

Influence of Educational Qualification on the Level of Information and Communication Technology Usage by Librarians in University Libraries in South South and South-West, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study seeks to examine influence of educational qualification on the level usage of information and communication technology by librarians in university libraries in South-South and South-West, Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey design of correlational form. The population of the study is 512 university librarians from 41 university libraries located in 12 states of the South-South and South-West, Nigeria. Data for the research was collected through the use of the question. T-test was used to answer hypothesis, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used for research questions. The results from the study show that librarians in university libraries in the South-South and South-West Nigeria moderately use ICT hardware in university libraries and that there is a significant correlation between the educational qualifications of librarians and the level of ICT hardware usage by them. This implies that educational qualifications of the librarians influence the use of ICT hardware.

Keywords: ICT, Hardware, Skills, Knowledge, South-South, South-West, Nigeria.

Introduction

The rapid advances in Information and Communication Technologies are offering new potential for producing and disseminating information. These technologies have fundamentally altered how we live and work as well as how we learn (Ojedokun, 2007). Virtually every aspect of scholarship from conducting research to communicating ideas and dissemination of information has been influenced by these technologies. However, the negative consequences of lacking ICT skills by librarians and information professionals to fully utilize the ICTs in the workplace constitute a big challenge (Ojedokun, 2007).

According to Karahanna and Straub (1998), it is not enough that certain individuals decide to adopt Information and Communication Technology. Great importance should be

attached or attributed to examining the nature of use, as the adoption itself does not fully measure the actual use of the ICT. Against this background, considering the new role of librarians in making information accessible in this era of information explosion, the need to have ICT skills and the ability and perceived ease of use become very necessary. Uwaifo (2007) posited that people perceive IT to be difficult to use coupled with when they lack knowledge of it. He further added that one of the major limitations to the adoption of web-based learning environment by educators is lack of web development skills and the extent to which education affects people's perception of ease of use.

In the present circumstance, the issue of the educational qualification of librarians cannot be overlooked when discussing the use of Information and Communication Technologies by librarians. This is because through education, knowledge is acquired, awareness is created and ignorance is removed (Adeyinka, 2009). Some studies emphasize the importance of educational qualifications and librarians' attitude to ICT usage. Popoola (2002), in his study on users' attitudes toward microcomputer use in agricultural research libraries in Nigeria reported that there was statistically significant multi-collinear relationship between users' attitudes and their gender, age and educational qualifications.

Ramzan, cited in Adeyinka (2009) investigated the perceptions of 147 library professionals and paraprofessionals still concerning information technology innovations and training in university libraries in Saudi Arabia. He found a significant relationship between respondents' educational background, experience in using information technology and their perception about it. In a related study, Uwaifo (2009) reported that even though Partnayakuni and Rai (1996) found that only a few studies show that a weak relationship exists between educational level and ICT adoption and use, several studies have also proved that a strong

relationship exists between educational level and ICT adoption and use. Maesaroh and Genoni (2009) reported a study of levels of education of Indonesian academic/university librarians' continuing professional development. The research focused on the qualifications of librarians' in Indonesian academic/university libraries and their type of continuing professional development and training on the job. However the study found relative shortcomings in the levels and standard of education among the Indonesian librarians, although Indonesian librarians' reported high levels of participation in some types of training, their levels of satisfaction was lower than those of their Australian counterparts. This implies that the quality of education and the continuing professional development was not satisfactory for Indonesian librarians.

Commenting on the above, Pugh (2007) maintained that the nature of change in information services characterized by factors like diversity and unpredictability of the services and the staffing of libraries are cross – boundary specialization, which demand new skills and competencies over the traditional ones. On the use of ICT hardware in libraries, Frankel (1995) postulated that ICT hardware represents a powerful mode of activity capable of shaping this entire universe whether action, intellectual thought or material products. However, the growth, use and application of ICT hardware continue to increase in the twenty-first century, therefore this era can be regarded as information age. Information revolution has a profound impact on nearly all walks of life. The core one and the most promising tool of this information age is the computer (Aziz, 2004).

In today's information world, ICT hardware has become standard tools for information processing, storage and dissemination of information and communication which is an integral part of the modern library. The new electronics based technology has become pervasive in the

work place. Education of employees in many industries increasingly depends on sophisticated technology (Aziz, 2004). The future will witness a time when an increasing percentage of librarians will be retrieving, processing and transmitting information through the use of ICT hardware. Therefore the librarian who becomes familiar with the use of ICT hardware will have a great advantage in the job market over the one who lacks such knowledge and training on the use of ICT hardware. A working familiarity with information and communication technology hardware is necessary for librarians who have no formal understanding of the use of ICT hardware, because knowledge of ICT hardware will be an asset in an ever more competitive employment market.

