



Use of Social Media among Students of Tertiary Institutions as Source of Information Retrieval in Plateau State Polytechnic Library, Barkin Ladi

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Abstract

The study investigated social media as a source of information retrieval by students of Plateau State Polytechnic Barkin Ladi. In this study, we looked into what social media means to tertiary students, what information they get from it, how it affects their academic performance, and the benefits and drawbacks of using it. The study used a survey research design. The survey sampled 528 users, or 5% of the population, from the Plateau State Polytechnic library on both campuses. A total of 528 questionnaires were distributed to registered Polytechnic library users, 521 of which were retrieved and declared valid for analysis. The results were presented in tables and charts using descriptive statistics. This study found that Plateaus State Polytechnic students have the knowledge in using social media to retrieve information. Aside from Facebook, students at Plateaus State Polytechnic use social media to get information. Third, Plateau State Polytechnic students regularly retrieve images, music, videos, and texts from social media. Fourth, the information Plateaus State Polytechnic students obtain from social media helps them write assignments, prepare for exams, and broaden their horizons. Finally, the effects of social media on student academic achievement are as follows: obtaining information quickly and accurately More information can be acquired simply, but employing all the same information can be costly, as students frequently copy and paste. Students' time is spent chatting and sharing images, which influences their grades. The study's findings led to the following suggestions. That the right use of social media should be included in the library course outline to support students in their academic pursuits, Students who copy and paste should be punished as an example to other those, and students who use mobile phones during lectures should also be punished.

Key words: Use, social media, source, information retrieval, tertiary institutions

Introduction

The internet's breadth and growth make it easier to find, retrieve, and receive information. The internet is great because it has so much information, but it is important to know how to find it. The amount of information and topics available on the Internet have exploded. Many sophisticated technologies have been created to help retrieve information from the Internet. The huge amount of information has several disadvantages, such as information overload and difficulty judging information quality. People can avoid information overload by retrieving information correctly.

People can get information from the web in many ways. Some solutions work; however, most people have trouble recovering their saved data due to the variety of data formats. Information Retrieval (IR) is the process of representing, storing, and searching data for knowledge discovery (Roshdi & Roohparvar, 2015). It starts with representing data and ends with



returning useful information to the user. The intermediate step includes filtering, searching, matching, and ranking. An information retrieval system (IRS) finds appropriate information or documents for users. A digital library, search engines, and media search are all broad uses for information retrieval systems. People started retrieving information via the internet and social media as technology evolved. The internet is full of contradictory information. Using hashtags on social media allows people to find content within a group or interest.

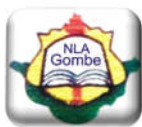
The internet is recognised as the information hub. People nowadays prefer the internet to books or publications for knowledge. The main downside of using internet-based resources is the difficulty of finding reliable information (Bond, 2004). Bond (2004) people prefer to get knowledge online since they may get it from multiple sources and authors. It is difficult to determine the quality and reliability of information obtained online. The World Wide Web (WWW) hosts the majority of internet-based information (WWW). Search tools improve, new ones are invented, and the pool of information available grows faster than anyone expected when it was first built.

Social media is a type of media technology created by the information superhighway that provides electronic services to consumers and businesses (Hasan, 2013). People use social media to create, share, and exchange information and ideas in virtual groups and networks. It is an internet-based programme that allows the production and exchange of user-generated content (Kaplan, 2012 in Balarabe, 2014).

Social media are famous for allowing researchers, students, and the general public to communicate. Thanks to advances in technology, social media are now available as applications, making accessing them easier. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are today's most used social media. People can exchange information, data, and photos via social media. Consumers need devices and internet access to use social media. Using hashtags, social media is widely arranged for later retrieval and dissemination. Sociable media are highly participatory platforms that allow individuals and organisations to share, co-produce and alter user generated content (Kietzmann, *et al.*, 2011). Social media has seven functional building blocks: identity, dialogues, sharing, presence, relationships, reputation, and groups.

