



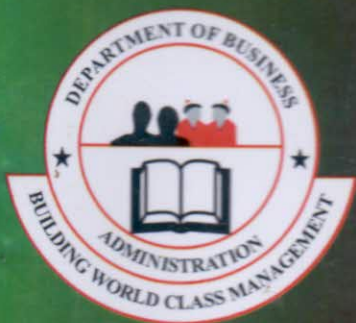
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***FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES***

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, OSOGBO.  
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## CONTENTS

Clients' Attributes and Audit Report Lag: Evidence from Quoted Companies in Nigeria Richard Oreoluwa AKINGUNOLA,; Kenny Adedapo SOYEMI & Rasaq OKUNUGA	1
Outsourcing Human Resource Activities in Nigeria: Benefits and Challenges AREMU, Nuha Salihu; ABOGUNRIN, Abiodun Peter & BAMIDELE, Ayodeji Gbenga	12
Impact of E-Payment of Tax on Tax Compliance in Nigeria BOJUWON, M. (PhD); BABATUNDE, M. O & AINA, A. O	23
Decent Work Agenda and Job Commitment of Factory Workers in Ogun State, Nigeria BANKOLE, Akanji Rafiu Ph.D.; BOYEDE Michael Ayodeji Ph.D & ODERINDE Adekunle Michael	32
Impact of Leadership Styles on Corporate Performance in Union Bank Plc (2011-2015) Florence B. Famolu	43
Impact of Cost Accounting on Efficiency of Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria Lawal Babatunde Akeem	58
A Study of the Effectiveness of the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) in the Protection of Nigerian Shippers OLUWOLE Matthew Sunday (Ph.D); ALPHONSUS Cosmos Anle & THOMPSON Bosede (Mrs)	72
Effect of Entrepreneurship Education on Youth Development in Fountain University, Osogbo, Nigeria. Isaac Olugbenga Fadeyibi	88
Effect of Training and Development on the Performance of Small and Medium Enterprises in Nigeria IKUPOLATI Alexander Oluwadare Ph.D	104
Impact of Social Responsibilities on Organisational Performance: A Case Study of Unilever Nigeria Plc MORAKINYO D. A.	116
Impact of Environmental Factors on Entrepreneurship Development in Osun State, Nigeria RAHEEM, A. J. & AKINTAYO, A. AKINTUNDE	133
Patterns of Audit Market Concentration Among Quoted Companies in Nigeria (2002- 2014). Johnson Kolawole Olowookere (Ph.D., FCA)	142



Evaluation of E-Banking as a Driver of Customer Satisfaction in Nigeria ADEBISI, Adebola Olubunmi & IMOOUOKHOME, Ebun Omoniyi	153
Time Management of Internet Dependency among University Students and its Impact on Academic Performance in Nigeria TAFAMEL, Ehiabhi Andrew Ph.D.	163
Perception of Job Insecurity, Job Satisfaction, Organizational Commitment and Depression in a Post-Downsizing Regime in Nigerian Banking Industry Solomon Ojo Ph.D. & Idris Adegboyega Onikoyi Ph.D.	175
Effective Leadership: A Prerequisite for Personal Development in Nigerian Organisations Gaffar A. Adebayo Shittu	185

## EVALUATION OF E-BANKING AS A DRIVER OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IN NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*This paper examines the impact of E-Banking on bank customers' satisfaction in Nigeria. The top five banks that automatically accounted for 60% market share of the banking sector and asset base were purposively selected in order to ensure proper coverage and generalisation in the study. Purposive and convenience sampling techniques were used to select the account holders due to the homogeneous characteristics of the target population. 385 customers of the five banks were sampled with a questionnaire designed on 7 points Likert scales. Statistical tools used included multiple regression, PPMC and student's *t* test. The hypothesis tested in the study ( $R^2 = .948$ ;  $F = 3431.286$ ; Sig 0.000;  $p < .05$ ) ; Introduction of Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) has higher contribution with Beta = .563,  $p < .05$  and *t*-value = 21.621; Internet Banking System (EBS) contributes Beta = .438,  $p < .05$  and *t*-value = 16.821. The contributions of both variables were significant to Customers Satisfaction in Nigerian Banking Sector. The overall regression model was statistically significant in terms of its goodness of fit. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. The study concluded that there was increased customer satisfaction with service quality which is mainly due to e-banking. Nigerian banks must be prepared for strategic investment into another phase of the technological enhanced banking operations given the huge and tremendous impact that e-banking and ATM services have on banking operations.*



