

International Criminal Police Organisation and the Challenges in the Fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria

Audu Momoh Aminu

Department of Political Science,
Nasarawa State University, Keffi

Corresponding author: audu.aminu5@gmail.com

Abstract

The study seeks to ascertain the challenges that have bedeviled Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria. On the second assumption of the space transition theory of Jaishankar (2008) which believes that Identity Flexibility, dissociative anonymity and poor deterrence factors that characterized the cyberspace is a motivator of cybercrime, the study adopted a descriptive pattern and mixed method to collect data from three hundred and seventy-five (375) respondents randomly and purposively selected from Interpol National Central Bureau (NCB) Abuja, Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Department of State Services (DSS). The study found that inadequate finance, cyber-anonymity and poor deterrence are the most serious challenges that have bedeviled Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. It therefore recommends that Interpol member countries, partners and stakeholders need to fulfill their financial obligations in line with the Interpol Constitution to enable it carry out laudable programs and activities and to effectively fight the menace of Cybercrime in Nigeria. That, all law enforcement agencies involved in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria must step up theirsynergy, Intelligence Sharing and Utilization of the Interpol platforms/tools in order to effectively deal with the level of cyber-anonymity and poor deterrence that has pervaded the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria and for effective result.

Keywords: Interpol, Fight, Cybercrime, Space Transition Theory, Cooperation

Introduction

Cybercrime has remained a serious challenge across the globe and in Nigeria in particular. Criminal individuals, groups and organizations have taken advantage of the borderless cyberspace, increased ease of international travels, liberalized immigration policies, rapid international communication services, Expanse of trade, investment and exchange to perpetrate their nefarious activities. Akimbayo, (2001) had observed that, globalization of financial markets, spread of advance technology, and the rapid diffusion of information have combined to produce increasingly an interdependent world and call into question the significance of geopolitical boundaries. Cybercrime is illegal act perpetrated in, on or through the use of internet with the intent to cheat, defraud or cause malfunction of network device like computer, phone etc. The illegal act may be targeted at a computer network or devices e.g., computer

virus, Denial of Service Attacks (DoS), Malware (Malicious code).

The illegal act may be facilitated by computer network or devices with target independent of the computer network or device (Odinma, 2010). According to Morgan and Calif (2020) if the loss to Cybercrime globally is to be measured as a country, then it should be the world third largest economy after the US and China and the highest growing economy in the world valued 3 Trillion US Dollars in 2015, 6 trillion US Dollars as at 2021 (with an expected annual growth rate of 15%) which is expected to rise to 10.5 trillion US Dollars in 2025.

Akuta, Ong'oa and Jones (2011) ranked Nigeria among the top-ten countries of high prevalence of cybercrime in the world and first in Sub-Sahara Africa ahead of Cameroon, Ghana and South Africa. Frank & Odunayo (2013) made an overview of the menace of Cybercrime in what they

described as the Evolution of 'the new type of war' which they referred as the internet Cybercrime and predicted a destruction of a greater magnitude than the first and second world war, if serious measures are not taken to nip it in the bud. They had identified year 2001 as the year that witnessed telecom revolution in Nigeria by privatization of the moribund Nigeria Telecommunication Limited (NITEL). Consequently, numbers of registered lines in Nigeria has progressively increased from 400,000 in 2001 to 297million in 2022 out of which 210Million lines are active, there are 152.2Million confirmed internet service users with broadband Penetration rate of 44.65% and had kicked off commercial launch of the fifth generation network (5G) in Nigeria with Lagos as a pilot State (Paki, 2022). This has however exposed Nigeria to unintended consequences of internet related crimes otherwise known as cybercrime.

According to Awhefeada and Bernice (2021) Nigeria state lost approximately NGN127 Billion to cyber attacks on yearly basis. Apart from financial losses Nations, organization and individuals could experience scarcity of products, unavailability of services, chaos and loss of trust among others in the event of cyber attacks. While cybercriminals exploit borderless playing fields in the digital world, law enforcement structures are limited to their national borders. The transnational nature of cybercrime underlines the importance of international police cooperation. In the face of the continued evolution of cyber threats, there is a need for enhanced cooperation and coordination of timely transnational law enforcement response on a national, regional and global scale. The secure and swift exchange of actionable information is crucial in locating evidence, suspects and victims in multiple jurisdictions simultaneously

