



A Study of the Retrieval and Utilization of Digital Library Information Resources Among the Students in Academic Libraries in Katsina State

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Abstract

The digital revolution has brought about so many changes to information storage, access and retrieval process. The creation of digital libraries has made special impact on the teaching and learning process. This paper discusses utilization of digital library information resources among the students in academic libraries in katsina state. Survey research method was used and questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. A total of 1200 Library users constitute the population of the study, meanwhile 291 users was sample for the study. The data collected were presented and analyze using frequency distribution tables and percentage. The study identify among other things that university students are mostly utilizing digital library information resources but the utilizations appeared to be very low among the polytechnic and college of education students. Also, it was revealed that students' experiences difficulties especially in skills use to overcome erratic retrieval problems to digital contents. Therefore the need for helping users to find resources is supposed to be the first priority of the librarian in today's digital age. They also need to enhance their skills by way of regular training on the use of e- resources.

KEY WORDS: Digital Library, Information Resources, Retrieval, Utilization,

Introduction

Digital Library information resource use in academic institutions around the world has significantly expanded as a result of ICT growth in the twenty first century. Everyone agrees that information is a crucial resource. Information has been a factor that contribute significantly to educational development. In his study,[10] asserts that information is a resource for the economical development that behaves similarly to labor and capital and that productivity is increased by investing in information generated on a daily basis. Information resources format, both print and electronic resources are playing important role in the development of academic libraries. [9] Specifically defined Digital Library as a library that provides information resources in an electronic format. Examples of such electronic format includes E-Books, magazines, journal, encyclopedias, newspapers and other message capable media may be utilized to preserve for future use. The rapid distribution of electronic information sources, services, and networks primarily as a result of growth in information and communication technology which brought significant changes in libraries and information systems years back.

[10] Mentioned that the proliferation of electronic information resources in libraries and information centers is a result of the information explosion and recent advances in information and communication technologies. Globally, the use of electronic information resources in libraries has increased. Digital Libraries information resource having an impact on academic activities. The significance of electronic resources, have a profound impact on libraries operations and research activities across all universities and research institutions. Researchers frequently use search engines and online resources, and email as a common ways of accessing information. Furthermore, libraries around the world, notably academic libraries, e-resources have brought about profound changes in the way information is obtained, stored, structured, accessed, retrieved, and consumed.

Many academic libraries are converting to electronic sources instead of print ones. To remain relevant in the environment they operate academic libraries obtained a variety of computerized databases for diverse disciplines. It is one of the the cardinal objective of Academic Libraries to promote learning and research activities, foster intellectual growth and knowledge acquisition, and support parent institutions' efforts to teach. [13] Emphasized that the academic libraries virtually all over the world upholds this goal and has made significant investments making library collection available and readily accessibly to users. By offering library resources, services, and facilities to suit the teaching, learning, and needs of the community. .

In view of the above background the researcher in tented to study retrieval and utilization of digital library information resources among the students in academic libraries in katsina state

Statement of the problem

Electronic learning tools are designed to make it simple for library patrons to obtain information. The majority of students do not use the information resources that are available in our academic libraries, despite the fact that significant sums of money have been spent to subscribe to various databases, according to [8] It has been reported that under utilization of Digital Libraries has a negative effect on libraries' and information centers to leverage ICT-based resources and services to meet users' information needs. The significance of digital library information resources is overstated, and this research explores how students in Academic Libraries in Katsina State retrieve and use digital library information resources.

Objectives of the study

This paper geared toward achieving the following objectives

1. To find out the types of digital library electronic information resources available in the academic libraries
2. To measure the extent of utilization for digital library information resources for the students of tertiary institutions in katsina state
3. To determine the challenges associated with the retrieval of digital library information resources by the users

Literature review

The review is presented base on the research objectives and these constitute:

Types of digital library information resources in academic libraries, electronic information resources utilization in academic libraries and challenges associated with the use of digital library information resources. [12] highlighted that every academic library now uses digital library information as a key resource. Information handling and administration in academic institutions have undergone a significant transformation since the development of electronic information resources, often known as electronic resources. [1] It was noted that academics and students now have access to international information resources, particularly the Internet, for their scholarly interactions. Electronic information resources, according to [14], are information resources that are offered in electronic form. These include, among other things, resources that can be found on the Internet, including e-books, e-journals, online databases, CD-ROM databases, and other computer-based electronic networks.

The Internet

Internet can be defined as electronic tool that provide easy access to information resources through World Wide Web. [7] In his analysis, it was noted Africa has a low level of internet usage it compared with global average. [6] Conducted a study on Internet usage by students and staff n academic libraries. The study's findings showed that usage was low. [7] also stated that Online databases, e journals, e-prints, and other sources of digital information have become more widely available to most of the academic libraries, yet for a variety of reasons, these resources are not being used to their full potential.

