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# Awareness and Utilization of Online Open Access Journals by Student of Library and Information Science Department, Modibbo Adama University, Yola.

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**Abstract**
*This study examines the awareness and utilization of online open access journals by library and information science students of Moddibo Adama University, Yola, with the aim of determining the level of awareness and use. Relevant literature in line with the objectives of the study have been reviewed. Quantitative research method using cross sectional survey research design has been used. The study has a total population of four hundred and thirty-eight (438) students. Simple random sampling technique was used to sample one hundred and ninety-six (196) respondents of the study. Self-developed questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondent and was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics through the use of Statistical Product Service Solution (SPSS) version 22. The study found there is high level of awareness of online open access journal by the respondent. Majority of the respondent indicate using online open access journals for different purposes at different time. Various online open access journals were identified and used by the respondent. Despite the respondent indicating several challenges of utilizing online open access journals they still indicate satisfaction using them. Suggestion was given to overcome most of challenges identified.*

**Key words:** Access, Awareness, Information, Journal, Online, and Utilization

## Background to the study

Online open access journals are scholarly publications that are freely available on the Internet. That means depending on the policy of the host agent the content of the journals can be read, downloaded, copied, shared and printed by anyone from anywhere without discrimination, (Ivwighreghweta , 2016). Online open access is a modern way of disseminating information free of charge globally via the Internet. Libraries in the time past have traditionally secured information resources to patrons, however, the continual rise in cost of journals and other library resources led to the formation of online open access which is aided by libraries and fully supported by researchers who feel that public or government funded research should be made freely available and easily accessible to all information seekers, (Urhiewhu, 2018). Online open access initiative have been largely successful due to the limitless power of the Internet. Effective utilization of Internet based resources like the online open access journals

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will minimize the cost of information resources and increase productivity as well as academic activities. The cost of journal subscriptions has continued to increase exponentially without corresponding positive shift in libraries budgets; Many tertiary institutions don't have the financial resources to make choices which mean that users will have little or no access to core disciplinary journals and must base their information search on what is available rather than what they need. Since libraries budget have not rose at an equivalent rate to journal prices, the purchasing power of various libraries has fallen, as a result, libraries are only capable of subscribing to very cheap journals for their users. Despite the financial turbulence that is hampering the developing of libraries, university libraries need to fulfill its mission as information providers. The quest to address the challenge of information access is one major reason that has led to the formation of online open access journals. Online open access is one of the various information retrieval outlets through which educational resources that are stocked in the library could be made available to prospective users.

A survey research design was used for the study, the population of the study consist of all the library and information science students in MAU, Yola, numbering four hundred and thirty-eight (438), the table provided by Research Advisors (2006) was used to determine the sample size of the study to one hundred and ninety-six (196) a self-developed questionnaire was used for data collection, descriptive and inferential statistics in form of simple percentage and frequency was used for presentation and analysis of data that was collected, and for testing the study hypothesis respectively. The findings were discussed and presented in tables showing clearly the frequencies of responses and corresponding percentages.

**Statement of the Problem**

The need for information emerges whenever one faces a problem, event or experiences of information gab in which his/her personal understanding cannot bring about satisfaction. Online open access journals is a bridge that was created to close existing gap between information and information seekers. With online open access journals, information users can access current, relevant and reliable information freely, easily, and timely. The major aim of university library is to promote the tripartite objectives (that is, teaching, learning and research) of education through the provision of adequate, up to date, reliable and relevant information resources and services both in print and non-print format, (Daniel, Oyebuchi, & Chima, 2018). In this regard online open access journals have the potential of providing students with up to date/current, relevant, and reliable information which they can use for their various academic activities of research, assignment and complimenting lecture notes anywhere and anytime as long as one is connected to the Internet. Today the aim of establishing a library has almost been defeated due to continues raise in journal pricing and in subscription to online journals considering the continues fall in the budgetary allocation to libraries. Observation have also shown that students are not making use of online open access journals in their assignments. It is to this background this study investigates the level of

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awareness and utilization of online open access journals by student of library and information science department of Modibbo Adama University, Yola.

