Computer technology is essential in our contemporary society, especially as it is believed to have potential for making global planning, shopping, bank-ing, education and many more human activities easier. However, it is commonly believed that older people do not seem to be so eager to embrace the computer technology as are younger ones[1]. This study investigated older Nigerians knowledge about and attitudes towards computer. Questionnaires were distributed to 178 retirees who usually collect their monthly pension at Nsukka Local Government Treasury Office. In the questionnaire 12 items were used to measure knowledge while 9 items were used to measure attitudes. Findings show that majority of them (73.6%) have knowledge about computers while more than half (56.7%) possess positive attitude towards computers. The study also found that older Nigerians (71+) have less knowledge about computers (P<.022) and also have more negative attitudes towards computers (P<.018) than older Nigerians aged 60-70 years. Also sex and level of education were found not to have an effect on knowledge about or attitude towards computers. In addition, the study reveals that some respondents have negative attitudes towards computer because they see it as a instrument that corrupts young people resulting from pornography in the internet and advance fee fraud in the internet. The study also discusses the implications of the findings for policy makers, mainly in order to subsidize computers and make them more affordable by all.

References

1. U.O. Okoye, D.S. Obikeze. Journal of Applied Gerontology 2005;24:439-452