A report by Kaspersky Protection Technologies indicates that over 9,000 people in Nigeria suffered malware attacks launched by cybercriminals in 2019 alone (Umeh, 2020). In Nigeria, year 2020 witnessed unprecedented cyber attacks due

to the global Pandemic of covid-19 and the increased migration to virtual life. Year 2022 witnessed another sharp increase in cases of Cybercrime in Nigeria due to political activities towards the 2023 General Elections. Use of 'Deepfakes' for political gains dominates cybercrimes during the electioneering period. "Deepfakes are videos, images, or audio recordings that are manipulated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. "Individual can be presented as saying or doing something that didn't happen. Deepfakes are typically used to slander targets, manipulate events, falsify statements, or evidence, and create scandals. They are made with artificial intelligence software that maps targeted people's faces into scenes and onto other people's bodies, or otherwise manipulate parts of videos. The Deepfakes threat has also been used to facilitate business email compromise (BEC) fraud, bypass Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) protocols, and Know Your Customer (KYC) ID verification, and is been increasingly used in 2022 and beyond" (Okonji,2022).

Research Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive research design. This involves Data collection, presentation and analysis on the topic, Interpol and challenges in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. The study relied on existing literatures and publications. Questionnaires were administered and In-depth Interview was conducted to gather insights from officials of the Interpol NCB Abuja, personnel of the Cybercrime units of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Economic and financial crime commission (EFCC) and the Department of State Services (DSS) and other Stakeholders relevant to the study. The records of the selected law enforcement agencies in terms of cybercrime investigation and prosecution in Nigeria are the rationale for their choice as areas of study.

The study population is 15280 been the summation of number of personnel attached to Interpol NCB Abuja and Cybercrime department/unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Economic and financial crime

commission (EFCC) and the Department of State Services (DSS) while Sample size of 375 is determined through statistical table of

Krejcie and Morgan (1970) to ensure adequate representation and generalization of the findings.

Table: 1.1 Study Population and Sample of Interpol NCB Abuja and Selected Law Enforcement Agencies in Nigeria.

Interpol NCB Abuja and selected Law enforcement Agencies in Nigeria.	Population of Personnel Attached to Cybercrime Department/Units	Sample of Personnel attached to Cybercrime Department/Units	Percentage of Population and Sample size
Interpol NCB Abuja	1601	39	10.47%
NPF	8498	209	55.61%
EFCC	3196	78	20.91%
DSS	1985	49	12.99%
Grand Total	15280	375	99.98 100%

Source: Field Survey July, 2023

The study adopted both primary and secondary method of data collection while Random sampling Techniques was employed to select three hundred and seventy - five(375) survey participants that responded to questionnaires while Purposive sampling techniques was used to select five (5) interviewee's base on their expertise and experience on the subject under investigation. The study employs Simple Arithmetic mean and Triangulation as a method of Data presentation and analysis.

Theoretical Framework

Space Transition Theory

Jaishankar, (2008) developed Space Transition Theory (SPT) as a theory of Cybercrime because the general theoretical explanations of crime were found to be inadequate as an overall explanation for the phenomenon of Cybercrime. In a chapter publication titled 'Crimes of the Internet' Jaishankar develops the “Space Transition Theory” as an explanation about the nature of the behavior of the persons who bring out their conforming and non-conforming behavior in the physical space and

cyberspace. Space transition involves the movement of persons from one space to another (e.g., from physical space to cyberspace and vice versa). Space transition theory argues that, people behave differently when they move from one space to another. The Space Transition theory is hinged on seven major propositions; the first three is stated as follows;

- i. Persons, with repressed criminal behavior (in physical space) have a propensity to commit crime in cyberspace, which they would not otherwise commit in physical space due to their status and position.
- ii. Identity Flexibility, dissociative anonymity and the lack of deterrence in cyberspace provides the offenders with the choice to commit cybercrime
- iii. Criminal behavior of offenders in cyberspace is likely to be imported to Physical space which, may be exported to cyberspace as well.

The 'physical space' constitutes a 'moral community' governed by the regulated conduct of people by formal and informal mechanisms. This, in itself, serves to check the bogus manifestation of a deviant or

criminal act. However, a repressed youth within the physical space may elect to migrate to the 'virtual space' for uninhibited and unregulated conduct of behavior, which allows dissociative anonymity.