It's a new way to exchange knowledge, experiences, and even everyday activities like picnics, lectures, and running. Teenagers use micro-blogging to kill time. Using a simple and lightweight communication platform, individuals can communicate anything in their daily lives for up to 4-8 hours. Malaysians prefer Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. They can share material in text, images, or a combination of both on Facebook, but only text and images on Twitter and Instagram. We can analyse a lot of data from micro-blogging, like the user's profile and hobbies. Researchers can obtain real-time data while examining micro-blogs. Micro-blogging is the act of sharing digital content with a "online community". Since the early 2000s, micro-blogs have grown in popularity among friends, with 90% of us using them daily. For this, we need to add them as friends or followers. Traditional blogging takes longer to communicate with the respondent. Track your friends' and followers' behaviour. The user usually updates fresh stories, activities, and interests. Finance and medicine both have micro-blogs. With microblogging technologies, users may simply publish status updates and collect user data.

Plateau State Polytechnic is a state-owned university. The polytechnic is permanently located in Heipang village, Barkin-Ladi Local Government Area, Plateau State, Nigeria. The institution has two campuses, one in BarkinLadi and the other in Jos, the state capital. It offers National Diploma (ND) and Higher National Diploma (HND) courses. John Dawam is the Rector.



Government Technical College, Bukuru, was created in 1978 as a College of Technology. He graduated in 1980.

Statement of the Problem

Social networking is become a must-have tool and companion for everyone, especially kids. It has made accessing and sharing information easier for many people. It has also enabled people to express themselves freely and participate in social issues.

However, the media's dominance has led to powerful leaders being overthrown. Currently, some abuse it by publishing pornographic and anti-cultural content, and it has led to students plagiarising without their knowledge. Thus, the researcher wants to know how tertiary students utilise social media to find information, how significant it is, and why and its academic relevance.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the use of social media as an information retrieval tool in tertiary institutions with the aim that the following objectives will be achieved at the end of the research work:

1. To investigate what social media means to students of tertiary institutions.
2. To identify some of the common social media type's students used to retrieve information.
3. To find out the type of information students of tertiary institution retrieve from the social media.
4. To identify the importance of the information retrieved from social media on students' academic performance.
5. To identify the advantages and disadvantages of the social media on students' academic performance.

Literature Review

The rise of social media is a major advance in information and communication technology over the last 20 years. Change is accelerating. For example, mobile technology has shaped the impact of social media. Globally, mobile devices dominate total internet minutes. Everyone now has the ability to connect anywhere, anytime, on any device.

Zobel (2018) claim that the Web has evolved from a static to a social web where users can add information. This progression is known as Web 2.0. To communicate with those who share your interests or resources, Web 2.0 has offered you a new level of freedom. Twitter and Yammer are two popular social networking services. Individuals use these sites to communicate, send messages, share media (photos and videos), comment on news, create and update profiles, and play online games as a result of social media, traditional content sources like newspapers are becoming more social. OpenID9 and Open Social have helped. They are key variables for the ever-increasing data available. In this context, allowing people to obtain content that suits their requirements is crucial. Information Retrieval (IR). Every day, people do IR online, mostly using search engines. But classic IR models neglect the social web. They view web pages as a collection of static sentences written by the same writers.

Zobel (2018) suggest that dynamic websites ushered in the dynamic and social Web 2.0. It wasn't long before websites were built that allowed people to interact and submit blogs. This is a social network. Then came a little adjustment in people's social lives. The estimated 2.13 billion social network users back this up (Statista, 2015). Users (UGC) are the main creators of material on social media (Kaplan&Haenlein, 2010). Online communities, blogs, forums, FAQ,



comments, traditional news, virtual worlds, etc. Social media has numerous connected nodes (people or things), each with its own notion and role. Direct/indirect node connections (such as friendship, dislike, financial exchange). Built-in social media graph model (Choi, 2012).

Most recently, studies show that social media influences internet purchase behaviour (Vinerean, *et al.*, 2013; Ioanas&Stoica, 2014). Applications that analyse social media material and information retrieval systems are increasingly popular (Kirchhoff, *et al.*, 2008; Korfiatis, *et al.*, 2008; Nasution, 2016). The major search engines keep adding new functionality. Personalization is limited in most information retrieval methods (Fernandez, *et al.*, 2011; Zidi& Abed, 2013). NLP systems used in information retrieval have advanced quite slowly (Brants, 2003; Ferrandez, 2013).

