AN APPRAISAL OF THE USE OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH IN NIGERIA: A CRITICAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The paper focused on computer applications as a tool for effective social research in Nigeria. The application of computer in the field of sociology and other social sciences is not only difficult, but constitutes a problem to students and some researchers. This problem could be the phobia for statistics or lack of knowledge of computer spreadsheet packages and its application in data analysis. The study is guided by the following objectives: To find out how internet technology facilitates social research, to determine the potency of using data analysis software such as excel, statistical package for social science and PAWS statistics to manage data and to investigate a proper way of data preparation and presentation. Data used for analyses are drawn from secondary sources. We found that computers and other electronic devices have significant positive impacts on the sociological analyses in the following ways: data preparation and coding, data presentation, data analysis, social interaction and online survey. We reached the conclusion that the application of computer in social research will go a long way in improving the skills of the researchers as well as the quality of research reports in Nigeria. Some recommendations are made.

Keywords: Computer, Applications, Research, Tool, Data analysis