Space transition theory is relevant to this study because it helps to better explain the simplicity of the cyberspace and the

challenges of anonymity and poor deterrence associated with cybercrime in Nigeria. The second item of the theory specifically mentioned Identity Flexibility, dissociative anonymity and the lack of deterrence in cyberspace as factors that provides the offenders with the choice of committing cybercrime

Data Presentation and Discussion of Findings

Table: 1 Respondents views on the Question: Do you agree that through the following ways, Interpol Challenges in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria can be addressed?

The Challenges facing Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria	SA Freq. (%)	A Freq. (%)	U Freq. (%)	D Freq. (%)	SD Freq. (%)	Mean (x̄)	Remark
Increasing rate of Poverty and Unemployment	235(1,175) (62.6%)	126(504) (33.6%)	4(12) (1.1%)	9(18) (2.4%)	1(1) (0.3%)	4.5	Accepted
High level of Illiteracy and Poor Cyber Awareness	291(1,435) (77.6%)	61(204) (16.3%)	15(45) (4.0%)	7(14) (1.8%)	1(1) (0.3%)	4.5	Accepted
Political Interference	220(1,075) (58.6%)	72(268) (19.2%)	54(150) (14.4%)	19(38) (5.1%)	10(10) (2.7%)	4.1	Accepted
Cyber - Anonymity and Poor Deterrence factor	296(1,480) (78.9%)	43(172) (11.5%)	14(42) (3.7%)	19(38) (5.1%)	3(3) (0.8%)	4.6	Accepted
Inadequate Finance	320(1,600) (85.3%)	41(164) (10.9%)	6(36) (1.6%)	4(8) (1.1%)	4(4) (1.1%)	4.8	Accepted
Average Overall Mean						4.5	

Source: Field Survey July, 2023

In the Table 1 above is a statistical presentation of respondents views which revealed that Inadequate Finance is one of the most serious challenges facing Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria as overwhelming majority,320 representing 85.3% of the respondents strongly agreed and a mean value of 4.8 indicating that inadequate finance is a challenge to Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. This is also in agreement with Isah, (2022) who argued that Interpol like every other security organisation requires funds to enable it carry out some of it programs and

objectives. Cyber - Anonymity and Poor Deterrence factor is another Challenge facedby the Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria as it came second with mean value of 4.6 followed by Illiteracy and Poor Cyber Awareness, Poverty and Unemployment both with mean Value of 4.5 while Political Interference came behind with the lowest mean value of 4.1. The implication of the findings in table 1 above is that there are various challenges facing the Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria, but five of the major Challenges have been

identified in the order of seriousness as presented in the table above, this is represented by an overall mean score of 4.5

A key respondent revealed that; Challenges like lack of funding by government, lack of frequent Cybercrime Operations by law enforcement agencies, lack of public awareness, unemployment, poverty, poor legal framework, lack of stiffer punishment has made the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria very difficult. (IDI Female/43 years/Abuja)

Another respondent opined that; Laziness among the youth population, glorification of wealth without recourse to the

genuineness of source makes most of the youths prefer quick ways of making money, rather than go the hardworking way and lack of synergy among law enforcement agencies makes it difficult to dislodge the cybercriminals from their new found means of livelihood. (IDI Male/32 years/Abuja)

It could be revealed from the submissions of respondents above that funding is a very important factor that can enhance the Operational capacity and capabilities of the Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria.

Table: 2 Respondents views on the Question: Do you agree that through the following ways, Interpol Challenges in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria can be addressed?

Ways through which Interpol Challenges in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria can be addressed?	SA Freq. (%)	A Freq. (%)	U Freq. (%)	D Freq. (%)	SD Freq. (%)	Mean (\bar{x})	Remark
Training and capacity building	194(970) (51.7%)	110(440) (29.3%)	9(27) (2.4%)	61(122) (16.3%)	1(1) (0.3%)	4.2	Accepted
Increased Synergy and Intelligence Sharing	328(1,640) (87.5%)	30(120) (8%)	6(18) (1.6%)	7(14) (1.9%)	4(4) (1.1%)	4.8	Accepted
Political Neutrality	247(1,235) (65.9%)	67(268) (17.9%)	43(129) (11.5%)	8(16) (2.1%)	10(10) (2.6%)	4.4	Accepted
Increased Utilization of the Interpol platforms/tools	307(1,535) (81.8%)	43(172) (11.5%)	13(39) (3.5%)	9(18) (2.4%)	3(3) (0.8%)	4.7	Accepted
Increase Funding by Interpol Member States	336(1,680) (89.6%)	21(84) (5.6%)	10(30) (2.7%)	7(14) (1.9%)	1(1) (0.3%)	4.8	Accepted
Average Overall Mean						4.6	