## **Introduction**

Customer's satisfaction has become increasingly challenging in the Nigerian banking industry. Generally, a user of a service has a few characteristics and attributes in mind that he or she uses as a basis for comparison among alternatives. Lack of one attribute may eliminate a specific service firm from consideration. Service quality is difficult to measure and evaluate. Therefore, customers' perceptions of service quality are of major concern to both business managers and researchers. This was corroborated by Palmer (1995) who opined that practitioners and academics alike are keen on accurately measuring service quality in order to better understand its essential antecedents and consequences, and ultimately establish methods for improving quality to achieve competitive advantage and build customer satisfaction.

Service sector such as the banks are therefore obliged to provide excellent services to their customers in order to have sustainable competitive advantage (El- Saghier, & Nathan, 2013).

Banks and other financial institutions operating in Nigeria are under intense pressure to develop quality services as a strategy to retain their present customers and to win over competitors' customers in the market. In modern day, product offering is no longer a major competitive advantage; rather, most banks now embark on marketing campaign more in the area of customer loyalty through various promotion strategies. Most of these banks also move into the growth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in their service offerings-such as internet banking, mobile banking, e-banking, telephone banking, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) among others. All these channels of interaction are more of service offerings.

Many organisations today practically find it very difficult to implement quality customer service programmes that are competitive enough to attract and retain good and quality customers. The Nigerian banking industry has witnessed significant rise in competition in the past three decades due to different deregulation, recapitalization and consolidation policies of government and the advent of the electronic banking regime across the world. This trend fosters a scenario of continuous fight for customers' share and includes the desire to increase and build loyal customers through effective customers' services activities (Mendzela, 1999).

The Nigerian banking sector has not been immune from this challenge. Today most Nigerians open non-functional accounts in search of better banking services to enhance longer satisfaction. This has given birth to banks having several dormant accounts as a result of many layers of dissatisfaction on the part of customers. The fact is that, no organisation intends to provide poor service, gaps usually arise because of differences in perception between what the business thought it was providing and what the customers believe they received. Hence, the need for empirical investigation into this area of study

What is the level of satisfaction derivable by banks' customers in Nigeria with the introduction of e-banking?

Evaluate the impact of e-banking on the level of satisfaction derivable by banks' customers in Nigeria

The introduction of e-banking in Nigeria has not enhanced the level of satisfaction derivable by banks' customers



The study covers the top five banks in Nigeria that have been dominating the market share of the banking sub-sector for about two decades now. These banks accounted for 60 percent of the banking sector assets in Nigeria (The Banker, 2015) they are: Access Bank, First Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank, United Bank for Africa and Zenith Bank.

## Literature Review

### Conceptual Overview of Customer Satisfaction

Customers' satisfaction is the corner stone for relationship between marketing and management, and the source of competitive advantage for organisations. Customers' satisfaction leads them to use current service and creates loyal customers for future. Drucker (1973) opined that customer satisfaction is the base for business success. Customers who are loyal are reported to produce higher retention rates, tend to commit a higher contribution of their category spending for the firm, and are more likely to pursue others to join the list of customers in the firm (Zeithaml, 2000). It is believed that the goal of every organisation is to meet the needs and the requirements of its stakeholders. Meeting the needs and the requirements of the stakeholders will not only ensure the survival of the organisation but also allow it to flourish. Customers are presumed to be one of the most important stakeholders in any organisation because without them, organisations are not likely to succeed. Customer satisfaction is now becoming a corporate level strategy (Rust & Zahorik, 1993).