**Objectives of the Study**

The study has the following objectives, to find out:

1. The level of awareness of online open access journals by library and information science student of MAU, Yola.
2. The extent of utilization of online open access journals by library and information science student of MAU, Yola.
3. The challenges faced with utilization of online open access journals by library and information science student of MAU, Yola.

**Hypothesis**

**$HO_1$** There is no significance relationship between awareness and utilization of online open access journals by library and information science student of MAU, Yola.

**Review of Related Literature**

The study reviewed related literature based on the objectives of the study: -

1. Awareness of Online Open Access Journals by Students of Library and Information Science Department of MAU, Yola.
2. Utilization of Online Open Access Journals by Students of Library and Information Science Department of MAU, Yola.
3. Challenges faced with Utilization of Online Open Access Journals by Students of Library and Information Science Department of MAU, Yola.

**Awareness to Online Open Access Journals**

Awareness is the ability to realize and comprehend the existence of a thing; it is a determinant of information exploitation. The extent at which information user is conscious of online open access journals will determine the extent of his/her utilization. Online open access refers to the removal of major obstacles to accessing, sharing and reusing the outputs of scholarly research, (Tennant, Waldner, Jacques, Masuzzo, Collister, & Hartgerink. 2016). Several studies have shown that there is very low level of online open access usage in universities due to lack of awareness and poor attitude toward online open access among researchers, (Oyedipe, Adekunmisi & Akinbode, 2017). Studying the preceding facts on the concept of online open access and its numerous benefits to library users, Ajibili and Emmanuel, (2017) stated that awareness can only be a prerequisite to subsequent use of open access publications unless an individual uses it unknowingly. In a study conducted by Adeyokun, Adebowale, and Yaya, (2015), noted that even where online open access awareness is reported, the level of awareness was not uniform it varies from institution to institution and from individual to individual. In a similar study by Obuh and Bozimo, (2012), who studied awareness and use of online open access scholarly publications by LIS lecturers in Southern Nigeria, the study

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revealed there is high degree of awareness of online open access publication among LIS lecturers in Southern Nigeria. However, the level of awareness was mainly based on the nature and types of online open access.

In a study conducted by Mutwiri, (2014), titled challenges facing academic staff in adopting online open access for disseminating research findings in selected university libraries in Kenya, the study revealed high level of general awareness of online open access among academic staff (66%), however, awareness of specific online open access was very low. The study further shows that majority of academic staff (74.3%) were aware of online open access journals while 25.7% were not aware of the existence of online open access journals. The study also revealed that over 80% of the library staff appeared to be aware of online open access journals and their database. In a similar study by Oyedipe, Adekunmisi and Akinbode, (2017), who conducted a study on awareness and usage of online open access among university lecturers in Nigeria, the study revealed that lecturers have high level of online open access awareness in terms of content rather than purpose, this means that, level of awareness was not commensurate to the purpose of use of online open access.

**Utilization of online Open Access Journals**

Utilization is the ability of an individual to exploit the potentials of resources in order to attain a certain level of satisfaction. Utilization of online open access journals is the ability to use and get benefit from using it. Ayebelehi, Uzezi, and Pius, (2017), carried out a study on the awareness and utilization of online open access journals, the study revealed that majority of the respondents, (87.8%) make use of online open access journals. However, in all the available online journals used, the respondents were only much aware and use African Journals Online (AJOL), other journals were having low awareness and utilization. The study further revealed that majority of the respondents use online open access journals in carrying out search for current, reliable and relevant literature either for project, seminar, bibliographic citations and referencing. In a similar study conducted by Mutwiri, (2014), revealed that majority of academic staff are active users of online open access works. The study further shows (75.7%) of the respondents make use of online open access journals, professors and assistant lecturers were established as the highest and lowest users of online open access journals respectively.

