

**LIBRARIANS' ACCESS AND UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION
RESOURCES IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN DELTA STATE, NIGERIA.**

By

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Abstract

This study revealed how librarians in university libraries in Delta State, Nigeria, were able to access digital resources. Data was collected for the study through a well self-structured questionnaire that consist of 73 items, based on descriptive research design. The researcher used the stratified random sampling technique for the purpose of choosing the university libraries. A total of 200 librarians was chosen from four strategically placed libraries in Delta State, which are Delta State University, Delta State University of Science and Technology, and University of Delta, all in Delta State. The seven preset research subjects served as the basis for the study. The Cronbach's Alpha Guttman splithalf Coefficient of 0.97 indicated that the instrument exhibited a good degree of dependability. It was also highly advised that governments and the Institution's authorities provide internet and ICT infrastructure in order to ensure that electronic materials are widely accessible and used effectively and efficiently.

Keywords: Delta State, University Libraries, University Librarians, Access, E-resources

Introduction

The library serves as a user-centric organization that satisfies its clients' information demands and is widely recognized as a significant institution in the advancement of civilization. In order to accomplish the goals of their respective institutions, academic libraries are frequently required to assist the educational operations. The university libraries seeks out collections of printed and digital materials, placing equal emphasis on quantity and quality. These collections are meant to support a variety of goals, such as research, education, investigation, and leisure activities (Weber and Flatley, 2008). Libraries are digitizing their resources and making full manuscript or pictures available to patrons through websites and CD-ROMs. Digital collections typically include content that has been carefully selected locally and offer unrestricted access to hard-to-get resources.

The notions of electronic resources have started due to the rapid advancement of technologies. Electronic collection, according to Shukla and Mishra (2011), is the process of gathering data which can be obtained through electronic means. The information environment has changed drastically since the arrival of electronic resources. Nowadays, it is uncommon to find a conventional library that does not make use of electronic resources, whether they are available for free or demand a monthly fee. It is generally agreed upon that electronic materials are vital resources for libraries and schools. Digital resources have already supplanted physical holdings in several libraries. Electronic resources are materials that are solely accessible through computers, such as desktops, laptops, tablets, or handheld mobile devices (IFLA, 2012). They can be viewed locally or remotely over the internet. Digital periodicals, digital publications, large text databases, summarizing and classification databases, databases for reputable sources (biographies, dictionaries, directories, and encyclopedias), databases for numbers and statistics, digital photos, and digital audiovisual materials that are frequently encountered.

Libraries work hard to provide their patrons with access to digital materials and to the most recent advancements in the subjects that interest them. Access to electronic content over the Internet is becoming increasingly important due to the advantages it offers over more conventional media, including CD-ROMs, as well as advancements in web technology. Technology has made a variety of electronic materials available in a variety of formats within university libraries. Terms like digital material, e-books, journal consortiums, electronic libraries with e-journals, open access and digital libraries, have become more common in today's library system in addition to traditional print or analogue resources (Chaudhuri, 2012).

Statement of the Problem

It is important to understand that university libraries purchase large amounts of electronic content. The researchers' first inquiry revealed that although the subscribed electronic resources are available to library users, they are not effectively utilized by the librarians in charge of their supervision. Some librarians lack adequate knowledge of the availability of electronic materials in the library. The primary hindrance to accessibility was the insufficiency of infrastructure resources, including computers and bandwidth. Examining the accessibility and use of electronic resources for librarians employed by university libraries in Delta State, Nigeria, was the aim of this study. As a result, the study was conducted to investigate the elements influencing the limited use and inadequate accessibility to electronic resources.