Retrieve data from large datasets to suit user requests. To suit users' needs, IR is defined by Zobel (2018). The better an IR system's answers fit consumers' expectations. Data mining is a well-known field. Retrieving relevant information from a collection of web resources efficiently is known as information retrieval (IR) (Mehlitz, *et al.*, 2007; Crestani, 2001). Relevance, performance, and scalability are ongoing concerns. Substantive (user judgement), situational (user demands), cognitive (user perception), and temporal (time shifts) (Borlund, 2003). The Web's size is also an issue, with 4.72 billion pages expected (www.worldwidewebsize.com).

Today's users can get information from a variety of sources. Unlike traditional information sources, content on social media is created and shared by individuals. Because social media information is rarely scrutinised, its quality varies greatly. Despite quality problems, the widespread usage of social media has sparked a debate about whether or not social media evaluation should be part of information literacy (IL) (Meredith, 2011).

The usage of social media as information sources is growing in popularity, and it is vital to understand which platforms are being used and how they are being evaluated. "Online communities where users share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (like videos)," states Merriam-Webster (2012). Social networking (such as Facebook), collaborative information generation and sharing (like Wikipedia) and multimedia sharing (example: YouTube) are examples of this (such as social Q&A, user reviews). This new medium offers both opportunities and challenges for librarians and educators (Kaplan &Haenlein, 2010). Involvement of users and potential audiences in social media by librarians (Gardois, *et al.*, 2012). The use of social media to teach IL skills (Click&Petit, 2010).

Common social media types

Recent socio-technological advancements have increased access to information. Younger generations use social media like Facebook and Twitter (Duggan & Brenner, 2013). Several studies have examined college students' use of social media (Correa, 2010; Wohn, *et al.*, 2013; Hughes, *et al.*, 2012; Yang & Brown, 2013).

Most of the research (Berthon, *et al.*, 2012; Boyd &Ellison, 2007) focused on social media use for socialising or marketing rather than information searching. Social media use for information seeking is a promising topic for information behaviour and information literacy study. Studies comparing individuals' information consumption and appraisal across social media platforms and situations are rare. Also, user variables influencing social media use for information seeking have been studied.



Social media are frequently used by all ages. Facebook, for example, is a popular social media website among college students (Smith, *et al.*, 2011). While most people use social networking sites to socialise, a growing number of people seem to use them to receive news. YouTube and other video sharing services are known as news providers (Rosenstiel & Mitchell, 2012). Recently, microblogs like Twitter have been utilised to acquire news (Mitchell, *et al.*, 2013). Another major social media tool that is sometimes used as a starting point is Wikipedia. Many students start their research on Wikipedia since it often provides an overview of new concepts and relevant resources (Head & Eisenberg, 2010).

Globally, social media users have a vast selection of options to pick from. These include Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp Messenger, YouTube, Blog, Google, LinkedIn, and Instagram. It is common for people to utilise these and other social media platforms to communicate information, ideas and opinions on current events in a political/democratic setting. According to Foreman (2017), there are 10 sorts of social media:

1. Social networks: Examples: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn
2. Media sharing networks: Examples: Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube
3. Discussion forums: Examples: reddit, Quora, Digg
4. Bookmarking and content curation networks: Examples: Pinterest, Flipboard
5. Consumer review networks: Examples: Yelp, Zomato, TripAdvisor
6. Blogging and publishing networks: Examples: WordPress, Tumblr, Medium
7. Social shopping networks: Examples: Polyvore, Etsy, Fancy
8. Interest-based networks: Examples: Goodreads, Houzz, Last.fm
9. 'Sharing economy' networks: Examples: Airbnb, Uber, Taskrabbit
10. Anonymous social networks: Examples: Whisper, Ask.fm, After School

The influence of social media on student's academics

Social media has evolved into a vital tool. It allows people to easily share data, photos, videos, blogs and messages regardless of their location. Social systems enable friends and coworkers communicate. It also enhances their bonds. Facebook and Twitter are popular platforms. Sites like Facebook and Twitter allow users immediate social media contact. Their global economic, political, social, and educational influence is immense. Adoption of social technology is growing (Brown & Green, 2010). Social media is said to boost student comprehension and participation (Ferdig, 2007). Social media is frequently free or low-cost. The use of social media in higher education offers four primary benefits. Introverted students can benefit from social networking activities. Online group learning is free of humiliation for students.