It is however noted that one of the ways through which banks can meet the expectations of their customers who are the back-bone of the banks' business is via the understanding of customers' behaviour. Satisfaction is the customers' evaluation of a product or service in terms of whether that product or service has met their needs and expectations (Zeithaml & Bitner, 2003). Happy and satisfied customers behave in a positive manner. Customers' satisfaction is derived largely from the quality and reliability of products and service. The emergence of customers' satisfaction in financial institutions has been widely studied and it is discovered that the primary goal of any organisation, especially banks is geared towards customers' satisfaction. Full understanding of this issue is important for researchers and officials (Arbore & Busacca, 2009). Hardly can any business survive without the consent of customers. Customers' satisfaction is a result that is obtained as a comparison of actual performance before buying with expected performance of the client.

Bolton (1998) modelled the duration of the customer-firm relationship at the individual level. The research found that prior cumulative satisfaction is weighed more heavily than satisfaction from recent events, and that satisfied customers have longer relationships, and generate greater revenues and profits (for contractual relationships). However some customer satisfaction literature are developed around the idea that satisfaction is influenced by the difference between expectations and experience (Oliver, 1999). Ogunaiké (2010) examined the relationship between service quality and customer satisfaction in the Nigerian banks. It was found that service quality has significant effect on customer satisfaction therefore banks should focus more on their customers rather than on the products and services, which they sell because customers are the true business of every company. Boulding, Richard and Michael (1993) brought together two streams of service quality research showing that both expectations and predictions (expectations about what will happen) and normative expectations (expectations about what should happen, often based on communications from the service provider) are important in determining perceived service quality that brings about customer Satisfaction. Verhoef (2003) found that, if customer assessments primarily reflect cognition (without an affective component), it may prove difficult to predict customer retention or share of the wallet.



At the aggregate level, data from the American Customer Satisfaction Index and Compustat showed that customer satisfaction plays a major role in increasing cash flow and enhancing its stability. Customer satisfaction with a bank relationship is a good basis for loyalty (Bloemer, Ruyter & Peters 1998; Pont & McQuilken, 2005), although it does not guarantee it, because even satisfied customers switch banks. One important reason for switching is pricing (Colgate & Hedge, 2001). Hence, banks have launched customer loyalty programmes that provide economic incentives. Although the effectiveness of loyalty programmes has been questioned (Sharp & Sharp, 1997; Stauss, Schmidt & Schoeler, 2005), research has shown that they have a significant, positive impact on customer retention, service usage, and/or share of customer purchases.

### **Concept of E-Banking**

Smith and Chaffey (2001) described E-Banking as the achievement of marketing objectives through the use of electronic communications technology. The success factor in e-marketing is achieving customer satisfaction through the electronic channel in terms of the ease of use, performance and quality of service. The terms E-Banking, Internet Banking and Digital Banking can be described as synonymous. Internet banking, however, is now used as the term for new age banking system. Singhal and Padhmanbhan (2008) opined that Internet banking is the use of the Internet to deliver banking activities such as funds transfer, paying bills, viewing current and savings account balance, paying mortgages and purchasing financial instruments and certificates of deposits. Internet banking is also called online banking, e-payment and e-banking. It is also a means whereby banking businesses are transacted through automated processes and electronic devices such as personal computers, telephones, and fax machines, Internet card payments and other electronic channels (Turban, Veihland & Lee 2006). The electronic communications used in Internet banking includes: Internet, e-mail, e-books, data base and mobile phones. In the recent times, the development in technology has affected business organisations in several ways, most especially in terms of management and control; marketing and research; operations and decision making. It is therefore, the vogue that every organisation wants to tap the benefits that accrue from technology development. In other word, most organisations find means of enjoying the advantages encapsulated in the new technologies (Larpsiri & Speece, 2004).