In another study conducted by Veena, (2016), it was revealed that, majority of university students use online open access resources. The study further shows the frequency of use of the respondent as follows, 47.46% use online open access journals daily, 25% use it twice a week, 14.57% make use of online open access journals weekly and 13% use it at will. The respondents to this study further revealed the purpose of use of online open access journals to study, research work, and obtaining current, reliable and relevant information to upgrade their general knowledge. Furthermore, Musa, (2016), conducted an investigation to find out the level of online open access usage among academic librarians in Northwestern Nigeria, the

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finding revealed that academic librarians in federal universities in Northwestern Nigeria accesses and utilize online open access resources but they do not publish online. In a similar study by Oyedipe, Adekunmisi and Akinbode, (2017), who conducted a study on awareness and usage of online open access among university lecturers in Nigeria, the study revealed that lecturers have high level of online open access journals awareness in terms of content rather than purpose, this means that, level of awareness was not commensurate to the purpose of use of online open access journals. According to this study 74.1% of the respondents use online open access journals for research, 40.7% use online open access journals for general knowledge update, 37.0% use online open access journals to update knowledge in their various disciplines and 33.3% use online open access journals to update their lecture notes.

**Challenges faced with the Utilization of Online Open Access Journals**

In spite of various benefits derived from the use of online open access journals, developing countries have a lot of challenges in utilizing them. In a study conducted by Ivwighreghweta, (2016), who identified some major challenges of effective utilization of online open access journals to inadequate computers, inadequate advocacy, electricity interruption, difficulty reading computer screens, inadequate Internet skills to access online open access journals and lack of awareness of the existence of online open access journals among others. In a similar study conducted by Oyedipe, Adekunmisi, and Akinbode, (2017) revealed low quality of research articles, poor awareness of the existence of e-journals and other databases in an online open access medium as major challenges of utilization. The study further revealed that poor peer-review process, lack of skills to use the Internet, lack of availability of Internet facilities, high cost of publishing in an online open access journals and poor perception of online open access by colleagues were also regarded as challenges to the effective utilization of online open access journals. Similarly, Mohammed and Garba, (2013), posited that inadequate skills to navigate the Internet, unstable power supply, and unavailability of Internet facilities, poor financial support, and lack of knowledge of the existence of online open access journals on the Internet are among the challenges identified in utilization of online open access journals.

In another study conducted by Adeyokun, Adebowale and Yaya, (2015), pointed out that there are a lot of challenges that affect the effectiveness of online open access educational resources mostly in developing nations like Nigeria, these includes lack of online open access awareness among the intellectual community, inadequate funding, technical challenges, inadequate manpower skills and technological challenges. In a similar study by Ajibili, (2018), while studying the provision of online open access web links for postgraduate students by private university libraries in Nigeria, revealed slow Internet connectivity which amounted to delay in opening and downloading open access resources from the net and limited bandwidth as one of the major causes of slow Internet connectivity. The study further revealed that online open access web links were not adequately provided in the universities under study, in addition, shortage of power supply and ignorance of university community towards online open access

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resources. Furthermore study by Uzuebu and McAlbert, (2018), attested to the facts that open access educational information resources attracts a lot of benefits to its numerous users across the globe, however, academic and research institutions in Nigeria are yet to take advantage of the benefit emanating from the use of open access, majorly because of some challenges like, low update and lack of knowledge or awareness of open access, poor and inadequate funding, poor state of information and communication technology facilities on campus, lack of advocacy, inadequate manpower and skilled personnel, among others.

## Methodology

### Research Design

The study was conducted under the quantitative research method through the use of survey research design. This is because cross- sectional survey, according to Cresswell (2008), allow the researcher to collect data at one point in time. It also has the advantage of measuring or evaluating a program, system, current attitude or practice. The design also has the capacity to provide information in short period of time and also allows for generalization.

### Population

The population of this study comprises all the students of library and information science department of Modibbo Adama University, Yola as can be seen in table 1.

**Table 1. Population of the Study**

| S/N | LEVEL | Number of students |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 100 | 51 |
| 2 | 200 | 38 |
| 3 | 300 | 106 |
| 4 | 400 | 126 |
| 5 | 500 | 117 |
| **TOTAL** | | **438** |

**Source:** department of LIS MAU Yola

### Sample and Sampling Techniques

Considering the population of the study four hundred and thirty-eight (438), the researcher uses the table provided by Research Advisors (2006) in determining the sample size and arrived at one hundred and ninety-six (196).

### Research Instruments

A self-developed questionnaire was used for the study. The questionnaire with forty-eight (48) items was divided into three (3) sections, A, B, and C in line with the research objectives of the study. Section A: solicits response on level of awareness of online open access journal, Section B: solicits response on utilization of online open access journals, and Section C: solicits response on challenges faced with effective utilization of online open access journals.