Electronic Journals

Since the invention of the Internet the use of Electronic journal becomes widely available among the users of academic libraries, Researchers and Academics have realized that these tools may be used to efficiently exchange findings, overcome obstacles by transferring all intellectual property for scholars to access [4]. [13] claims that there are two types of electronic journals: those that are printed and made available digitally and those that can be edited and maintained by the scholarly community without the need for a publisher.

Online databases

The best way to give patrons of academic libraries access to electronic books and journals is through subscribing to online databases that can be viewed online. Electronic information sources (e-books and periodicals) published by publishers from a variety of subjects and specialties are gathered in online databases. [1] Students must learn and practice the skills necessary to take use of the expanding selection of electronic resources [9] before they can use them. Such online databases include Science Direct, IEEE, Escohost, Ajol among others.

CD-ROM databases

Users can access pertinent resources in libraries even without strong Internet connectivity thanks to CD-ROM databases. Due to the fact that information may be accessed offline without paying a telecommunications fee, it is consequently more affordable than internet databases. [1]. [8] emphasize how incredible technology breakthroughs have created new opportunities for the production, duplication, storage, access, dissemination, and presentation of information. The production of information sources is occurring at an extremely rapid rate. certain amounts of information are now accessible because of the digitization of data.

Electronic Information Resources Utilization in Academic Libraries

Academic libraries are essential component of tertiary institutions and serve a crucial role in advancing the institution's basic goals of teaching, learning, and research. However, the majority of library patrons are reportedly ignorant of the high caliber and diversity of information offered [11]. [15] noted that students frequently express dissatisfaction with materials that a in print format, that is the main reason when coming to the library they mostly come along with their reading materials. It was also discovered that discipline has a significant impact on usage patterns and preferences, and that faculty in the humanities and social sciences tend to use the internet less frequently than professors in the sciences [12].

Additionally, age is a significant factor in utilization; younger students and staff members use electronic sources more frequently [2]. Men are said to use the Internet more frequently and to use the most advanced services the most [5]. [2] Additionally, it was discovered that the use of online resources and the Internet is mostly unaffected by gender and academic standing. Studies on the use of various electronic resources, including e-books, computer skills, information searching techniques, and library OPACs, as a method to encourage e-resource use and utilization, particularly among students in academic libraries and it is also associated with the retrieval of digital library information resources.

[13] in his study electronic information retrieval conducted by library and information science students at Delta State University. The research reveals that (14.62%) of respondents use electronic information sources extensively. The use of e-resources by students is significant (34.68%) and is expected given that it is a crucial component of their training as library and information science students.

[3] observed that low adoption of electronic database by the students of tertiary institutions was due to a lack of training and insufficient search skills. Library users need adequate training on how to navigate different databases subscribed by the libraries. [16] also, added that electronic materials in libraries bring new difficulties for personnel and library users African countries are facing shortage of power supply which might cause the delay in processing and utilizing the libraries e-resources.

Methodology

The researcher adopted Descriptive Survey Research Method. The population of the study comprises all tertiary institutions in katsina state. Simple Random Sampling was used to select a sample size of the respondent, in which three Academic Libraries from eight tertiary institutions was selected. For fair representations, one University, one Polytechnic and one College of Education Library were chosen for the study. Two hundred and ninety one (291) questionnaires was administered to the population of the study. However, out of that number, only two hundred and forty two 242 (83.2%) questionnaires were returned and found usable for the study.

Findings and discussion

291 questionnaires were distributed to the respondent but 242 copies were returned duly completed and found usable for this study. Also, the data collected from the research questions raised were presented and analyzed using frequency table and simple percentages.

Table 1- Total number of Library Users in Umaru Musa yar'adua University, Katsina, Hassan Usman Katsina polytechnic and federal college of education Katsina.

Academic Library	No. of Users	Questionnaires distributed	Questionnaires Returned
Umaru Musa yar'adua Univesity, Library	501	100	81
Musa Abdullahi Central Library	250	95	80
Federal College of Education Library	449	96	81
Total	1200	291	242

Source Library register for the month of December, 2019

Table 2- Types of Digital library Information resources available by the selected academic Libraries

To ascertain the types of digital resources available in the libraries, to do this list of e- resources available was drown for respondents to tick as many as possible. The results are presented in table 2

Electronic Information Resources Available	Name of Libraries					
	Umaru Musa Yar'adua University library, Katsina		Musa Abdullahi Library, HUK poly, Katsina		Federal College of Education library, Katsina	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Electronic journal	75	93	15	18.8	7	8.8
e-books	78	96.3	18	22.5	7	8.8
Reference books	51	63	9	11.3	3	3.7

