

AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES BY STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN YOBE STATE NIGERIA.

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Abstract

This study examined the availability and utilization Electronic Resources by students in academic libraries in Yobe State, Nigeria. The objectives of the study determined the availability of electronic resources in university libraries, the level of electronic resources use by students in university libraries and the factors affecting electronic resources usage by students in all the three tertiary institutions libraries. The study used survey research design. The research design used was a descriptive survey. The study population consisted of 9481 students drawn from the three institutions of this study. Sample size of 370 students was drawn using research advisor table using a simple random sampling technique. Checklist and questionnaire were used as data collection instruments. The instrument was validated and the reliability of the pretest was $r=0.84$. The 328 Data that was collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentage scores, giving us a response rate of 93%. The study unveiled that the electronic resources were found to be available from the three institution libraries, furthermore, the study revealed that the level of e-resources utilization also clearly indicates moderately used in the three institution libraries. Consequently, the study also showed that all the outline factors have effect on student's e-resources usage in these three institution libraries especially slow internet connectivity, power outage and insufficient computers. Therefore, it is recommended that the institution libraries should often make electronic resources available for students to utilize since the world is currently on technology mode and all the challenges should be addressed.

Keywords, Availability, Utilization, Electronic, Resources, University, Library

Introduction

Academic libraries are institutions that are established to take care of the information need of students, lecturers, researchers and other community of scholars. The reason for setting up the library is to provide information service to its users. Academic libraries are found in post-secondary institutions such as universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. Academic library has a critical role to play in supporting the core mission of these higher institutions of learning which are teaching, learning and research. They are key components of any institution in that they support institutional curricular by meeting information needs of students, staff and other researchers who might be resident outside the academic community. System of library is changing as libraries, especially academic libraries are now embracing electronic library system thereby encouraging the use of electronic library resources

Electronic resources can be defined as the electronic representation of information which can be accessed via electronic system and computer network (Johnson, Evensen, Gelfand, Lammers, Sipe & Zilper, 2012). They further stated that electronic resources can be seen as the most recent development in information technology and that they are available in various forms like e-books, online journal magazine, e-learning tutors and online test because of the effective presentation with multimedia tools, these e-resources have become the source of information. Electronic resources deliver the collection of information as full text (aggregated) databases, e-journals, image collections, multimedia in the form of CD, tape, internet, web technology, etc. In the Nigerian university context, Badu and Markwei (2015) observed that the availability of electronic resources depends on the availability of funds as well as the demand for their use. Rosenberg (2005) noted that access of Nigerian university libraries to the EBSCO Host online database was first made possible by NULIB Consult, which is a consortium for the Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities (CULNU).

In 2002, the continued subscription of Nigerian University Libraries to EBSCO Host was taken over by the Education Trust Fund (ETF) from 2005-2010. In a study conducted by Liverpool John Moore University (LJMU) on the provision of electronic resources in Nigerian university libraries, Ashcroft and Watts (2005) examined the reason for inadequate existing of electronic resources and electronic resources development and management by librarian, the study finds inadequacy of funds for the projects, unstable electricity supply, lack of written policy framework guidelines for the project, lack of maintenance, fear of copy-right violation,

and non- availability of training programmes for up-dating of skills of staff. They further pointed out that funding has been identified as the most crucial factor for success in every initiative including digitization project.

Statement of the Problem

Before now, information resources were mainly in paper forms. At present, Information is presented in electronic form and the need to make them readily available and accessible to all became an issue and in a bid to overcome this brought about the need for an alternative media for holding and propagating information resources. Several efforts were made until the emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the early 1990s, which brought about the change to cope with the rising volume of information. With the Internet and other electronic resources. Information can be stored in one place and be made simultaneously available to all for usage. It is worthy of note that, electronic resources are of great importance to the academic and research needs of undergraduates, since they are available in various formats in libraries.