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**Procedure for Data Collection**

The questionnaire was administered directly to the respondents with the assistance of class representatives of all levels in the department. The researcher also participated in collecting the completed questionnaire.

**Method of Data Analysis**

Descriptive and inferential statistics in form of simple percentage and frequency distributions was used to analyze the data collected and for testing research hypothesis through the use of Statistical Product Service Solution (SPSS) version 22.

**Data Presentation and Analysis**

Data collected for the study was analyzed and presented based on the research objectives of the study.

**Table 2. Response Rate**

| Questionnaire | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Number of questionnaires administered | 196 | 100% |
| Number of questionnaires returned | 191 | 97.4% |
| Number of questionnaires not returned | 5 | 2.6% |

A total number of 196 questionnaires were administered to the respondents. 191(97%) were duly completed and returned, while 5(3%) were not returned. The response rate is enough justification for the analysis to be conducted.

**What is the level of awareness of online open access journals by the students of library and information science department in MAU, Yola?**

To answer this particular research question, a number of sub-questions were employed with list of opinions. The tables below show the response of the respondents in frequencies and percentages:

**Table 3. Whether or Not the Respondents are Aware of Online Open Access Journals**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Yes | 186 (97.3%) |
| 2 | No | 5(2.7%) |
| | **Total** | **191(100%)** |

Table 3 shows that majority of the respondents which constitute 186(97.3%) are aware of the existence of online open access journals while only 5(2.7%) indicate lack of awareness to online open access journals as such the remaining questions will be answered by only the 186 respondent that are aware since you cannot use what you are not aware of.

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**Table 4. Level of Awareness of Online Open Access Journals by Respondents**

| S/N | What is your level of awareness of online open access journals? | Ratings (Number and Percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Highly aware | 58(31.2%) |
| 4 | Moderately aware | 98(52.7%) |
| 5 | Fairly aware | 30(16.1%) |
| | **Total** | **186(100%)** |

Table 4 shows the level at which the respondents are aware of online open access journals. The respondents 58(31.2%) indicated high level of awareness of online open access journals, 98(52.7%) indicated moderate level of awareness, 30(16.1%) are fairly aware. From the above analysis a conclusion can be made that majority of the respondent are moderately aware of online open access journals.

**Table 5. Types of Online Open Access Journals the Respondents are Aware of**

| S/N | What types of online open access journals are you aware of? | Aware | Not Aware |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Directory of online open access journals | 171(92.0%) | 15(8.0%) |
| 7 | Journal storage | 158(85.0%) | 28(15.0%) |
| 8 | Bethan science publishing | 170(49.7%) | 16(6.0%) |
| 19 | Hindawi open access journals | 175(94.0%) | 11(40.4%) |
| 10 | Open journals gate | 180(97.0%) | 6(3.0%) |
| 11 | Bioline international | 145(78.0%) | 41(22.0%) |
| 12 | African Journal Online (AJO) | 182(98.0%) | 4(2.0%) |
| 13 | Online Access Research in the Environment (OARE) | 172(92.4%) | 14(7.6%) |
| 14 | D-Library | 164(88.0%) | 22(12.0%) |
| 15 | Libri | 169(91.0%) | 17(9.0%) |

Table 5 shows the respondent views on the types of online open access journals they are aware of. From the analysis on the table majority of the respondents are aware of all the types of online open access journals listed.

**Table 6. Sources of Awareness of Online Open Access Journals by Respondents**

| S/N | What is your source of awareness to online open access journals? | Ratings (Number and Percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| 16 | Fellow student | 45(24.1%) |
| 17 | Internet exploration | 39(21.1%) |
| 18 | The library | 37(20.0%) |
| 19 | Seminars/workshops | 12(6.4%) |
| 20 | Periodicals | 12(6.4%) |
| 21 | Books | 41(22.0%) |
| | **Total** | **186(100%)** |

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Table 6 shows the respondent's source of awareness of online open access journals, 45(24.1%) indicated their source of awareness to fellow students, 39(21.1%) indicated their source of awareness to exploration of the Internet, 37(20.0%) claimed their source of awareness to the library, 12(6.4%) of the respondent indicated their source of awareness to seminars/workshop. 12(6.4%) of the respondents shows their source of awareness to periodicals, 41(22.0%) indicated their source of awareness to books. From the analysis of this table, it was concluded that majority of the respondent source of awareness is through fellow students.