The immense educational potentials of information and communication technology also mean that all librarians need it to play a central role in their careers. As the use of ICT continues to grow in libraries and institutions, Ogletree and Williams (1990) and Nicholas (1992) commenting on the situation, noted that the rapid growth of microcomputers in organizations and educational institutions has led to ICT usage concern and apprehension in university libraries.

Purpose of the Study

This study seeks to examine influence of educational qualification on the level usage of information and communication technology by librarians in university librarians in South South and South West, Nigeria. The general objective is:

1. To find out the extent to which educational qualification of librarians affect the level of use of information and communication technology on university libraries.

Research Question

This research will provide answer to the research question below:

1. To what extent does educational qualification affect the level of use of ICT by librarians in university libraries?

Hypothesis

The hypothesis will be tested in the study at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant relationship in librarians' educational qualification and use of ICT hardware in university libraries.

Research Method

The design adopted in this study is descriptive survey design of correlational form.

The population for this study is five hundred and Twelve (512) librarians working in university libraries in South South and South West, Nigeria. This number consisted of the total population of librarians in forty one (41) universities in twelve (12) states of the South South and south West of Nigeria. The instrument used for data collection is the questionnaire. Data were collected through the use of the questionnaire. The copies of the questionnaire were administered personally to the respondents by the researcher with the assistance of research assistants in the university libraries under study. Simple percentage was used to analyze the educational information of the respondents. The study employed Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient for the analysis of research question and T-test was used to answer hypothesis

Results and Discussion

The results from the study are presented below:

Analysis of Data of Educational Qualification of the Respondents

The Educational qualifications of the respondents are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Educational Qualifications of the Respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
BA/B.Sc	243	47.5
M.Sc/Ph.D	269	52.5
Total	512	100.0

Table 1. Shows that there are more librarians that possessed an M.Sc./Ph.D- 269(52.5%) than those with BA/B.Sc.- 243(47.5%). What it means is that librarians have the quest for further studies/knowledge.

Table 2: Mean Responses of the Level of ICT Usage by Librarians in University Libraries**Mean Responses of the Level of ICT Usage by Librarians in University Libraries****Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Mean		Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic
Level of ICT Hardware Usage by the Librarians	512	3.13	.039	.872
Valid N (listwise)	512			

With a mean statistic of 3.13 which is above acceptance point of 3.00, it therefore means that librarians in university libraries in the South-South and South-West regions of Nigeria moderately use ICT hardware in the university libraries. The study found that librarians in university libraries in the South-South and South-West moderately use ICT hardware in university libraries, the finding agrees with a related findings by Yacob (1990) who studied the attitudes and perceptions of 120 librarians in government supported special libraries in Malaysia. He examined the extent of application of information and communication technology hardware, their use patterns relationship among the librarians, attitudes toward information and

communication technology and other variables. A significant relationship was determined between the librarians’ attitudes and the amount of expenditure of information and communication technology hardware, available in the libraries and librarians awareness of the potential of information and communication technology hardware. Variables like the size of the library, the library budget, the staff size, age, decency of attaining professional qualifications and knowledge in information technology had significant relationship with librarians’ attitudes. The study revealed that knowledge in technology, library budget, the size of the library collection and staff was good predictors of librarians’ attitudes toward information technology (Ramzan, 2004).

Research Question

To what extent does educational qualification affect the use of ICT by librarians?

To ascertain the extent to which the educational qualification of librarians affect the use of ICT, the scores of the educational qualification of Librarians were cross tabulated with the level of ICT usage by the librarians and the result is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Correlation result between the Educational Qualification of Librarians and the usage of ICT Hardware

Correlations

		Educational Qualification	Level of ICT Hardware Usage by the Librarians
Educational Qualification	Pearson Correlation	1	.522**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.006
	N	512	512
Level of ICT Hardware Usage by the Librarians	Pearson Correlation	.522**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006	
	N	512	512

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

From Table 3. Since the significant value is 0.006 (which is lesser than 0.05), it can be concluded that there is a significant correlation between the educational qualification of librarians and the level of ICT hardware usage by them. This implies that educational qualifications of the librarians influence the use of ICT hardware. The finding from the current study agrees with that of Ramzan, cited in Adeyinka (2009), who found a significant relationship between respondents' educational background, experience in using information and communication technology and their perception about it.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study focused on influence of educational qualification on the level of usage of information and communication technology by librarians in university libraries in South South and South West Nigeria. From the analysis of data with a mean statistic of 3.13 which is above acceptance point of 3.00, it therefore means that librarians in university libraries in the South-South and South-West regions of Nigeria moderately use ICT hardware in the university libraries.

Conclusively, since the significant value is 0.006 (which is lesser than 0.05), it can be concluded that there is a significant correlation between the educational qualification of librarians and the level of ICT hardware usage by them. This implies that educational qualifications of the librarians influence their use of ICT hardware.

The study recommends that since there is a significant correlation between the educational qualification of librarians and the level of ICT hardware usage by librarians. University librarians should have robust educational ICT background in other to properly utilize the digital library environment.

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