From early investigation of the researcher, it was discovered that students in Yobe State tertiary instructions do not utilize electronic resources. Printed sources are never enough due to the growing number of students in the institutions. Further investigation by the researcher, indicates that, students lack the information literacy skills of evaluating the authenticity of retrieved electronic resources. However, observations also shown that users seem not to be utilizing these e-resources available to them, could it be that they are not aware of these electronic resources and if they are aware why is it that usage is hindered, if usage is not hindered then could it be that users' are not satisfied with the electronic resources in the library. Therefore, this study seeks to examine availability and utilization electronic resources by students' in university libraries in some selected tertiary institution in Yobe state, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were to determine:

1. The availability of electronic resources in Yobe State tertiary institutions libraries
2. The level of electronic resources use by students in Yobe State tertiary institutions libraries

3. The factors affecting electronic resources usage by students in Yobe State tertiary institutions libraries.

Literature review

The problems of availability of e-resources uses by students as technical problems that is, poor telecommunication link, trained technical staff to help students are inadequate, poor attitude to the training of professional staff and administrative problem. Imo and Igbo (2011) citing Rosenberg (2009) identified lack of funds among students to buy airtime to access e-resources and lack of written policy framework on the part of the academic libraries, non-availability of training programmes for updating staff skills in order to meet needs of students that are ICT illiterate and power supply. Alkhezzi (2012) reported that students have problems with access to e-resources according to them there are still insufficient computers in most institutions for the number of students who want to use them, especially at peak times. Inadequately provided personal computers can make it difficult for people to access internet and e-resources.

E-resources serve as a motivating factor to students as it provides them opportunity to transmit, acquire or download, process and disseminate information on a subject of interest. E-resources offer today students greater opportunities that are quite different from their predecessors (Ray & Day, 2003). Other uses according to authors include the fact that “e-resources are often faster than consulting print indexes especially when searching retrospectively and they are straight forward when wishing to use combination of keywords. They open up the possibility of searching multiple files at one time, a feat accomplished more easily than when using printed equivalents. It could be said that “improved data transmission facilities will go a long way to reduce the incessant hardship faced by students in the acquisition and generation of data which serves as the basis for research and academic performance improvement (Day& Bartle, 2003). This is because the use of digital information by students of today enhances their performance in academic activities. Furthermore, Day and Bartle, (2003) revealed that the academic community has accepted that electronic information resources have an impact on their work.

Velmurugan (2012) argue that the availability of electronic information resources in the university libraries does not reflect among students due to inadequate infrastructures and lack of

skills. Essentially, every university across the globe are investing heavily on electronic information resources since today world operate more on digital.

However, services currently available to academic staff and students are not being used to their full potential and some are hardly being used at all. Waldman (2003) when drawing inference from Bandura's position asserted that students with high self-efficacy regarding computers would also be more likely to explore new technologies, software or databases. Additionally, they would be more likely, for example, to explore a library's website and find that the library has specialized resources and they might even try some searches on those resources without, or with less, prompting from professors or librarians and without necessary taking library workshops." General user opinion towards the use of electronic resources, in particular, CD-ROM, has been positive, with students enjoying using these sources and finding relatively few problems while using them. An important factor that influences the use of electronic resources when they are provided is the user's awareness of their availability in the library. But how does the library make patrons aware of resources that occupy no traditional shelf space and how does it determine what kind of patron support are needed in the new electronic realm?

In view of this Weingart and Anderson (2009) reported that since electronic resources occupy no traditional shelf space, the best way to create awareness for their availability in libraries is for libraries to inform users (students) of each new resource as it is acquired, provide training opportunities for library users (students) and the mechanics of remote access to resources. Furthermore, Adeniran, (2013) conducted a survey where some e-resource Collection in Redeemer's University Library where mention, such resources includes. Interne source, Online Databases, CD-ROM, OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) and E-Journals. Bassi (2011) Furthermore, Sukula (2010) submitted that various types of e-resources used in higher institution libraries are; database, e-journal, e-books, e-news, e-image, e-music and sound collection, data/GIS, academic commons, e-reference, subject guides. It needs noting that emergence of electronic resources has tremendously transformed information handling and management in Nigerian academic environments and University libraries in particular (Ani and Ahiauzu, 2008).