Ching, (2008) emphasised that the electronic delivery of banking service has become ideal for banks in meeting customers' expectations and building close customer relationships. Internet banking started with simple functions such as real time access to information about interest rate, checking account balances and computing loan eligibility. However, these services have graduated to online bill payment, transfer of funds between accounts and cash management services for corporate organisations and individuals (Singhal & Padhmanbhan, 2008). The development experienced in Internet and other global online networks have thus created new commercial opportunities for e-commerce and creation of completely new sets of global and national trading relationships. This consequently, led to the perception that e - banking and e-commerce are now inevitable aspect of financial services (Harris & Spencer, 2002). Singhal and Padhmanbhan (2008) opined that the use of e-banking has brought many benefits amongst which include: Convenience, services offered at minimal cost, transformation of traditional practices in banking; the only way to stay connected to the customers at any place and any time is through internet applications. All these have resulted in high performance in the banking industry through faster delivery of information from the customer and service providers. Customers prefer the use of e-banking because it saves time; it makes possible the use of innovative product or service at a low transaction fee and it encourages queue management



which is one of the important dimensions of e-banking service quality. Harris and Spencer (2002) believed that there are certain issues on e-banking that are considered as major problems of Internet banking amongst which include: the case of Internet criminals and fraudsters attempt to steal customer information through various methods such as phishing and pharming. In other word, there is increased concern about privacy and security of customers' information as a result of the fragility of information collected and held electronically and transferred via computer – mediated communications. Other problems include: easy access for criminals to hide their transactions, inaccessibility to e-banking due to poor internet operation, customer inflexibility to new technology, low educational level, poor computer literacy and in constructive use of Internet services, language barrier, cultural and logistic barriers, different legislation and information overload to customers ( Harris & Spencer, 2002). As a result of the aforementioned problems, online banking services have thus become a crucial concern of financial institutions during this era of sophisticated technological breakthrough. The fact therefore remain that the various electronic banking services and products have no doubt exposed customers to new ways of convenience rather than the conventional banking.

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **The Expectancy Disconfirmation Paradigm**

Expectancy-Disconfirmation Paradigm (EDP) is the most promising theoretical framework for the assessment of customer satisfaction. The model implies that consumers purchase goods and services with pre-purchase expectations about the anticipated performance. The expectation level then becomes a standard against which the product is judged. That is, once the product or service has been used, outcomes are compared against expectations. If the outcome matches the expectation confirmation occurs. Disconfirmation occurs where there is a difference between expectations and outcomes. A customer is either satisfied or dissatisfied as a result of positive or negative difference between expectations and perceptions. Thus, when service performance is better than what the customer had initially expected, there is a positive disconfirmation between expectations and performance which results in satisfaction, while when service performance is as expected, there is a confirmation between expectations and perceptions which results in satisfaction. In contrast, when service performance is not as good as what the customer expected, there is a negative disconfirmation between expectations and perceptions which causes dissatisfaction.

This theory is in line with the research aim of measuring satisfaction or dissatisfaction among banks' customers in order to determine whether E-Banking leads to satisfaction among the banks customers under review.

### **Empirical Framework**

Gbadeyan and Akinyosoye (2011) found that out of the 360 respondents under survey, 75% indicated they access e-banking service with their banks compare to 25% that do not. It was also revealed that 9% are not aware of the e-banking services provided by their banks while 15% preferred the face to face or conventional banking. This means that 85% prefer e-banking to the traditional banking system. The major types of e-banking services enjoyed by the customers in the following order are ATM banking (60%); Money Transfer (30%); and all Internet banking facilities (10%). There are 71% respondents that indicated they were satisfied with the e-banking services provided by their banks while 29% are not satisfied. The reasons given by those respondents who are satisfied include: easy access (69%); customer friendly environment (20%);



