is the research and development work of teacher educators from around the world.

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Gender and Level of Education as Determinants of Cataloguers' Computer Information Processing Skills

By

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Abstract

Cataloguing operations are being computerized all over the world. Most cataloguers are not able to use this technology effectively. Previous studies had identified gender and level of education as probable factors that could affect the use of computers. This study, therefore, investigated the extent to which gender and level of education determined cataloguers' computer information processing skills at the Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan Nigeria. The survey research design was adopted for this study, using the availability sampling technique to select fifty respondents for the study. An instrument was designed for the purpose of collecting data for the study. Chi-Square and Multiple Regressions were used to analyze data at 0.05 level of significance. The study established that both gender and level of education determined cataloguers computer information processing skills. The findings of this study have serious implications for the management of university libraries and for teacher education and policy.

Introduction

Computer information processing technology is being applied worldwide to cataloguing operations in university libraries. The invention of computer and the internet facility seems to have posed new challenges to the practice of librarianship. The application of computer to librarianship tends to be gaining momentum all over the world. It has led to the development of a separate field of study, virtual library, which is now offered in some universities as a course of instruction, even up to doctoral degree level. Library digitization has a lot of influence on the librarianship profession. Library digitization has become part of the work of librarians. Most libraries are involved in digitization. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) 2001 survey observed that one third of academic libraries and a quarter of public libraries were involved in digitization of library resources (Liu, 2004).

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (2001) contains a list of digitization programmes and a framework for building good digital collections. All these institutions had sufficient funding, staff, computer resources and expertise to embark on the digitization projects (Mathias, 2003). According to Liu (2004), most of the libraries involved in digitization projects in the United States were academic libraries. Most of such libraries collaborated with better funded agencies, such as national libraries and museums. This was essential as most of these projects were larger than what the subvention of public and school libraries could cope with. The collaboration was necessary as academic libraries had access to greater resources, historical artifacts, documents and research projects than public libraries. Moreover, public libraries and museums receive regularly federal funds and foundation assistance to contribute to large scale preservation of materials. For instance, the University of Maryland is collaborating with the International Children's Library and the Internet Archive to create an extensive virtual children's library (ICDL, 2003). The project aims at making these books available online in different languages. This will enable access for individuals, schools and libraries that do not have the money to purchase these books.

Prior to 1997 digital projects were associated with large academic libraries, but an increasing number of public libraries are now joining in the endeavor. The Alexandria Library in Virginia, United States of America has an online exhibition devoted to local postcards from 1707 to the 1980s and as well as digitized information on historic town buildings and civil war correspondence (Liu, 2004). Public libraries in other counties are also digitizing their counties' history with the view to preserving their historic local newspaper articles, photographs, essays, letters and contracts (Graham and Wroth, 2000). The Internet Archive is a non-profit making organization that aims at providing open, free and permanent access to digital collections, particularly of historical and cultural artifacts. The organization stresses the importance of saving records of cultures and civilizations. In order to achieve this, they develop their own digital collections and also encourage others to contribute to this endeavour. Their collections include text, audio and moving images. The main motive for this effort is preservation and granting of global access to such collections. The text collections comprise the "International Children's Digital Library, Project Gutenberg, Arpanet, Million Book Project and Open Source Books" (Liu, 2004). While the Internet Archive audio collection is being made for live musical recordings for posterity. However, the artiste has to agree to permit free public

distribution and downloading of his or her material.

Most school libraries in the United States concentrate on creating digital libraries that establish links with resources on the web, instead of digitizing such collections afresh. This is as a result of time factor and huge cost of digitization. The Louisa H. Bowen University Archives at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville collaborated with their Faculty Technology Center to create a series of online exhibits devoted to the Mississippi River Festival. The MRF originated as a partnership promoting regional cooperation in the realm of the performing arts. The festival presented 353 musical events over twelve summers from 1969 through 1980. These events showcased performers in a remarkable variety of musical genres at a unique outdoor concert venue. The online exhibits include: a narrated historical slideshow, two digitized versions of movies covering the 1969 and 1975 seasons, and an alphabetical name index of all MRF artists. In addition the website includes a virtual history museum consisting of a searchable database that includes information about all MRF performances and performers.