Affirmative support behaviour is a challenging sort of supportive behaviour that humans have always possessed, according to Clippinger (2005). Clippinger (2005) claims that primates are social and do activities in groups. Recent research shows that by 2030, over 60% of the world's population will be urban (Bremner, *et al.*, 2010). Demand for social context is one reason for social media (Boyd, 2008).

An action targeted at humans or among members of the same species. Online sexual crime, dishonesty, nuisance, etc. In contact with a deviant, users (students) are often exposed to unfavourable characteristics of social behaviour. Social behaviour includes assisting with aggressive behaviour and sexual relationships. These influences shape social behaviour (Brett, 2009). It is a social response to the same species group. Internet usage has shifted from academic studies to social networking and enjoyment, according to Salas & Alexander (2008). In example, researchers observed that social media has altered teenagers' information gathering. Bottino, *et al.* (2015) noted that cyberbullying can cause shame, humiliation, and



suicide. After spending so much time on social media, many students forget to respect their teachers and even their parents.

Students prefer social networking to Yahoo MSN or gaming sites, according to ComScore Media Metrix (2006). Students utilise social media to express themselves, make new acquaintances, share ideas, and develop a self-image, according to ComScore Media Metrix. Youth today expose all in cyberspace, according to ComScore Media Metrix (2006), so people post their deepest thoughts and actions online, unaware that government spies or internet criminals are monitoring. Social media is an effective spy weapon. It is up to schools and parents to educate their students about the pros and cons of using social media and the internet. In addition, they noticed that many young people/students misuse social media, disrespect parents and lecturers, and do not take their academics seriously. Shih said most students and kids use social media (2009).

They found various negative effects of social media on pupils' social behaviour (Akubugwo & Burke, 2013). It can hinder academic efforts by consuming user time. According to the study, students spend 2-3 hours every day on social media. It can incite riots/demonstrations, gossip, terrorism, and disorder. It may become a centre for deviant child grooming, as deviants always have many pals. A student's deviant friend is likely to affect them. Digital friends may lead to antisocial behaviour.

Advantages and disadvantages of social media

Social media usage is rising. Some people still think social media threatens academics. The issue of internet consumption may be turned into a positive opportunity. The majority of people utilise social media. Social media in higher education is used for collaboration, networking, sharing, and content creation.

Studies are increasingly looking into the pros and cons of using social media to assist students' study. Most previous research focused on higher education, with only a few on social media apps and experiences. Previous research highlights the broader implications of social media usage (Tapscott, 2009; Tadros, 2011; Tess, 2013). Some social media's effects are occasionally researched (Sim & Hew, 2010; Tess, 2013). Overall, most students have a social media account. Social media access provides for work, school, and social collaboration.

Despite claims that social media can help educators innovate, many teachers are reluctant to use it in the classroom. One explanation is that many innovative technologies are "oversold and underused" (Greenhow & Gleason, 2014; Manca & Ranieri, 2016). The technology is available to teachers at home and work, but not to teach. Their hesitation is not due to insecurity or technophobia. As well as student learning behaviours. While most instructors favour the use of social media in the classroom, few actually use it or plan to (Manca & Ranieri, 2016). It takes time to see the benefits of social networking. Effective social media integration needs time, effort, and a shift in instructors' and organisations' attitudes and mindsets. According to Tess (2013), most research shows beneficial outcomes for students. Less time spent preparing for class and lessons is associated with increased use of social media (King, 2009; Sadaf, *et al.*, 2012).

Other studies and research have found value in blogs as learning journals, a way to communicate with peers and teachers, and establish a feeling of community among learners (Sim & Hew, 2010; Top, 2012). It allows pupils to reflect on how their learning affects their behaviour (Sim & Hew, 2010). Other research suggests that blogging engages students in



course topics and develops informal learning networks. According to Churchill, a blog atmosphere makes students feel appreciated and heard (2009).

Methodology

The study employed a survey research design. The researcher used social media to acquire information from Plateau State Polytechnic students. The study's target audience is 10,556 Plateau State Polytechnic library users from both campuses. The researchers picked a sample of 128 registered library patrons. The sample (528) was 5% of the target population of 10,556 registered library users. Wimmer & Dominick (1987) propose a minimum sample size of ten percent (10%) or five percent (5%) for populations up to ten thousand (10,000). The researchers strolled into the libraries of both schools and utilise the library users at that moment to randomly choose 528 respondents. The study's data analysis is vital. The questionnaire data were extensively evaluated. The obtained data were summarised in frequency tables. The mean replies to each question were calculated. The percentages were calculated. Both campuses of Plateau State Polytechnic Barkin-Ladi received questionnaires. Only 521 of the disseminated questionnaires were recovered and 122 utilized to analyse the results.

