

Digital Divide Between Developed and Less-Developed Countries: The Way Forward

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ABSTRACT This paper examines the imbalances in the availability and usage of information technology infrastructure between developed and industrialized countries of the North and the less – developed countries of the South. The term ‘digital divide’ and the factors responsible for it were exhaustively discussed. The developed countries of the North were known for their level of wealth, advanced information, communication and technological innovations as well as stable governance. On the other hand, we have under-developed countries of the South, which are geographically located in Africa and most parts of Asia that have not shown much improvement on most fronts of development, especially when considered on a global scale. To avoid marginalization, various factors to assist African countries to face the challenges of the information society were extensively discussed. Various efforts in Africa finally gave birth to African Information Society Initiatives (AISII). This later resulted in the development of the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI), which is an action framework to build African information and communication infrastructure. The paper finally recommends policy guidelines and strategies for establishing infrastructure frameworks for 21st century Informatics Technology.