In Nigeria, the Kenneth Dike Library, at the University of Ibadan has established digital links with the digital collections of the following: Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture, AGORA; JSTOR; Health Inter Network Access to Research Initiative, HINARI; The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library, LANTEEAL; EBSCOHOST; E-Granary Digital Library; Highwire Archive; INASP Peri: Program for the Enhancement of Research Information; African Journals Online; Arab Social Science Research Virtual Library, ASSR; Biomed Central; BMJ Publishing Group; British Library for Development Studies E-Journals; Directory of Open Access Journals, DOAJ; E-Journal.org; Global Development Network-Journal Services; INASP Health Links; Population Information Online, POPLINE; and Pubmed Central Research Papers in Economics, PEPEC. Even though preservation of materials is the ultimate goal of all digitization efforts, provision of greater access is another noble reason for digitizing library collections. Cataloguers have a lot to do in the processing of these materials so to pave way for easy access by users. In most developing countries, computer information technology is just being adopted. Anecdotal observation shows that most cataloguers in such countries have low computer processing skills. In Nigeria, most cataloguers are not able to use the computer information processing technology for their operations. Previous studies had identified gender and level of education as probable factors that could affect the use of computers.

Gender and level of education are key factors that may affect cataloguers' computer information processing skills. Previous studies established that the difference in gender brings about difference in computer operation skills. Women are often under represented in computing in most countries (Galping, 2003). In the United States, parents give less computer-related support to girls than to boys (Kekelis, Ancheta, and Heber, 2005). Bayham and Sipal (2008), says that males or boys usually spend more hours with computer and have more experience in the use of computer than females or girls. In fact, most females find computer technology difficult and complicated. Shashaani, (1994) also argued that from the elementary stage parent's stereotypes favor males and they encourage their sons' computer involvement and discourage their daughters. Calvert, Watson, Brinkley, and Bordeaux (1989) and Lage (1991) discovered that educational qualification plays no significant role in the level of computer operation skills and that lack of interest and personal views are the factors that contribute to competence in the use of computers. However, a contrary position is held by Colley, Gale and Harris (1994) who in their study found that girls' and boys' computer attitude were equal.

The Problem

Cataloguers are expected to use the computer information technology for their operations. In most third world countries, university libraries are not able to provide the appropriate technology and training needed for this category of librarians. In Nigeria, most cataloguers are not able to use the computer information processing technology for their operations. Previous studies had identified gender and level of education as probable factors that could affect the use of computers. This study, therefore, investigated the extent to which gender and level of education determined cataloguers' computer information processing skills at the Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses guided the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the perception of the three categories (librarians, library officers and administrative staff) of respondents as regards the relationship among gender, level of education and cataloguer's information processing skills.
2. Gender and level of education do not make any significant contribution to cataloguers' computer operation skills.

Research Design and Methodology

The survey research design was adopted for this study, using the availability sampling technique to select ten librarians, ten library officers and thirty administrative staff, thus making a total of fifty respondents for the study. The small sample size is due to the limited number of such employees available in the library. An instrument tagged 'Gender, Educational Level and Computer Information Technology Questionnaire' was designed for the purpose of collecting data for the study. The Chi-Square and Multiple Regressions statistics were used to analyze data, using 0.05 as the level of significance.

Reports of Findings

This section is discussed under the two research hypotheses.

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference in the perception of the three categories (librarians, library officers and administrative staff) of respondents as regards the relationship among gender, level of education and cataloguer's information processing skills.

Respondents	Options						X ² obs	X ² cri	Df	P
		SD	D	A	SA	Total				
Librarians	Fo	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	10.0	23.57	12.59	6	0.00172
	Fe	0.9	1.4	5.1	2.6	10.0				
Lib. Officers	Fo	2.0	4.0	3.0	1.0	10.0	23.57	12.59	6	0.00172
	Fe	0.9	1.4	5.1	2.6	10.0				
Admin. Staff	Fo	6.0	11.0	46.0	1.0	30.0	23.57	12.59	6	0.00172
	Fe	9.2	15.2	40.8	2.6	30.0				
Total	Fo	11	18	51	19.0	50.0	23.57	12.59	6	0.00172
	fe(%)	11.0	18.0	51.0	16.8	50.0				