Results

Research Question 1: What is social media to you as a student of tertiary institution?

Table 1

Research Question 1: What is social media to you as a student of tertiary institution?

Statement	SA	A	D	SD
Social media is a way of interacting with other people using the internet.	413(79.3%)	108(20.7%)	0	0
Social media is just a source of chatting or communicating with my school mates.	99(19.0%)	120(23.0%)	224(43.0%)	78(15.0%)
Social media is a channel of socialization only	18(3.5%)	86(16.5%)	232(44.5%)	185(35.5%)
Social media is a channel of retrieving related information, which can develop an individual's understanding.	335(64.3%)	112(21.5%)	35(6.7%)	39(7.5%)
Mean Score	216(41.5%)	106.5(20.4%)	122.5(23.6%)	76(14.5%)

Table 1 indicates that, all respondents representing 100% agreed that, social media is a way of interacting with other people using the internet. The table indicates that, 224 and 78 respondents representing 58% disagreed that, social media is just a source of chatting or communicating with my school mates, while 120 and 99 respondents representing 42% agreed with the statement. The finding, reveals that social media is a source of chatting or communicating with school mates. The table shows that 232 and 185 respondents representing 80% disagreed that, social media is a channel of socialization only, while 86 and 18 respondents representing 20% agreed with the statement. From the finding, it reveals that, social media is not the only channel for socialization since majority of the respondents disagreed. The table reveals that, social media is a channel of retrieving related information which can develop an individual's understanding since majority of the respondents 112 and 335 representing 85.8% agreed with that statement, while 35 and 39 respondents representing 14.2% disagreed with the issue. The result from the finding shows that social media is a channel of retrieving related information which can develop an individual's understanding.



Research Question 2: What are some of the social media types you use to retrieve information?

Table 2

Statement	SA	A	D	SD
Facebook and WhatsApp	396 (76.0%)	125 (24.0%)	0	0
YouTube and Google+	396 (76.0%)	108 (20.7%)	17 (3.3%)	0
Instagram and Blog	262 (50.3%)	216 (41.4%)	17 (3.3%)	26 (5.0%)
Snap Chat and Wikipedia	340 (65.3%)	146 (28.0%)	9 (1.7%)	26 (5.0%)
Mean Score	348.5(66.9%)	148.7(28.5%)	10.8(2.1%)	13(2.5%)

Table 2 is on type of social media used to retrieved information. The result shows that 521 of the respondents representing 100% agreed that Facebook and WhatsApp are some of the social media types used in information retrieval. From the findings, it shows that students used Facebook and WhatsApp as a type of social media to retrieved information. The analysis from the table shows that, 17(3.3%) respondents disagreed that YouTube and Google+ are not social media types, while majority 108 and 396 of the respondents representing 96.7% agreed that YouTube and Google+ are used as type of social media for information retrieval. The result revealed that YouTube and google+ are used as type of social media for information retrieval. The analysis from the table shows that majority 262 and 216 respondents representing 91.7% agreed that Instagram and Blog are some of the social media types used in information retrieval, while 17 and 26 respondents representing 8.3% disagreed with the above statement. This means, that Instagram and blog are types of social media used in information retrieval. The analysis shows that, 146 and 340 of the respondents representing 93.3% agreed that Snap Chat and Wikipedia are some of the social media types used in information retrieval, while 9 and 26 respondents representing 6.7% disagreed with that. The findings revealed that, an average of 348.5(66.9%) Strongly Agreed that Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTude, Google+, Instagram, Blog, Snap Chat and Wikipedia are social media types used in information retrieval.

Research Question 3: What type of information do you retrieve frequently from social media?

