

# History of ICTs & HE in NG

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# We were OK

- Institutionally: up to the mid 1980s, if you wanted to talk, learn, or use computers, or do serious data-crunching analysis, etc, you went to a University Computer Centre, or to the National Teachers Institute.
- Our institutional computing prestige started being eroded by the advent of the PC from mid 1980s, but it was OK as most PCs in NG were owned by Academic Staff.

# 1<sup>st</sup> email, etc

- 1990, 1<sup>st</sup> email as a result of collaboration between the University of Ilorin's Computer Center/Faculty of Health Sciences and the McMaster University in Canada (Levey, 1993; Omenogo Meijabi, 1992 ); library automation in progress
- 1990 Aug 7, NUC MIS Technical Sub-committee
- 1991 April, MIS Tech Report submitted
- 1992 Nov, NUC Secretariat was commissioned, an MIS network centre, dubbed "the most intelligent building in the FCT"
- 1993, one of the first broad-based email access points was established at the Yaba College of Technology in Lagos

# Some milestones

- 1994 Oct 16: NUC eMail Committee inaugurated
- 1995 Oct 31: 1<sup>st</sup> National Workshop on Electronic Networking of Nigerian Universities... “NUNet”
- 1996 – 1999: NUC/ICTP Capacity-Building Linkages
- 1997 Apr 30: NUNet eMail gateway demonstrated at NUC
- 1997 Aug 13: Inauguration of NUC NUNet Technical Consultative Committee
- 1997 Sep 03: Approval for varsities to expend up to 20% of T&RE grants on Networking
- 1997 Oct 27: 2<sup>nd</sup> National W/Shop @ NUC & Ife, and Commissioning of NUNet Secretariat, VSAT at OAU Ife
- 1999 Aug 10: Satellite-based NUNet: August 10, 1999: PolyNet; TeachNet, etc
- 2000 Mar-Aug 27: NUC email gateway migration to VSAT
- 2000 July 25: World Bank Gardiners’ Report on NUNet
- 2000 – 2004: NUC/U Iowa capacity-building linkages
- 2000 Feb 03: NUNet should be an Education & Research Network
- 2002 NG eIFL/ EBSCO/ INASP-PERI Consortia, NUC NVL
- 2003 UNESCO/Presidency NVL, NUC VIHEP, UNESCO/NUC VIHEAP
- 2004-2006 NICEP etc

# Lessons

## Projects and initiatives:

- new ones paralyzed earlier ones, rather than kill, absorb or integrate them
- were paralyzed or killed by new technology advances
- were mostly top-bottom in approach, with little sense of ownership: this made them highly susceptible to policy shifts at centres that are often very far away
- created rather than evolved, and for the wrong reasons or based on insufficient or wrong planning info
- not useful because the primary users had need but \*not\* demand for them
- Systemic failure to collaborate fractured attention and efforts