Note: SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, A= Agree and SA=Strongly Agree

Table 1: Analysis of respondents' perception

Table I above shows the X²obs to be 23.57, where as the critical value is 12.59. Since the calculated value exceeds the critical value, null hypothesis one is therefore rejected. This implies that there is a significant difference in the perception of Cataloguers' Computer Information Processing Skills by the three categories of respondents. The significant relationship established is in consonance with the findings of Bayham and Sibal (2008), who established that the difference in gender brings about difference in computer operation skills. They argued that males usually spend more hours with computer and have more experience in the use of computer than the females. In fact, most females find computer technology difficult and complicated. Shashaani (1994) also argued that from the elementary stage parent's stereotypes favor males and they encourage their sons' computer involvement and discourage their daughters.

Hypothesis Two: Gender and level of education do not make any significant contribution to cataloguers' computer operation skills.

Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean Square	F	P	Remarks
1 Regression	1505.769	5	301.180	11.760	0.001	Sig.
Residual	742.863	45	25.600			
Total	2248.632	50				

Table 2: Test for joint contribution

Table 2 reveals that gender and level of education have significant impact on cataloguers' computer operation skills ($F = 11.760, P < 0.05$). The F-value of 11.760 is greater than the P – value of 0.05. This result is in consonance with the findings of Bayham and Sibal (2008) who established that the difference in gender brings about difference in computer operation skills and that males usually spend more hours with computer and have more experience in the use of computer than the females. Calvert, Watson, Brinkley, and Bordeaux (1989) and Lage 1991) who discovered that educational qualification plays no significant role in the level of computer operation skills and that lack of interest and personal views are the factors that contribute to competence in the use of computers. It is also contrary to the position held by Colley, Gale and Harris (1994) who in their study found that girls' and boys' computer attitude were equal.

Discussion of Results

The results in Tables 1 and 2 show that bothe gender and level of education have significant impact on cataloguers' computer operation skills. Table I shows that X^2_{obs} is 23.57, where as the critical value is 12.59. Since the calculated value exceeds the critical value, null hypothesis one is therefore rejected. This implies that there is a significant difference in the perception of Cataloguers' Computer Information Processing Skills by the three categories of respondents. The significant relationship established is in consonance with the findings of Bayham and Sibal (2008), who established that the difference in gender brings about difference in computer operation skills. They argued that males usually spend more hours with computer and have more experience in the use of computer than the females. In fact, most females find computer technology difficult and complicated. Shashaani (1994) also argued that from the elementary stage parent's stereotypes favor males and they encourage their sons' computer involvement and discourage their daughters.

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Gender and level of education are key factors that may affect cataloguers' computer information processing skills. Previous studies established that the difference in gender brings about difference in computer operation skills. Women are often under represented in computing in most countries (Galping, 2003). In the United States, parents give less computer-related support to girls than to boys (Kekelis, Ancheta, and Heber, 2005). Bayham and Sibal (2008), says that males or boys usually spend more hours with computer and have more experience in the use of computer than females or girls. In fact, most females find computer technology difficult and complicated. Shashaani, (1994) also argued that from the elementary stage parent's stereotypes favor males and they encourage their sons' computer involvement and discourage their daughters. Calvert, Watson, Brinkley, and Bordeaux (1989) and Lage (1991) discovered that educational qualification plays no significant role in the level of computer

operation skills and that lack of interest and personal views are the factors that contribute to competence in the use of computers. However, a contrary position is held by Colley, Gale and Harris (1994) who in their study found that girls' and boys' computer attitude were equal.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study established that both gender and level of education determined cataloguers computer information processing skills at the Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The perception of the respondents also vary significantly on the relationship among the three key variables, that is, gender, level of education and Cataloguers' Computer Information Processing Skills. The findings of this study have serious implications for the management of university libraries. There is an urgent need to take these factors into consideration in the policy making process.

Implications for teacher education and policy

Education authorities should emphasize the provision of appropriate computer information technology in university libraries. Training on the use of computers should be incorporated into the curriculum of library schools. This will enable the professional librarians to acquire the needed computer information processing skills while in school.

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