Dictionaries	77	95.1	9	11.3	5	6.2
CD-ROM	78	96.3	7	8.8	3	3.7
Internet	75	93	0	0.0	0	0.0

Table 2 indicated at Umaru Musa Yar'adua university Library, availability of electronic resources 75 (93%), e-books 78 (96.3%), reference books 51 (63%), dictionaries 77 (95.1%), CD-ROM (83.5%) and internet 75 (93%) were the information resources available in the library. On the other hand, the availability of electronic information in Umaru Musa Yar'adua Library with least response scores include reference books with 51 (63%)

It was also discover that in Musa Abdullahi central library Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic identify that the available electronic information resources in the library are electronic journal 15 (18.8%), e-books 18 (22.5%), reference books 9 (11.3%), dictionary 9 (11.3%), CD-ROM 7 (8.8%) and internet 0 (0.0%). Reference books and dictionaries with 9 (11.3%) scores each and internet with 0 (0.0%) respectively. This indicate that internet with no response is the least with 0.00%.

In the federal college of education katsina the study revealed that electronic journal and e-books with 7 (8.8%) scores each respectively were among the available electronic information in the library with high response rate. On the other hand reference books and CD-ROM with 3 (3.7%) score each and internet with 0 (0.0%) respectively were the information resources with the least frequencies.

From the above analysis, it can be concluded that despite all accolades enjoy by electronic information resources such as accuracy, timelines and efficiency, Hassan Usman Katsina polytechnic and federal college of education katsina does not provide such information resources to their library users. This finding supported by [1] despite the importance of electronic resources in academic Libraries to students and researchers some Academic libraries in Nigeria now have less access to global information resources, particularly the Internet for their scholarly activities.

In order to determine the frequency of Electronic Information resources utilization by the students of Academic Libraries in katsina state. A research questions was raised with respect to this, subsequently respondents were ask to indicate their level of information resource utilization in their respective libraries using Likert Scale, discussion was done using 3 point scale: Never Used (NU) =3, Frequently Used (FU) =2, Most Frequently used MFU) =3. Below is the table 3 showing the responses.

Table 3- Frequency of information resources utilization by the students

Information resources	Umaru Musa Yar'adua Library			Musa Abdullahi Library			Federal College of Education Library		
	NU	FU	MFU	NU	FU	MFU	NU	FU	MFU
Electronic journals	9 11.1%	53 65.4%	19 23.6%	75 93.8%	5 6.3%	1 1.3%	78 96%	2 2.3%	1 1.2%
E-books	7 8.6%	47 58%	27 33.3%	54 67.5%	20 32.5%	6 7.5%	64 79%	11 13.6%	6 7.4%
Reference books	57 70.4%	19 23.5%	5 6.2%	78 97.5%	2 2.5%	0 0.0%	79 97.5%	3 3.7%	0 0.0%
Dictionary	66 81.5%	12 14.8%	3 3.7%	73 91.3%	8 10%	0 0.0%	69 85.2	9 11.1%	3 3.7%
CD-ROM	67 82.7%	10 12.3%	4 4.5%	74 92.5%	5 6.3%	1 1.3%	78 96.3%	3 3.7%	0 0.0%
Internet	3 3.7%	32 39.5%	46 56.8%	0 100%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 100%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%

Table 3 indicated that electronic information resources utilization in Umaru Musa Yar'adua university library were found very useful in helping the library user to retrieve information. This electronic information resources include electronic journal with 53 (65.4%), e-books 47 (58%), reference materials 19 (23.5%), dictionary 12 (14.8%) and internet with 32 (39.5%) respectively. Inferences drawn on this table indicate that electronic journal and e-books are the most frequently used resources by the library users.

It was also discovered that the Musa Abdullahi Library Hassan HUK polytechnic, finding indicate that electronic information resources 75 (93.8%), e-books 54 (67.5%), reference books 78 (97.5%), dictionary 73 (91.3%), CD-ROM 74 (92.5%) and internet 0 (0.0%) were found not useful. May be was do the lack of available electronic resources in the library. This is contrary to the expectations because by virtue of polytechnic education, especially in the field of engineering and science and technology suppose to provide valuable resources to enhance teaching and learning. Perhaps, library management should be encouraged to provide adequate electronic information resources in the library to enhance adequate service delivery.

Also, at federal college of education katsina it was discovered that out of six electronic information resources identified entirely none of them are frequently used by the library users. A further observation of the study also shows that internet with 0 (0%) score was never used in the federal college of education katsina library. Thus, there is need for the adequate provision of internet and other relevant information resources in the in order to meet the objectives of the college.