**Table 7. Indicates Whether the Respondents Make Use of Online Open Access Journals or Not**

| S/N | Do you make use of online open access journals? | |
|---|---|---|
| 22 | Yes | 181(97.3%) |
| 23 | No | 5(2.7%) |
| | **Total** | **186(100%)** |

Table 7 shows 181(97.3%) of the respondents make use of online open access journals and 5(2.7%) do not make use of online open access journals. From the above analysis majority of the respondents make use of online open access journals. Since not all the respondents makes use of online open access journals the remaining questions was answered by only the 181(97.3%) of the respondents who are making use of the online open access journals.

**Table 8. Describes the Extent Respondents Make Use of Online Open Access Journals**

| S/N | To what extend do you make use of online open access journals? | |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | Very high extent | 54(29.9% |
| 25 | High extent | 46(25.4%) |
| 26 | Low extent | 35(19.3%) |
| 27 | Very low extent | 46(25.4%) |
| | **Total** | **181(100%)** |

Table 8 shows the extent at which the respondents utilize online open access journals, 54(29.9%) indicate very high extent of use, 46(25.4%) shows high extent of use, 35(19.3%) shows low extent of use, 46(25.5%) indicated very low extent of use. From the analysis of this table, it was concluded that majority of the respondent make a very high use of online open access journals.

**Table 9 Indicate the frequency of online open access utilization by the respondents**

| S/N | How often do you make use of online open access journals? | |
|---|---|---|
| 28 | 1-5hrs a week | 75(41.4%) |
| 29 | 6-10hrs a week | 27(15.0%) |
| 30 | 11-15hrs a week | 32(18.06%) |
| 31 | 16-20hrs a week | 34(19.0%) |
| 32 | Over 21hrs a week | 13(7.0%) |
| | **Total** | **181(100%)** |

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Table 9 shows that 75(41.4%) of the respondents make use of online open access journals between 1 – 5hrs a week, 27(15.0%) use online open access journals between 6 -10hrs a week, 32(18.6%) of respondent make use of online open access journals between 11 – 15hrs a week, 34(19.0%) make use of online open access journals between 16 – 20hrs a week and the last group 13(7.0%) only make use of online open access journals for over 21hrs a week. From the analysis of this table, it was concluded that majority of the respondent to this study make use of online open access journals between 1- 5 hours a week.

**Table 10. Challenges Faced with the Use of Online Open Access Journals by the Respondents**

| S/N | Challenges faced with use of online open access journals | Agreed | Disagreed |
|---|---|---|---|
| **33** | Epileptic power supply | 176(97.2%) | 5(2.8%) |
| **34** | Unreliable Internet connectivity | 171(94.5%) | 10(5.5%) |
| **35** | Equipment breakdown | 161(89.0%) | 20(11.0%) |
| **36** | Inadequate skills | 142(78.5%) | 39(21.5%) |
| **37** | Difficulty in finding relevant information | 152(84.0%) | 29(16.0%) |
| **38** | Lack of assistance from library personnel | 146(80.7%) | 35(19.3%) |

Table 10 shows the views of the respondents towards the challenges they faced with the use of online open access journals, 176(97.2%) of the respondents indicated having challenge of power supply, 171(95.5%) indicate having challenge of unreliable Internet connectivity, 161(89.0%) indicate having challenge of equipment breakdown, 142(78.5%) indicate having challenges of inadequate internet skills, 152(84.0%) indicate having challenges of finding relevant information from the online open access journals, while 146(80.7%) indicate lack of assistance of using the online open access journals from the library staff. From the above analysis it was concluded that majority of the respondents are having all the challenges of using the online open access journals listed.