Methodology

The research design used for this study is survey design. This will help the researcher to determine Availability and Utilization of electronic resources by Students in Yobe State tertiary institutions libraries, Nigeria. The population of this study consists of 4,429 registered library users of federal polytechnic Damaturu 1,468 registered library users of Mai Idriss Aloomaa Polytechnic Geidam and 3,584 registered library users of College of Education Gashua, Simple random sampling technique was used to obtain data from the respondents. Research advisor table 2006 was used to determine the sampling size which gave three hundred and seventy respondents 370 at confidence of 95% and margin of error of 5.0% A total of three hundred and seventy Questionnaires were distributed to the respondents and 328 were retrieved and found usable, all the data were analyzed using frequency count and percentage.

Table: Demographic Information in Respondents

| School | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Mai Idriss Aloomaa polytechnic Geidam | 48 | 14.63% |
| Federal polytechnic Damaturu | 149 | 45.43% |
| College of Education Gashua | 131 | 39.94% |
| Total | 328 | 100.0% |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 200 | 61% |
| Female | 128 | 39% |
| Total | 328 | 100.0% |
| Age | | |
| < 20 years | 55 | 16.8% |
| 20 - 30 years | 158 | 48.2% |
| 31 - 40 years | 98 | 29.8% |
| 41- 50 years | 15 | 4.6% |
| > 50 years | 2 | 0.6% |

| | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Total | 328 | 100.0% |
| Level | | |
| 100 | 68 | 20.7% |
| 200 | 92 | 28.0% |
| 300 | 72 | 22% |
| 400 | 96 | 29.3% |
| Total | 328 | 100.0% |

Research Question 1: What are the types of electronic resources available in Yobe state tertiary institutions?

Table: Electronic resources availability

| N/S | e-resource | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----|------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | e-mail | 34 | 10.4 |
| 2 | Internet-website | 52 | 15.9 |
| 3 | CD-ROM | 20 | 6.1 |
| 4 | e-encyclopedias | 21 | 6.4 |
| 5 | e-news paper | 26 | 7.9 |
| 6 | e-dictionary | 14 | 4.3 |
| 7 | e-journal | 63 | 19.2 |
| 8 | e-book | 38 | 11.6 |
| 9 | Computer | 60 | 18.2 |
| | Total | 328 | 100.0% |

In response to availability of e-resources in the two university libraries, Table 4.3.2 shows response of respondents with 34(10.4%) agreed on e-mail availability, 52(15.9%) agreed that Internet-website is available, 20(6.1%) agreed on the availability of CD-ROM, 21(6.4%)

agreed on e-encyclopedias availability,26(7.9%) agreed on the availability of e-newspaper, 14(4.3%) agreed on the availability of e-dictionary,63(19.2%) agreed on availability of e-journal, 38(11.6%) agreed on e-book availability, 60(18.2%) agreed on computer availability. The result shows that all the e-resources display on the table are available for students in the university libraries but its accessibility and utilization varies among the users.

Research Question: What is the level of electronic resources usage in Yobe state tertiary institutions?

Table: level of electronic resources usage

| N/S | Option | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | Highly Used | 96 | 29.3 |
| 2 | Moderately Used | 116 | 35.3 |
| 3 | Lowly Used | 62 | 18.9 |
| 4 | Not Used | 54 | 16.5 |
| | Total | 328 | 100.0% |

In response to the level of students electronic resources utilization in two university libraries, Table shows response of respondents with 96(29.2%) indicating highly used and 116(35.3%) moderately used, 62(18.9%) were of lowly used while 54(16.5%) do not use electronic resources. The dominate response are respondents with moderately used of electronic resources usage among students. Therefore, the implications of the output statistics indicate that students are under using electronic resources in the two university libraries.

Research Question 3: What are the factors affecting electronic resources usage in Yobe state tertiary institutions?