Source: Field Survey July, 2023

Table 2 above reveals that Increase funding by Interpol member states, Synergy and Intelligence sharing are the major ways through which the Interpol challenges in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria can be addressed with the highest mean value of 4.8 each. Others include increased Utilization of the Interpol Platforms / tools with 4.7, Political Neutrality with

4.4, Training and Capacity building with the least mean value of 4.2. The major indications of this findings is that increase Funding for Interpol by Member states, Synergy and Intelligence Sharing is the most preferable ways Interpol can most effectively fight against cybercrime in Nigeria.

A key participant had mentioned this:

Nigeria cyber threat actors continue to cause a lot of damage in Nigeria and outside Nigeria, I believe a lot need to be done by Nigeria law enforcement agencies and stakeholders to fight the scourge of cybercrime in Nigeria, through synergy of all stakeholders and international collaboration. (IDI male/40 years/Abuja)

Another participant asserted:

The fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria cannot be fully achieved without extending the Interpol i24/7 tools to other relevant law enforcement agencies, such as the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Independent Corrupt practices and other related offences commission (ICPC) National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Correctional Services (NCS) same way it was extended to the Navy, EFCC, NDLEA and Immigration Service. Interpol is currently working on the MOU with these agencies for the extension of tools and services to their door steps (IDI/male/45 years/Abuja)

It can be understood from the above submissions of the two respondents that synergy among relevant law enforcement agencies in Nigeria as well as extension of the Interpol tools and services to other law enforcement agencies in Nigeria are very key in winning the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria. This is in agreement with the position of El-Raisi (2023) who observed that at the center of tackling Africa's Crime threats is the need for greater information sharing, the lifeblood of international police cooperation. He argued further that Africa member countries use of Interpol Databases

has traditionally lagged behind that of other world regions. On the level of success that could be achieved through synergy and intelligence sharing some of the key respondents stated as follows;

Since year 2019 INTERPOL, AFRIPOL, Nigeria Police Force, EFCC and other law enforcement agencies in Nigeria has collaborated through joint Cybercrime operations, intelligence sharing and capacity building at international level. The arrest and repatriation of the former Nigeria pension boss Mr. Abdulrasheed Maina from Dubai UAE by Interpol NCB Abuja and his subsequent conviction are some of the visible fruits of synergy and intelligence sharing (IDI/Female/40 years/Abuja)

Another respondent noted that

Interpol NCB Abuja, achieved a lot of successes with the help of Interpol general secretariat in Lyon France, some of these achievements are recorded through joint operation with other law enforcement agencies such as with Nigerian Navy titled; Operation 30 days in Sea which yielded many positive result with arrest and prosecution of Sea pirates. Operation Hiati 1, 2 and 3 with Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) which lead to the arrest and prosecution of several cyber threat actors and their networks across the world. Through Joint operation and intelligence Sharing we are able to bring down notorious syndicates of business email compromise - BEC especially

during the covid-19 period
(IDI/Male/51 years/Abuja)

The two responses above underscore the importance of synergy and intelligence sharing in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. This to a very large extent lays credence to the questionnaire responses above which believes that Increase Synergy and intelligence sharing is one of the most significant ways through which Interpol can most effectively fight against cybercrime in Nigeria with overwhelming majority 336(89.6%) respondents strongly agreed. Increased Utilization of the Interpol Platforms such as i24/7, Notices, activities of the Bureau of Deportation and Extradition recorded second highest mean value of 4.7 followed by political neutrality with 4.4 and Training and capacity building with 4.2

Summary of Findings

The study established that there are avalanche of challenges confronting Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. It identified five major challenges as poverty and unemployment, illiteracy and poor cyber awareness, political interference, cyber-anonymity and poor deterrence factor and inadequate finance. The result of findings revealed that Inadequate Finance, Cyber-anonymity and poor deterrence factor are the most serious challenges confronting the Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria as they have the highest entry with mean value of 4.8 and 4.6 respectively. Followed by Illiteracy and Poor Cyber Awareness, Poverty and Unemployment both with mean Value of 4.5 while Political Interference came behind with the lowest mean value of 4.1