**Table 11. Strategies that can be Used to Reduce the Challenges Faced with the Utilization of Online Open Access Journals**

| S/N | What strategies can be employed to reduce the challenges of utilizing online open access journals? | Agreed | Disagreed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 39 | Provision of alternative power supply | 177(97.8%) | 4(2.2%) |
| 40 | Provision of reliable Internet connectivity | 170(94.0%) | 11(6.0%) |
| 41 | Adequate maintenance of Equipment | 144(79.6%) | 37(20.4%) |
| 42 | Acquiring of adequate Internet skills | 176(97.2%) | 5(2.8%) |
| 43 | Subsidization of hardware and software equipment's | 174(96.1%) | 7(3.9%) |
| 44 | Provision of assistance to online open access users | 161(83.8%) | 20(16.2%) |
| 45 | Provision of online open access links on the institution portal/website | 157(86.7%) | 24(11.0%) |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | Organizing seminars/workshop on online open access journals utilization | 161(88.9%) | 20(16.2%) |
| 47 | Awareness to online open access journals | 157(86.7%) | 24(13.0%) |
| 48 | Provision of suitable user interface | 151(83.4%) | 30(16.6%) |

Table 11 is showing analysis of respondent on strategies that will be used to reduce the challenges faced with the utilization of online open access journals, 177(97.8%) of the respondents indicate provision of alternative power supply as a way of tackling power challenge, 170(94.0%) indicate Provision of reliable internet connectivity, 144(79.6%) indicate provision of adequate maintenance of equipment, 176(97.2%) shows provision of adequate internet skills, 174(96.1%) indicate provision of subsidy on hardware and software equipment's, 161(88.9%) indicate provision of assistance to online open access users, 157(86.7%) indicate provision of online open access links on the institution portal/website, 161(88.9%) indicate organizing seminars/workshop on online open access journals utilization, 157(86.7%) shows initiating activities that will create awareness to online open access journals, and 151(83.4%) indicate provision of suitable user interface. From the above analysis it will be concluded that majority of the respondents have agreed with all the alternative measured that have been given to reduce the challenges of using online open access journals.

**Results of Hypothesis Testing**

This study test only one hypothesis. Correlation coefficient (r) was used in testing the hypothesis of the study using SPSS version 20.0. In conducting the test 0.05 was used as the level of significance. Hence, for the interpretation to test whether the hypothesis should be rejected or retained, the decision rule is that, when the computed correlation (r) is greater than the critical p-value (p 0.05), then the null hypothesis should be retained. On the other hand, if the computed correlation (r) is less than the p-value (p 0.05) the null hypothesis should be rejected and the alternative hypothesis will be retained.

**$HO_1$** Hypothesis of the study state that, there is no significant relationship between awareness and utilization of online open access journals by library and information science students of Modibbo Adama University, Yola. The result of the test is presented in table 4.5.1.

**Table 12. Relationship Between Awareness and Utilization of Online Open Access Journals**

| | | | **Awareness_1** | **Utilization_1** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spearman's rho | Awareness_1 | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000 | -.471** |
| | | Sig. (2-tailed) | . | .000 |
| | | N | 191 | 191 |
| | Utilization_1 | Correlation Coefficient | -.471** | 1.000 |
| | | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | . |
| | | N | 191 | 191 |

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

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The result indicated that there is significant relationship between awareness and utilization of online open access journals by students of library and information department of Modibbo Adama University Yola. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected since correlation (r) is 0.000 which is less than the p-value (0.05) and the alternative hypothesis is retained. Meaning that, the more the awareness of online open access journals the more the utilization.

**Discussion of Findings**

The objective of this study was to find out the level of awareness and utilization of online open access journals among library and information science students of Moddibo Adama University of Technology, Yola. Online open access is meant for the purpose of publication and dissemination of research work by scholars free of charge; and the accessing of such research output freely by clientele. The only thing that is required of a clientele is to abide by copyright policy associated with online open access journals, for instance, the acknowledge of the author through proper citation, use of publication for non-commercial purpose, etc, and the only thing to a clientele require to access online open access journals is internet connectivity.