Table: the factors affecting your internet and electronic resources usage

| N/S | statements | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Insufficient computers | 63 | 19.2 |
| 2 | Incessant power outage | 60 | 18.3 |
| 3 | Slow internet connectivity | 65 | 19.8 |

| | | | |
|---|--|------------|---------------|
| 4 | Lack of IT skills | 46 | 14.0 |
| 5 | Irrelevant contents of e-resources on the internet | 43 | 13.1 |
| 7 | Poor ICT infrastructure | 51 | 15.5 |
| | Total | 328 | 100.0% |

In terms of the factors affecting students Internet and electronic resources usage in the three institution libraries, Table above shows response of respondents which constitute 63(19.2%) indicates insufficient computers, 60(18.3%) revealed incessant power outage while 65(19.8%) showed slow internet connectivity, 46(14.0%) responded to lack of IT skills, 43(13.1%) posit irrelevant contents of electronic resources on the internet, 51(15.5%) revealed of poor ICT infrastructure respectively. The statistic implication of the result display above shows that all the outline factors have effect on student's accessibility and utilization of Internet and electronic resources in the two university libraries.

Discussion of findings

This study examined availability and utilization of electronic resources by students in all the three tertiary institutions libraries, on the basis of the availability of e-resources in the university libraries, the level of e-resources use in the university libraries and the factors affecting e-resources usage in in all the three tertiary institutions libraries.

In determining availability of e-resources, findings of the study shows that e-mail, Internet-website, CD-ROM, e-encyclopedias, e-dictionary, e-journal, e-book, computer, e-newspaper are available in the study area. The result shows that students frequently utilize computer, internet and e-journal. The result was support by the study of Obasike Umeji and Kurbu (2010). They revealed electronic resources: affording Nigerian academic libraries a competitive edge. Velmurugan (2012) argue that the availability of electronic information resources in the university libraries does not reflect among students due to inadequate infrastructures and lack of skills.

In determining level of e-resources usage, the findings indicate moderately used in both universities with the outcome of 116(35.3%). The finding shows irrelevant contents of e-

resources on the Internet and poor ICT infrastructure as factors that led to this level of utilization. Hence, the study result is in consonance with the study of Urhiewhu (2015) who revealed factors militating against the use of digital information resources by undergraduates in Delta and Edo States and Okore (2005) who unveiled the challenges of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Nigerian academic libraries.

In assessing the factors affecting students e-resources usage in their university library, the finding shows insufficient computers, incessant power outage, slow internet connectivity, lack of ICT skills, irrelevant contents of e-resources on the Internet, unavailability of internet and e-resources, poor ICT infrastructure and lack of time to be the major challenges in Internet and e-resources utilization among students in the study area. From the finding, the result is in line with the study of Omekwu (2002) who revealed the challenges of information systems in modern libraries. Another study that corroborates with this finding is Okore (2005) that explore the challenges of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Nigerian academic libraries. From the statistic findings unveiled by Emeka and Nyeche (2016) when comparing based on problem encounter by students via the use of internet and e-resource were 111(56%) said they faced the problem of slow internet speed, 31(16%) said they faced the problem of power failure, 27(14%) said they had poor computer skills and 45(23%) said they had challenges in paying for online services.

Recommendations

In the light of the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were made;

1. The two university libraries have e-resources available for student's usage according to the study findings hence it is recommended that libraries should be consistent in updating their database for current e-journal, article and e-thesis.
2. Since the result of e-resources usage among students also shows moderately used and the universities goal of providing Internet for students is to access e-resources for assignment, seminar, term paper and research, it is recommended that insufficient computers, incessant power outage, slow internet connectivity, lack of ICT skills and poor ICT infrastructure should be addressed for maximal utilization of e-resource and fast internet connectivity.

3. Finally, the finding shows that all the outline factors affecting student's e-resources usage are available in both university libraries; therefore, it is recommended that funding of libraries on part of e-library should be made adequate enough to manage all the challenges simultaneously for students to properly access and utilize Internet since the current age is driving digitally

Conclusion

Based on this study, the study concluded that Electronic resources are available for students to access and utilizes it in all the three tertiary institutions libraries. E-resource such as e-mail, Internet-website, CD-ROM, e-encyclopedias, e-dictionary, e-journal, e-book, Computer, e-newspaper were also moderately used. Therefore, the under-utilization of e-resource among students has a link to the underlying factors that affect Internet. Numerous factors like insufficient computers, incessant power outage, slow internet connectivity, lack of it skills, irrelevant contents of e-resources on the internet and poor ICT infrastructure that hinder students Internet access and utilization were revealed to be available in in all the three tertiary institutions libraries

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