Table 5: Challenges facing retrieval of electronic information resources by the library users'

Statement	Umaru Musa Yar'adua Library		Musa Abdullahi Library		Federal College of Education Library	
	Agree	Not agree	Agree	Not agree	Agree	Not agree
lack of training and skills to use e-resources	78 (96.3%)	3 (3.7%)	79 (98.8%)	1 (1.2%)	78 (96.3%)	3 (3.7%)
Lack of awareness to users to use e-resources	76 (93.8%)	5 (6.2%)	80 (100%)	0 (0%)	79 (98.8%)	3 (3.7%)
Lack of Available e-resources in my field of study	57 (70.3%)	24 (29.6%)	67 (83.8%)	13 (16.2%)	71 (87.7%)	10 (12.3%)
Inadequate Power supply	66 (81.5%)	15 (18.5%)	64 (80%)	16 (20%)	78 (96.3%)	3 (3.7%)
Unreliable internet connectivity	69 (85.2%)	12 (14.8%)	80 (100%)	0 (0%)	81 (100%)	0 (0%)

Umaru Musa Yar'adua university library result in table 5 reveals that 78 (96.3%) and 3 (3.7%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that lack of training library users with skills of using e-library resources is affecting use of e-resources. Finding also indicated that 76 (63.8%) and 5 (6.2%) agreed and not agreed that creation lack of awareness and encouraging users to use e-resources. The result also shows that 57 (70.3%) and 24 (29.6%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that lack of available e-resources in my field of study. It was also reveals that 66 (81.5%) and 15 (18.5%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that inadequate power supply hinder them from effective utilization of information resources. From the same table it was also revealed that 69 (85.5%) and 12 (14.8%) of the respondents agree and not agree that unreliable internet connectivity and have access to e-resources.

Also, Musa Abdullahi library, HUK Polytechnic it was discovered that 79 (98.8%) and 1 (1.2%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that lack of training library users with skills of using e-library resources affect them for not utilizing the information resources. Finding also indicated that 80 (100%) and 0 (0%) agreed and not agreed that creation lack of awareness to users to use e-resources. The result also shows that 67 (83.8%) and 13 (16.2%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that lack of available e-resources in my field of study. It was also reveals that 64 (80%) and 16 (20%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that on inadequate power supply in accessing the e-library and e-resources. From the same table it was also revealed that 80 (0%) and 0 (0%) of the respondents agree and not agree that unreliable internet connectivity to access to e-resources.

Umaru Musa yar'adua university library result in table 5 reveals that 78 (96.3%) and 3 (3.7%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that lack of training library users with skills of using e-library resources. Finding also indicated that 76 (63.8%) and 5 (6.2%) agreed and not agreed that lack of awareness and encouraging users to use e-resources. The result also shows that 57 (70.3%) and 24 (29.6%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that lack of available e-resources in their field of study. It was also reveals that 66 (81.5%) and 15 (18.5%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that inadequate power supply in accessing the e-library resources. From the same table it was also revealed that 69 (85.5%) and 12 (14.8%) of the respondents agree and not agree that lack of internet connectivity and have access to e-resources.

In the federal college of education library, it was discovered that 78 (96.3%) and 3 (3.7%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that lack of training library users with skills of using e-library to use of e-resources. Finding also indicated that 79 (98.8%) and 3 (3.7%) agreed and not agreed that lack of awareness to users on how to use e-resources in the library. The result also shows that 71 (87.7%) and 10 (12.3%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that lack of available e-resources in their field of study. It was also reveals that 78 (96.3%) and 3 (3.7%) of the respondents agreed and not agreed that inadequate power supply. From the same table it was also revealed that 81 (0%) and 0 (0%) of the respondents agree and not agree that unavailable internet connectivity and have access to e-resources.

From the above analysis, it is evident that there is agreement as well as disagreement between the university libraries, polytechnic libraries and college of education libraries in the utilization of electronic information resources. It is clear that university libraries frequently used electronic information resources while polytechnic and college of education libraries library users are not using library e resources frequently.

Conclusion

Base on the findings of the study, it was concluded that there is a very limited number of electronic information resources in Polytechnic libraries and Federal college libraries in katsina state. While university libraries are well equipt with required E- Resources and subscribed databases. The study also, find out that electronic information resources in Musa Abdullahi library and federal college of education are not adequately utilized due to unstable power supply, lack of the availability of subscribed database, and man power training.

Recommendations

Arising from the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made

1. Academic Libraries should do everything possible by subscribing to adequate e-resources to their library users. That will encourage library users to get access to the library.
2. Internet facility should be made available so that Electronic Information resources be made accessible on a 24/7 bases. This will encourage usage of IRs in academic libraries.
3. Training of all level of users (students, staff, and researchers) must be taken seriously to ensure that they acquire adequate skill on how to use e- resources effectively.

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