Research Questions

1. Research Question One: Which electronic resources do librarians in University Libraries use in Delta State, Nigeria use to ?
2. Research question Two: What are the databases and e-resources accessed by librarians in university libraries in Delta State, Nigeria?
3. Research Question 3: Where do librarians in University Libraries in Delta State, Nigeria employ electronic resources?
4. Research Question 4: What are the Purposes of the utilization of electronic resources by librarians at university libraries in Delta State, Nigeria?
5. Research Question 5: What are the benefits of accessing e-resources by the Librarians

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sivakami and Rajendran (2019) define e-resources as computer-accessible materials or electronic devices that hold a body of data. This category includes full-text databases, electronic journals, picture collections, multimedia products, and data in tabular, graphical, or time-based formats. The term "resources" refers to a variety of digital materials, including full-text publications, abstracts, online collections, databases, websites, and electronic journals, Books, Newspaper Databases, Magazines, Theses, dictionaries and Encyclopedias. These resources serve as alternatives to traditional print media. There is an abundance of easily accessible information in many educational settings these days. In a nutshell, they are digital resources made up of papers that are accessible over the Internet. These resources are available in a number of formats, such as e-books, online collection, journals, magazines, e-learning tutors, e-journals for online exams, and email-based online chats. They provide a wide range of data collections, including text, picture collections, and different multimedia products like graphs and numbers. Among the many online databases available are Emerald, Ebscohost, Research4life, Directory of Open Access Journals and Books, and Jstor. Libraries need to offer services that work with the wide variety of media devices that their patrons use, including laptops, PCs, smartphones, tablets, and mobile phones, in order to remain relevant in the modern information era.

The following are some advantages of utilizing open access journals, as stated by Okoye & Ejikeme (2010): It makes quoting published scholarly literature more common. Publications are freely accessible to authors, increasing the impact of their work. Scholars can read

publications online for free, providing them with the necessary literature for their research. Additionally, this initiative advances career advancement. It offers excellent intellectual labor. Students make use of these online resources for three primary purposes, according to Ray and Day (1998), as reported by Ugwu and Orsu (2017): to access a greater variety of information, to receive information more quickly, and to enjoy faster access to information. The advancements of these technologies are directly responsible for the current information era.

The advent of Information Technology has brought about a significant transformation in the domains of education, learning, and research. Daramola (2016) asserts that the integration of online resources in university libraries aims to broaden the range of information accessible and improve the content by making it available on digital platforms. This enables students, researchers, and all university community members to conveniently access materials from any location and at any time. According to Khan (2012), e-journal access is usually provided by either the publisher or its aggregators. E-journals have significantly broadened the availability of scientific literature that was previously constrained by geographical boundaries, consequently providing libraries with unparalleled opportunities. An advantage of electronic resources is their lack of physical space requirements, allowing access from any remotely connected computer within the institution's network. Daramola further claims that the library within the university systems possesses the essential infrastructure and internet amenities to enhance students' ability to access online materials. Electronic resources can be accessible round the clock without being hindered by geographical barriers, enabling convenient access to information readily available.

E-journals, being a form of electronic resources, gives the benefit of doing thorough searches and downloading entire articles.

Research Method

A descriptive survey research design was used in the study. Two hundred librarians were chosen from among the four carefully chosen universities in Delta State: Delta University Abraka, Delta State University of Science and Technology, Dennis Osadebay University, and University of Delta. The primary data collection tool for the study was a questionnaire. There were two distinct portions of the questionnaire. A total of 200 copies of the questionnaire were administered to respondents; 161 of these were returned. A frequency table was utilized for data analysis in order to ascertain the corresponding percentages. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences was used to conduct the analysis (SPSS 23).

Results

Research Question One: Which electronic resources do librarians in University Libraries use in Delta State, Nigeria use to ?