faster than conventional banking (13%) and password protected (8%); while those respondents not satisfied with the e-banking services gave the following reasons: slow response of Internet connection (63%) and inaccessibility (37%). The following benefits of e-banking are identified from the study: speedy transfer (30%); efficient transactions (24%); regular check of transaction and statement details (15%); easy access (12%); saves transaction costs (10%); lower transaction fees (6%) and offers third party facility of fund transfer (3%). The expected associated risks of e-banking identified by the respondents from the study are: cyber fraud (25%); cyber theft (20%); security concerns (12.5%); risk of hackers (9%); Leaked customer information (6.5%); making closed system open up (5%); third party intervention (4.7%); transaction process (4.3%) and wrong information/code from sender (4%) and others such as card retrieval problem, delay due to wrong codes, unreliable power supply, slow Internet connectivity, system failure/error and lack of knowledge (9%).

Agboola (2001) also examined the impact of computer automation on the banking services in Lagos and discovered that Electronic Banking has tremendously improved the services of some banks to their customers in Lagos. Balogun, Ajiboye and Dunsin, (2013) and Mahmood, (2013) found the factors that influence customer satisfaction with E-Banking in Nigeria and Pakistan respectively. They found that internet banking products have significant effect on customers' satisfaction.

Oladejo and Akanbi, (2012) also agreed that lack of specific laws to govern internet banking which allow unfair and deceptive trade practice by the supplier and unauthorized access by hackers has made Nigerian banks' customers to be dissatisfied.

### Methodology

In this study, descriptive research design was employed. The strategy adopted in this research work is the case study approach. Multiple methods of qualitative and quantitative data were used in this study to answer the research questions and better evaluate the extent to which research findings can be trusted and inferences made from them. The qualitative data were gathered using the 7 points Likert Scale questionnaire designed to elicit information from customers of the selected banks in this study for the survey carried out.

The population of the study was defined as the total of all customers of the selected banks. The study covered the top five banks which have been dominating the market share of the banking sub-sector. These banks accounted for 60 percent of the banking sector assets in Nigeria (The Banker, 2015) and they are Public Limited Liability Companies quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE). These banks include Zenith Bank, Access Bank, First Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank and United Bank for Africa. Godden (2004) sample size formula for infinite population was employed to have at least 384 minimum customers to be sampled.

This study adopted different levels of sampling techniques to execute the tasks of gathering data that were used for the various analyses carried out in the chapter four of the study. Purposeful Sampling (non-probability sampling technique) was used to select the banks sampled for this study out of the Deposit money banks in Nigeria as at year end 2015. Access bank, First Bank, Guarantee Trust Bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA) and Zenith Bank were purposefully selected because the five banks controls above 60% of the market share in the banking industry (The Banker, 2015).



Quota sampling technique was used for the administration of the questionnaire designed to elicit information from the customer. 500 copies of the questionnaire were administered on the customers of the selected five banks in 100 copies per each bank's customers across the five divisions of Lagos State (which comprised Badagry, Epe, Ikeja, Lagos Island and Yaba Mainland Divisions). From the administered copies of the questionnaire, 387 copies representing 77.4% rate of return were collected. This was equally considered as very adequate for the analyses carried out in this study. Lagos being the commercial hub of Nigeria made it very convenient to sample people of all tribes in Nigeria in Lagos Metropolis. Besides, Lagos State is where the five banks have the majority of their branches and head offices.

The hypotheses was tested in the study with the use of Multiple Regression Analysis, Pearson's Product Movement Correlation (PPMC), Student 't' test. The various analyses carried out in the study were executed with the use of SPSS version 21 and E-view version 6.

### Results and Discussion of Findings

**H<sub>01</sub>.** The introduction of e-banking in Nigeria has not enhanced the level of satisfaction derivable by banks' customers.

The relationship in this study is defined as:  $SDC = f(\text{E-banking})$ , where E-banking is determined by two other variables that are modified in accordance with the focus of the study. Hence in testing this hypothesis, multiple regression model was used;

i.e.  $SDC = f(\text{IBS}, \text{ATM})$ . Hence we have:

$$SDC = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{IBS}_1 + \beta_2 \text{ATM}_2 + Ce \dots \dots \dots (iv)$$

where:

$SDC$  = Satisfaction Derivable by Customers

$IBS$  = internet Banking System

$ATM$  = Automatic Teller Machine

**H<sub>01</sub>.** The introduction of e-banking in Nigeria has not enhanced the level of satisfaction derivable by banks' customers.

