MEETING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA TODAY

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UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
Mission Statement

The acknowledgement of a commitment to a nation – building the future leaders who can develop contextually relevant solutions and through a world-class education

Our student population for the 2009/10 academic year was 41,964. This includes students in 3 campuses and enrolled on our sandwich programmes, distance education and students from affiliated institutions.
Of those born between 1979 and 1994, over 90% use the internet.

They grew up with the internet.

80% have cell phones and 36% use text messaging.

Most have broadband for downloading music and watching videos online.

This group is a proving ground for the future.

Millennials are Confident. Connected. Open To Change.
80% percent of Millennials have texted in the last 24 hours.

Millennials are Confident. Connected. Open To Change.

http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1437/millennials-profile
83 % percent of Millennials sleep with their cell phone on or right next to their bed, making it the first and last thing they often reach for each day.

http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1437/millennials-profile
## African Technological Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Internet Users Online</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>14.11 per cent</td>
<td>ITU (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>28.43 per cent</td>
<td>ITU (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>13.01 per cent</td>
<td>ITU (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>82 per cent</td>
<td>ITU (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>77.86 per cent</td>
<td>ITU (2011)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Top websites on 17 September 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ghana</th>
<th>Nigeria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Facebook</td>
<td>1. Facebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Google.com.gh</td>
<td>2. Google.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Yahoo</td>
<td>4. Yahoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Youtube</td>
<td>5. Youtube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Myjoyonline.com</strong></td>
<td>6. Twitter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Twitter</td>
<td>8. Mywebsearch.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. WindowsLive</td>
<td>10. LinkedIn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12. PeaceFM</strong></td>
<td><strong>12. Nairaland</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.alexa.com
User age distribution on Facebook in Ghana

Male/Female User Ratio on Facebook in Ghana

Video Lecture: Doing Research Ep. 4: Research Proposal

Published by VIVA Africa Editor on September 14, 2012 | 0 Comment | Edit

This session provides the guidelines for writing a research proposal. It also discusses the relationship between research proposal and the Chapter one of a long essay or dissertation.
Website Statistics

September 26, 2012, 4:05 pm

21,968 views all-time

359 views today

1,299 views on your busiest day, August 27, 2012
How Do We Address the Educational Needs of our students?

1. Increasing numbers of qualified students from high schools
2. High student-teacher ratios
3. Reduction in educational subsidies in higher education
4. Institutions struggle to meet commitments to quality
5. Lack of supporting infrastructure to meet the demand
6. Constraints on increasing faculty size and expanding facilities.

Source: University of Ghana Legon Corporate Strategic Plan (pp. 5-7)
How Do We Address the Educational Needs of our students?

*Technical challenges...*

1. **Rethink assumptions** about delivery systems, curriculum, organizational structures.
2. **Build Cost effective learning platforms**, more efficiently delivered, consistent with budgets we are likely to receive.
3. **Design Campus Networks** to support modern technologies and reflect students' needs and expectations. Eg designated open access areas and **BYOD** secure authenticated access to the network.
4. **Infrastructure**. Bandwidth monitoring and management, device choice and support.
5. **Capacity Building** for network and systems engineers, exchange of Best Practices and support tech forums for Africa.

Source: University of Ghana Legon Corporate Strategic Plan (pp. 6-7)
How Do We Address the Educational Needs of our students?

1. Use Technology to support or improve current teaching approaches

Integration of social media and web 2.0 approaches to learning – blogs, podcasting, vodcasting, online discussions…

Learn to Speak their language
• extend learning beyond the classroom to where they are...
UGCS

- The University of Ghana Computing Systems
  - IT Services
  - IT Infrastructure
  - IT Planning Security & Support

Primarily responsible for providing leadership in the development and use of ICT to enhance teaching, learning, research and administrative activities in the University.
Infrastructure Support-Google

Infrastructure grant of 186,977.70 to UG for
• LAN expansion
• Wireless AP deployment
• CISCO routers and switches (7201/2960 series)
• Cyberoam (CR1000ia) network security appliance
• Training in Google Apps for Education suite of products
Infrastructure Support Google’s Servers

• Accessing Google's Apps for Education products (cloud computing)
• 900,000 servers worldwide

(Source: Google).
Infrastructure Support -NSRC

• The Network Startup Resource Center, University of Oregon sponsored by Google are supporting UGCS IT team on improving access via wireless for students in the residence halls.

• An initial pilot roll-out of 10 Ubiquiti network access points to see if it can be an affordable, scalable solution for the campus has led to investment in deployment of over 90 more.

Hotspots include:

• UGCS Building, Institute of Continuing and Distance Education, Faculty of Arts (Sociology and parts of Language Centre), Jones Quartey (open area and parts of old law faculty), SRC Union building, Mensah Sarbah Hall, Legon Hall Annex, Guest Centre
Infrastructure Support NSRC (Google technical direct assistance)

- Recent collaboration to improve the overall architecture of the campus network, and improve the skills of more of our technical staff at UGCS
- Technical visits (mid Sep 2012) to deliver expertise and training in network security, bandwidth & IP management, L2/L3 routing and switching skills. More planned over the next two years
- Sponsorship to technical meetings (Internet2, IEEE and AFNOG) in the USA
UG gone Google

- GASP launched on August 23rd 2012
- 40,000+ student accounts setup
- UG Staff to be moved onto GASP in phases
UGMail

• Access via Google Apps for Education platform
• Every student has an “@st.ug.edu” address
• Email address format
  o Students:  
    firstinitial.lastname@st.ug.edu.gh
• Mail storage: 25 GB
• Make ‘phone calls’ from Gmail
• Lifetime account, we can keep in touch with Alumni and stakeholders
Google Calendar

- Schedule meetings, lectures and events
- iPhone or Android access
- Reminders
- Integrates with Outlook
- Add to iGoogle
- Publish your calendar(s)
Google Docs

Create and share your work online with Google Docs

- Upload your files from your desktop: It's easy to get started and it's free!
- Access anywhere: Edit and view your docs from any computer or smart phone.
- Share your work: Real-time collaboration means work gets done more quickly.

Try Google Docs Now

New Features - Watch the videos
Google Docs- UG Readers Project

- Each teaching department / unit to produce a book, aimed at about 250 printed pages, giving a historical overview of the department relating its activities to both the discipline in general and the situation in Ghana.
- upwards of 40 books in total
- At least some of the books are expected to be published in the course of 2013.
- Demo platform on Google docs testing out workflow for editorial process
But Technology does not have the total solution...

1. **Motivate** and develop the skills of faculty to leverage such opportunities

2. **Develop** policies to ensure compliance to learning objectives

3. **Promote** skills transfer and exchanges between engineers & professionals in other institutions/networks

4. **Sustainability** – Establish appropriate structures to ensure efficient integration coupled with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms (GARNET)
Thank You