

Computer and Internet Usage Among Medical (Clinical) Students in the University of Benin

Computers and the Internet are very relevant in our modern day society. They are an important source of up to date information in the medical field. This paper assesses the knowledge of computers and Internet among medical students of the University of Benin (UNIBEN) and the extent of their use of computers and the internet with emphasis on ability and desires of their students.

Three hundred and fifty (350) clinical students of the School of Medicine, University of Benin (UNIBEN) completed a nineteen (19) item questionnaire during a random survey to assess the extent of use of computer and Internet among medical students of the University of Benin. The OpenStat software (Open source statistical package) was used for data analysis.

The mean age of the medical students was 26 years. A majority (77.2%) of the students are computer literate. Almost all (96.0%) of them had used the Internet, 4% had not. E-mail (47.9%) was as popular in use as Web browsing (52.1%) among the internet services used by the students and cyber caf   (90.5%) was the common place where students had accesses these services. Overall, results of analysis revealed the following student's scores on a three point successive interval scale of their perceived self efficacy in performing five (5) Internet related tasks. The tasks and results are: confidence in downloading free medical books from the Internet (1.57 points); confidence in searching the Internet for classification of diseases (1.98 points); confidence in searching the Internet for health sciences libraries in Africa is 1.64 points; student's confidence in accessing information on CD-ROM (1.48) points; student's confidence in retrieving and downloading full-text articles from online journal (1.58). From the results, medical (clinical) students in the University of Benin have not fully utilized the opportunity that computer and Internet offer for medical education.