The relationship in this study is defined as:  $SDC = f(\text{E-banking})$ , where E-banking is determined by two other variables that are modified in accordance with the focus of the study. i.e.  $SDC = f(\text{IBS}, \text{ATM})$ ; Hence  $SDC = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{IBS}_1 + \beta_2 \text{ATM}_2 + Ce$

**Table 1: Multiple Regression Analysis of e-banking and Customers satisfaction**

Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.974	.948	.948	.258	1.230

**Source: Field Survey's SPSS Output (2016)**

\* $p < 0.05$

a. Predictors: (constant) Introduction of Automated Teller Machine (ATM), Internet/Online Banking System (EBS).

b. Dependent Variable: Customers Satisfaction.

**Table 2: Contribution of each Predictor to Customers Preference**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.302	.063		4.799	.000
Electronic Banking System (EBS)	.411	.024	.438	16.821	.000
Introduction of Automatic Teller Machine (ATM)	.547	.025	.563	21.621	.000

Source: Field Survey's SPSS Output (2016)

\*p&lt;0.05

**Table 3: Multiple Regression Analysis of Predictors of Customer Satisfaction**

Model	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Regression	458.551	2	229.276	3431.286	.000
Residual	25.057	382	.067		
Total	483.608	386			

Source: Field Survey's SPSS Output (2016)

\*p&lt;0.05

Table 1 above revealed the value of R (.974) and  $R^2$  (.948). This implied that the model is predicting 94.8% of the variance in Customer satisfaction derivable from Nigerian Banking System by the availability of online banking system and introduction of Automatic Teller Machine (ATM). The model therefore confirmed that the introduction of ATM and Online banking system strongly influenced customers' satisfaction positively. The Table 2 showed the contribution of each of the predictors in the model. In this case, Introduction of Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) has higher contribution with Beta = .563,  $p < .05$  and t-value = 21.621; Internet Banking System (EBS) contributes Beta = .438,  $p < .05$  and t-value = 16.821. The contributions of both variables were significant to Customers Satisfaction in Nigerian Banking Sector. Table 4.1(c) showed the overall regression model as indicated by the F-Statistics which was statistically significant in term of its goodness of fit (i.e.  $F = 3431.286$ ; Sig 0.000;  $p < 0.05$ ) meaning that Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) and Internet Banking System (EBS) introduction is highly significant in enhancing the level of Customer Satisfaction. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, the resulting prediction equation became  $Y = .302 + .536 (ATM_1) + .438 (EBS_2)$

### Conclusion and Recommendations

The outcome of this study has shown increase customer satisfaction with service quality which is mainly access to e-banking. Nigerian banks must be prepared for strategic investment into another phase of the technological enhanced banking operations given the huge and tremendous impact that E-banking and ATM services have had on the operations of banks in Nigeria. It became evident in this study that, banks services' satisfaction is daily measure by customers, based on the performances of the technologically enhanced banking services, other



than the traditional banking services done on the counter. This means that, there is now a paradigm shift completely from the conventional banking services that usually occur on the counter to the convenience banking services that can be experienced and enjoyed 24 hours in a week at the comfort of the existing and prospective customers. What this holds for a competitive bank, is to be on the alert, to drive technological innovation once the taste and demand of the banks customer change as a result of desire for convenience, accessibility, speed of service and adequate security. Therefore, since technology is never static and extremely dynamic, serious minded banks should begin to anticipate the next phase of technological growth and demand and make adequate provision for the required investment and be ready to lead the innovation. This is very important, given that, many banks in the Nigeria banking sector during the early introduction of the on-line real-time banking services died, because, they could not cope nor respond to the then demand of technological business environment.

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