According to the findings of this study, there is high level of awareness of online open access journals by the respondents, both in terms of nature and sources availability. The result showed that the respondents are aware of available sources like the directory of online open access journals, hindawi open access journals, the open journals gate, the bioline international, the African journals online, the online access research in the environment, d-library and the libri sources of online open access journals. The finding showed that thought the respondents are well aware of online open access journals, their sources of awareness differ from one another. The respondents indicate their source of awareness from colleagues, others through internet exploration, some from the library, and some from seminars/workshops. This finding is in line with the findings of Mutwiri, (2014), Oyedipe, Adekunmisi, and Akinbode, (2017) who posited that, their respondents are aware of online open access journals. The findings likewise agreed with the study of Obuh and Bozimo, (2012), who in their studies revealed that there is fairly high degree of awareness of online open access journals by their respondents. It is also in line with the findings of Oyedipe, Adkunmisi, and Akinbode who ascertain that their respondent has high level of awareness of open access journals.

In an effort to know whether the respondents make use of online open access journals, it is discovered that they make use of it at a very high extent, but their purpose of usage and duration of usage differs. The various purposes of use indicated by the respondent includes studies, assignment, preparation for examination, supplementing lecture notes/handouts, research/project and others use it for leisure. In terms of duration of use, majority of the respondents use online open access for a period of 1 - 5 hrs per week, this shows that level of awareness did not correspond with the level use. Regardless of purposes and duration of use,

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the respondents indicate satisfaction with the use of online open access journals. This finding corresponds with the findings of Ayebelehi, O. Uzezi and Pius, (2017), whose research revealed that majority of their respondents (87.8%), make use of online open access journals. The finding also correspondent with the findings of Mutwiri, (2014), which revealed that majority of his respondents makes use of online open access works.

The study further revealed that respondents encounter challenges in effective use of online open access journals, these challenges include, epileptic power supply, unreliable internet connectivity, equipment breakdown, inadequate internet skill, difficulty in finding relevant information and lack of assistance from the library staff. The result of this finding is in line with the findings of Garba (2013), who found inadequate skill to navigate the internet, unstable power supply and other related issues as a constraint to the utilization of online open access journals. In a similar finding, Ivwighreghweta, (2016) identified electricity interruption and inadequate internet skill to access online open access journals as some major challenges that militates against effective utilization of online open access journals.

The respondent have suggested some strategies that will be employed to reduce the challenges of utilizing online open access journals which include, provision of alternative power supply, provision of reliable Internet connectivity, provision of adequate maintenance of equipment, provision of adequate Internet skills, provision of subsidy on hardware and software equipment's, provision of assistance to online open access users, provision of online open access links on the institution portal/website, organizing seminars/workshop on online open access journals use, initiating activities that will create awareness to online open access journals, and provision of suitable user interface.

**Summary of Major Findings**

The aim of this study was to investigate the level of awareness and utilization of online open access journals by students of library and information science department of Modibbo Adama University, Yola. Majority of the respondents 122(64.3%) are aware of online open access journals and most of them are also aware of available sources of online open access journals, though the sources of awareness differed, however, majority of them indicated high level of awareness. The findings also revealed that majority of the respondents 140(73.3%) make use of online open access journals and at a very high extent for different reasons at different interval of time and are satisfied with it. The result also showed that there are numerous benefits attached to the use of online open access journals. The study further shows that 173(91.0%) of the respondent indicate having various challenges in respect of utilizing online open access journals. The study also provides solutions to some of the problems identified. The study further reveals that there is significant relationship between awareness and utilization of online open access journals by students of library and information science department of Modibbo Adama University, Yola.

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## Conclusion

The need for information emerges whenever one faces a problem, event or experiences of information gab in which his/her personal understanding cannot bring about satisfaction. Online open access is a bridge that was created to close existing gap between information and information seekers. With online open access journals, information users can access current, relevant and reliable information freely, easily, cheaply, and timely. However, this study concludes that there is high level of awareness of online open access journals among the respondent, the respondent also indicates high level of utilization of online open access journals with various reason of utilization. The study further revealed various challenges identified by the respondents in their effort of making use of the online open access journals which include epileptic power supply, unreliable internet connectivity, inadequate internet skill, and difficulty in finding relevant information

## Recommendation

The study has the following recommendations:

- Establishment of an online connectivity and provision of online open access links on the institution portal/website.
- Provision of suitable user interface and ICT skills.
- Provision of alternative power supply.

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