Table 3

Statement	SA	A	D	SD
Pictures	249 (47.8%)	246 (47.2%)	26 (5.0%)	0
Music	206 (39.5%)	280 (53.8%)	35 (6.7%)	0
Videos	267 (51.3%)	232 (44.5%)	13 (2.5%)	9 (1.7%)
Text chatting	383 (73.5%)	129 (24.8%)	0	9 (1.7%)
Mean Score	276.3(53.0%)	221.8(42.6%)	18.5(3.6%)	4.5(0.9%)

Table 3 shows that 246 and 249 respondents representing 95% agreed that pictures are the type of information frequently retrieved from social media, while 26 respondents representing 5.0% disagreed that pictures are not frequently retrieved information from social media. This means that, pictures are good type of information retrieved frequently from the social media. The table shows that, 280 and 206 respondents representing 93.3% agreed that music is the type of information frequently retrieved from social media, while 35 respondents representing 6.7% disagreed that music is not the frequently retrieved information from social media. This means that, music is good type of information retrieved frequently from the social media since majority agreed. The analysis from the table shows that 232 and 267 respondents representing 95.8% agreed that videos are types of information retrieved from social media, while 13 and 9 respondents representing 4.2% disagreed with the statement. This means that, videos are good type of information retrieved frequently from the social media with majority of the respondents agreed with that. The result from the table shows that majority 129 and 383 respondents representing 98.3% agreed that that text chatting is a type of information retrieved frequently



from the social media, while only 9 respondents representing 1.7% disagreed with that statement. The findings revealed that, with the mean score of 276.3(53.0%), Pictures, Music, Videos and Text chatting are some of the good types of information retrieved through the use of social media.

Research Question 4: What is the importance of the information you retrieve from social media?

Table 4

Statement	SA	A	D	SD
It helps in writing of assignments	241(46.3%)	138(26.5%)	52 (9.9%)	90 (17.3%)
It helps in examination preparation	189(36.3%)	164(31.5%)	52 (9.9%)	116(22.3%)
It widens the scope of studies	254(48.8%)	129(24.8%)	52 (9.9%)	86 (16.5%)
Just to communicate with friends	56 (10.8%)	52 (9.9%)	254(48.8%)	159(30.5%)
Mean Score	185(35.5%)	120.7(23.2)	102.5(19.7)	112.8(21.6)

The analysis from table 4 shows that 138 and 241 respondents representing 72.8% agreed that social media helps in writing of assignments, while 52 and 90 respondents representing 27.2% disagreed with the statement. The result from the finding revealed that information retrieved from social media helped students in writing their assignment. Table 4 shows that 164 and 189 respondents representing 67.8% agreed that information retrieved from social media helped students in examination preparation, while 52 and 116 respondents representing 32.2% disagreed with such statement. The finding revealed that information from social media helped students in examination preparation. The analysis from the table shows that 129 and 254 respondents representing 73.6% agreed that information access from social media widens the scope of their studies, while 52 and 86 respondents representing 26.4% disagreed that social media did not widens their scope of studies. The findings revealed that information retrieved from social media widens the scope of students on their studies. From the data obtained from table 4 shows that 254 and 159 respondents representing 79.3% disagreed that social media not is use for communication with friends, while 52 and 56 respondents representing 20.7% agreed that it is used for communication with friends. The result revealed that, with an average of 185(35.5%) respondents Strongly Agreeing that social media helps in writing of assignments, examination preparation and it widens their scope of studies.

Research Question 5: What are the advantages and disadvantages of social media on students' academic performances?

Table 5

Statement	SA	A	D	SD
Retrieving information speedy, fast and quickly.	9 (1.7%)	357 (8.5%)	22 (4.3%)	133(25.5%)
Accurate information.	65 (12.5%)	172(33.0%)	125(24.0%)	159(30.5%)
Wider coverage.	280(53.7%)	206(39.5%)	22 (4.3%)	13 (2.5%)
Ease to share retrieved information.	245(47.0%)	237(45.5%)	0	39 (7.5%)
It can be expensive.	310(59.5%)	181(34.7%)	17 (3.3%)	13 (2.5%)
Wrong information is shared easily.	366(70.2%)	112(21.5%)	0	43 (8.3%)
High rate of copy and paste.	289(55.4%)	202(38.8%)	13 (2.5%)	17 (3.3%)
Chatting and sharing of pictures takes most of time.	232(44.5%)	190(36.5%)	39 (7.5%)	60 (11.5%)
Mean Score	224.5(43.1%)	207.1(39.8%)	29.8(5.7%)	59.6(11.4%)