Table 1: Electronic resources utilized by librarians

E-resources Used by librarians	DELSU	UNIDEL	DSUST	DOU	Mean
E-Journals	70	56	25	10	3.34
E-Books	72	33	45	11	3.12
Full text Database	67	41	43	10	2.85
Indexing and Abstract Database	78	52	20	11	3.58
Reference Database	70	30	42	19	3.21
E-Dictionaries	61	40	42	18	3.02
E-Directories	49	85	13	14	3.22

E-Encyclopedias	65	35	41	20	3.17
Numerical and Statistical	58	63	40	20	3.25
E-Images	67	64	21	9	3.50
E-Audio/Visual	76	41	84	0	2.84
Aggregate Mean					3.19
Criterion Mean					2.50

Key* DELSU= Delta State University, Abraka
 DSUST= Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro
 UNIDEL= University of Delta, Agbor
 DOU= Dennis Ossadabay University, Asaba

Librarians in the Delta State agree that they are able to use the electronic resources that are made available, based on Table 2. The fact that the mean score of 3.19 is higher than the required minimum score of 2.50 is indicative of this. Of all the e-resources that have been identified, E-images (3.45) is by far the most often accessed. The E-Indexing and Abstract Database (ranked at 3.58), E-journals (rated at 3.34), E-directories (rated at 3.22), and other frequently used tools are also available. The most plausible explanation at that, compared to E-Audio/Visual materials, librarians use them mostly for reference.

Research question Two: Table 2: What are the databases and e-resources accessed by librarians in university libraries in Delta State, Nigeria?

Table 2: The databases and e-resources accessed by librarians in university libraries in Delta State, Nigeria

Database-resources accessed by librarians	DELSU	UNIDEL	DSUST	DOU	Mean
Google Scholar	76	50	22	13	3.31
Ebscohost	62	38	52	9	3.49
Jstor	57	46	49	9	3.51
DOAJ	78	32	30	21	3.39
DOAB	55	35	47	24	2.92

Research Gate	66	30	47	18	2.92
Academia edu	59	65	22	15	3.01
Youtube	55	45	51	10	3.19
OPAC	48	68	45	20	3.38
Research4life	67	54	30	10	3.40
Institutional E-Repository	66	51	64	20	2.13
Aggregate Mean/SD					3.15
Criterion Mean					2.50

With an average rating of 3.15, Table 3 shows that librarians use electronic resources from the designated databases. The fact that the score is higher than the cut-off mean of 2.50 suggests that university library librarians do, in fact, use e-resource databases. The most commonly accessed databases were Jstor (3.51), Research4life (3.40), Ebscohost (3.49), DOAJ (3.39), and OPAC (3.38). The 2.50 minimum was not met by the Institutional E-Repository (2.13). Based on the provided data, it may be inferred that the participants possessed a restricted comprehension or awareness regarding their institutional electronic repository.

Research Question 3: Where do librarians in University Libraries in Delta State, Nigeria employ electronic resources?

Table 3: Locations where electronic resources are employed using cloud computing.

Places to retrieve e-resources by librarians	DELSU	UNIDEL	DSUST	DOU	Missing	Mean
Home	69	55	30	5	3	3.70
Library	50	23	45	12	31	2.71
Office	79	39	15	14	14	3.62
Cybercafé	45	24	63	15	14	2.88
ICT Centres	35	64	52	10	0	2.78
Valid N (listwise)	127					
Aggregate Mean/SD						3.14
Criterion Mean						2.50

The majority of librarians show a preference for using electronic resources from their homes (ranked at 3.70) and offices (rated at 3.62), according to the data presented in Table 5. The above table's mean value of 3.14 is higher than the 2.50 standard norm. since there is an internet connection, electronic resources are accessible from anywhere at any time or place. This result supports the assertion made by Daramola (2016) that the inclusion of online resources in university libraries contributes to the diversity of information sources available within the library. Moreover, it enhances the value of the information by making it digitally accessible, enabling scholars, students, and the entire university community to access these materials from any place and time. Aina (2013) further argued that by using its "Google search" tool, Google has tried to go around the library.

Research Question 4: What are the Purposes of the utilization of electronic resources by librarians at university libraries in Delta State, Nigeria?

Table 4: Purposes of the utilization of electronic resources by librarians at university libraries in Delta State, Nigeria.