It is equally revealed that Increase funding by Interpol member states, Synergy and Intelligence sharing are the major ways through which the Interpol challenges in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria can be addressed as the highest mean value of respondents(4.8 each) adopted Increase Funding, Synergy and Intelligence sharing as the way out. Others ways suggested to

address the challenges includes increased Utilization of the Interpol Platforms /tools with 4.7, Political Neutrality with 4.4, Training and Capacity building with the least mean value of 4.2. The major indications of this findings is that increase Funding for Interpol by Member states, Synergy and Intelligence Sharing is the most preferable ways Interpol can most effectively fight against cybercrime in Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendation

From the findings and the discussions above, the study found that; inadequate finance, cyber-anonymity and poor deterrence factor are the most serious challenges that have bedeviled Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. Illiteracy and Poor Cyber Awareness, Poverty, Unemployment and Political Interference are also some of the challenges identified that need to be addressed.

To effectively address the Interpol Challenges in the Fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria the study recommends as follows;

- i. That, Interpol member countries, stakeholders and partners should promptly fulfill their financial obligations to the organisation in line with the Interpol Constitution to enable it carry out its programs and activities effectively by helping the Law enforcement agencies fight the menace of Cybercrime in Nigeria.
- ii. That all law enforcement agencies involved in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria should adopt Increase Synergy, Intelligence Sharing and Utilization of the Interpol platforms/tools in order to effectively deal with the level of Cyber anonymity and poor deterrence as well as other challenges that has bedeviled Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria and for effective result.

References

Adebayo, H. B., & Ojedokun, U. A. (2018). Trajectories of University of Ibadan

- undergraduates' exposure to cyber pornography. *Journal of Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences*, 12(1), 140–152.
- Adepetun, A. (2020) 9,000 suffer from malware attacks in Nigeria. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://guardian.ng/business-services/9000suffer-fresh-malware-attacks-in-nigeria/> 2020, January 31
- Akinbayo, O. O. (2001) The Place of Interpol In The control Of Transnational Organised Crime. *A course Essay Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Cadet ASP Rank* at Academic board of Police staff College, Jos-Nigeria.
- Akuta, E. A, Ong'oa I. M & Jones C. R (2011) Combating Cybercrime in Sub-Saharan Africa; A Discourse on Law, Policy and Practice. *Journal of peace, Gender and Development Studies Vol. 1(4) pp129-137*. <http://www.interestjournals.org/JPGDS>
- Al-Raisi A. N. (2023) Speech Delivered by Interpol President at the 26th African Regional Conference, 3-5 October, 2023 at Luanda, Angola. <https://www.interpol.int/en/news-and-events/news/2023>
- Auwal, A. M. (2023) Cybercrime and Cyber security in Nigeria: Overview and Rate, university of Jos Creative common attribution License, research square, <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs3307532/v1>
- Awhefeada U. V. and Bernice O. O. (2021) 'Appraising the laws Governing the control of Cybercrime in Nigeria' *journal of law and criminal justice*, 8(1)2020, pg 30-49
- Chinonso, M., Alawari, B., & Sunday, S. (2020). Socioeconomic correlates of youth's involvement in cybercrime: perceptions of residents in Onitsha South LGA, Anambra State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Reviews*, 10(3)66-79
- Felson, M., & Clarke, R. V. G. (1998). Opportunity makes the thief: Practical theory for crime prevention (Vol. 98). Home Office, Policing and Reducing Crime Unit, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate.
- Frank I. & Odunayo E, (2013) Approach to Cyber Security Issues In Nigeria: Challenges and Solution. (IJCRSEE) *International Journal of Cognitive Research in Science, engineering and Education Vol. 1 No. 1 2013*. www.ijcree.com
- Harkin, D., Whelan, C., & Chang, L. (2018). The challenges facing specialist police cyber-crime units: An empirical analysis. *Police Practice and Research*, 19(6), 519–536.
- Holt, T.J. & Bossler, A.M. (2015). An assessment of the current state of cybercrime Scholarship. *Deviant Behaviour*, 35: 1, 20-40.
- Holt, T. J., & Lee, J. R. (2019). Policing cybercrime through law enforcement and industry mechanisms. *The Oxford Handbook of Cyberpsychology*.
- Gloria O. (2022) Nigeria Cybercrime Landscape. *third quarter 2022 report*, Nigeria Police Force National Cyber Crime Center (NPF-NCCC) Abuja.
- Interpol (2021) Interpol's contribution to the elaboration of a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/AdHocCommittee/First_session/Comments/IGOs/21COM1175-SRIUN_Use Information_CriminalPurposes_complet.pdf
- Koziarski, J., & Lee, J. R. (2020). Connecting evidence-based policing and cybercrime. *Policing: An International Journal*, 43(1), 198–211.
- Kshetri N. (2019) Cybercrime and Cybersecurity in Africa. *Journal of global information technology management*. DOI:10.1080/1097198.2019.1603527
- Mertens & Hesse-Biber (2012) Triangulation and Mixed Method