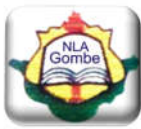
Table 5 shows that 357 and 9 respondents representing 70.2% agreed that the advantage of retrieving information from social media on students' academic performance is that is speedy, fast and quickly, while 22 and 133 respondents representing 29.8% disagreed with that. The finding, revealed that the advantage of using social media in retrieving information, is that is fast and save time in time of speed. The same table shows that 125 and 159 respondents representing 54.5% disagreed that information retrieved from social media is accurate, while 172 and 65 of the respondents representing 45.5% agreed that is accurate. From the analysis, it revealed that information from social media is not accurate. Social media provides a wider range of information to students which help them in their academic pursue since majority of the respondents 206 and 280 representing 93.2% agreed, while 22 and 13 respondents representing 6.8% disagreed. From the result, it revealed that social media provide a wider coverage of information for their academic performance. The result from table 5 shows that 237 and 245 respondents representing 92.5% agreed that social media provides an easy way of sharing/retrieving information amongst students which help them in their academic performance, while only 39 respondents representing 7.5% disagreed with the statement.

On the disadvantage of social media on the academic performance of students, the result from table 5 shows that 181 and 310 respondents representing 94.2% agreed that the disadvantage of social media on academic performance of students is that it can be expensive, while 13 and 17 of the respondents representing 5.8% disagreed to that statement. The findings revealed that it can be expensive to the disadvantage of the students using social media. Majority of respondents 366 and 112 representing 91.7% agreed that one of the disadvantages of social media is that wrong information is shared easily, while only 43 respondents representing 8.3% disagreed. The findings revealed that the disadvantage of social media by students is that wrong information is easily shared which affects their academic performance.

There is a high rate of copy and paste in the use of information retrieved from social media since majority of the respondents 202 and 289 representing 94.2% agreed, while only 13 and 17 respondents representing 5.8% disagreed. It was revealed that high rate of copy and paste is the disadvantage of social media to the academic performance of students and lastly, 190 and 232 respondents representing 81.0% agreed that the disadvantage of social media, is that it takes time when chatting and sharing pictures, while 39 and 60 disagreed with the statement. The findings revealed that chatting and sharing of pictures on social media takes much time.

Major Findings

1. According to the findings, students comprehend that social media is a method of engaging with people through the use of the internet.
2. It has been proven that social media is not only a means of conversing and communicating with schoolmates, but also for other purposes.
3. It has been found that social media is not the sole means of interacting with others.
4. It has been found that social media is used as a medium for retrieving information for the purpose of understanding by individuals.
5. Information retrieval can be accomplished using social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, Google+, Instagram, blogs, snap chat, and Wikipedia, among others.
6. The forms of content that are regularly obtained from social media include pictures, music, video, and text messaging.
7. Writing assignments, exam preparation, and broadening the breadth of their studies are all examples of how technology that can be utilised for more than just connection with friends.



8. It has been discovered that information retrieved from social media is fast, quick, and beneficial to academic activities because it provides a wider range of information. It has also been discovered that students benefit from the ease with which information can be shared and retrieved from social media. The negatives of social media include the fact that it is expensive, that incorrect information is spread, that it has a high rate of copy and paste, and that chatting and sharing pictures takes a lot of time.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Students at Plateaus State Polytechnic are familiar with the concept of social media and how to use it for information retrieval purposes. Photographs, music, videos, and text are the kind of content that they most frequently retrieve from social media. They can use the knowledge they have gained from social media to help them with the creation of tasks and the preparation of examinations. The following are some of the advantages and disadvantages of social media on students' academic performance: access to information in a timely, accurate, and efficient manner. Students copying and pasting at an alarmingly high pace. When students are not studying, they spend the majority of their time conversing and sharing photographs, which has a negative impact on their overall academic performance.

Within the context of the findings of this research, the researchers made these recommendations:

1. While lectures are taking place, students should refrain from conversing on social media platforms.
2. The usage of social media should be included in the course outline for library use in order to educate students on how to make good use of it in order to aid them in their academic endeavours.
3. Students should refrain from posting incorrect information on social media in order to avoid misleading other students during information retrieval.

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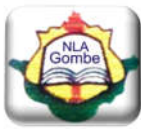
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