Purpose of accessing e-resources by Librarians	DELSU	UNIDEL	DSUST	DOU	Mean
Research	35	93	23	10	3.19
Learning	87	44	15	10	3.73
Publishing	88	39	25	9	3.73
Seminar Presentation	50	82	19	10	3.14
Teaching	84	44	23	10	3.42
Examinations	80	40	31	10	3.54
To Up Date	50	75	26	10	3.07
Aggregate Mean/SD					3.40
Criterion Mean					2.50

The data presented in Table 5 indicates an average score of 3.40, exceeding the baseline value of 2.50. It follows that university library librarians use e-resources to multi tasks. The participants primarily utilize electronic resources to achieve the objectives of learning (3.73) and sharing information (3.73). Several goals, such as research (3.19), teaching (3.42), examination

(3.54), seminar presentations (3.14), and other activities, required having access to internet resources. This is in line with the findings of Mahalakshmi's (2014) analytical study on how instructors and students in higher places of learning use electronic resources. According to the poll, all participants (100%) are aware that electronic resources are available. About 45.33% of individuals use e-resources to fulfill their unique academic needs, and 43% use them for educational purposes. Furthermore, 33.18% of users rely on electronic resources as study materials, while 15.42% of users use them for leisure.

Table 6: Benefits of accessing e-resources by Librarians

Benefits of accessing e-resources by Librarians	DELSU	DSUST	UNIDEL	DOU	Mean
Accuracy	81	39	32	9	3.53
Currency	59	48	44	10	3.18
Search Ability	34	94	23	11	3.32
Full-text Retrieval	39	94	23	5	3.22
Convenience	84	48	24	5	3.63
Link to Related Items	49	84	24	4	3.30
Credibility	66	35	49	11	3.27
Prompt Access	53	80	24	9	3.33
Multiuser Access	58	67	26	10	3.20
User-friendly Interface	79	72	6	2	3.63
Aggregate Mean					3.36
Criterion Mean					2.50

The majority of participants emphasized that the ease of access (ranked at 3.63) and the user-friendly interface (also scored at 3.63) were the primary benefits of using e-resources. Benefits from being instantly available (3.33), connected to pertinent commodities (3.30), trustworthy (3.20), and accessible by various people (3.20) were also obtained. There are several benefits that librarians receive from accessing electronic resources. The present study

corroborates the findings of Okoye and Ejikeme (2010), concluded that open access journals have the advantage of making their complete content available to readers worldwide and that publications can be retrieved without any limitations.

Recommendations

The study's findings recommend the following suggestions:

- Support and encouragement are needed for librarians to improve their computer literacy and technical skills, as they will improve their ability to retrieve information.
- Internet and ICT infrastructure should be made available by organizations and governments to ensure that everyone has access to it and to make it effortless for electronic resources to be sent smoothly, which will increase effectiveness and efficiency.
- It is imperative for libraries to possess a robust network infrastructure that allows them to access electronic resources and offer sophisticated automated services.
- Modern technology facilities should be constructed by libraries to assist patrons who lack the funds to access electronic resources.
- To guarantee that librarians stay current on the most recent developments in technologies and library profession, government organizations must routinely host seminars, conferences, and training sessions.

Conclusion

The findings imply that librarians in Delta State, Nigeria's university libraries are capable of making efficient use of electronic resources. University library librarians in Delta State, Nigeria are able to access, save, and distribute electronic resources using their own devices. Most people used e-resources mostly at home and at work on desktop computers, Android phones, and personal computers instead of at the library. The advantages of using e-resources include user-friendly interfaces, rapid access to relevant content, reliability, speedy retrieval, and the ability for multiple users to use them at once. When it comes to accessing electronic documents, Delta State university librarians have difficulties mostly because of network issues that result in download delays, poor bandwidth and unstable power supplies. Additionally, the restrictions include limited search capabilities, insufficient information, and unnecessarily high internet usage costs.

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