- Research: Provocative Positions. *Journal of mixed method research* 6(2) 75-79
- Morgan S. & Calif S. (2020) Special Report: Cyber Warfare in the C-suite
- Odinma, C. A, MIEEE (2010) Cybercrime and Cert Issues & Probable Policies for Nigeria. *DBI Presentation Nov1-2*
- Ogbonna, M. (2020) Cybercrime in Nigeria Demands Public-private action. *Institute for Security Studies*. <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/cybercrime-in-nigeria>
- Ojedokun, U. A. (2021). COVID-19 pandemic lockdown enforcement: Strategies of the Nigeria Police Force and lessons for the future. *Salus Journal – Law Enforcement, National Security and Emergency Management*, 9(2), 16–26.
- Ojedokun, A& Oshilaja, A. (2022). Cybercrime Policing in the Lagos State Command of the Nigeria Police Force. *SALUS Journal*, 10(2), 34-48
- Ojedokun, U. A., & Ilori, A. A. (2021). Tools, techniques and underground networks of Yahoo-boys in Ibadan city, Nigeria. *International Journal of Criminal Justice*, 3, 1–24.
- Okonji E. (2022) Cyber Security Expert Predicts Increase in Cyber Attacks in 2022 <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/01/06/cyber-security-expert-predicts-increase-in-cyber-attacks-in-2022/> retrieved Thursday, 23rd June 2022.
- Oluwadare, C., T,Oluwasanmi, L. A.,& Igbekoyi, K. E., (2018). **prevalence and forms of cybercrime perpetrated by students in public tertiary institutions in Ekiti State.** *International Journal of Economics, Business and Management Research*, 2(4), 568-586
- Omodunbi, P. O. (2016). Cybercrimes in Nigeria: Analysis, detection and prevention. *Journal of Engineering and Technology*, 1, (1) 37-42
- Paki S. I. (2022) Internet Subscribers in Nigeria exceeds 150Millions <https://dailytrust.com/internet-subscribers-in-nigeria-exceed-150m-nc>. Retrieved 4th June, 2023
- Peters, S. E., & Ojedokun, U. A. (2019). Social media utilization for policing and crime prevention in Lagos, Nigeria. *Journal of Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences*, 13(1), 11.
- Police Executive Research Forum. (2014). *The role of local law enforcement agencies in preventing and investigating cybercrime*. Police Executive Research Forum.
- This Day. (2016, April 16). Nigeria loses over N127bn annually through cybercrime. Retrieved from <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2016/04/19/nigeria-loses-over-n127bn-annually-through-cybercrime/>
- Thomas, D., & Loader, B. (2020). Introduction. In D. Thomas & B. Loader (eds.), *Cyber Crime: Law Enforcement, Security and Surveillance in the Information Age* (pp. 1-13). London: Routledge.
- Timothy, A.O. & Afia E.S. (2013) International Police (Interpol) and Crime Control in the West African Sub-Region. *American Journal of Social Issues and Humanities*. AJSIH/ISSN:2276-6928
- Umeh, J. (2020, February 5). Cyber security: 9, 000 Nigerians attacked by malware in 2019. *Vanguard*. Retrieved from <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/02/cyber-security-9-000-nigeriansattacked-by-malware-in-2019/>
- Wall, D. S. (2007). *Cyber Crime*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.
- Whelan, C., & Harkin, D. (2019). Civilianizing specialist units: Reflections on the policing of cybercrime. *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, Doi: 10.1177/1748895819874866