Jewel Journal of Librarianship
ISSN: 2141-3908 (Print); ISSN: 2736-0881 (Online)
Volume 19, Issue 4; Published: December, 2024
https://www.jeweljournals.com

Effect of Electronic Library Resources on Academic Performance of Library and Information Science Undergraduate Students of Taraba State University, Jalingo.

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Abstract
There is hardly any university in Nigeria that is not dominated by undergraduate students. The undergraduate students are characterized by their extended interaction with people, content, software, online or offline. This implies that libraries in tertiary institutions must provide resources, services electronically online and offline in order to meet the needs of the students academically. This study sought to identify the effect of electronic library resources on the academic performance of undergraduate students of Taraba State University, Jalingo, and identify the problems associated with accessing electronic library resources in the university. The population of the study was the 560 students of the department of Library and Information Science. Using Yaro Yamane sampling technique, a sample size of 233was drawn from the population using stratified sampling method. The instrument used was validated by two experts in the department of Library and Information Science of the University. The instrument was designed on 4-Likert scale rating with 4 as "Strongly Agreed", 3 as "Agreed", 2 as "Disagreed", and 1 as "Strongly Disagreed". The validity of the instrument was established by conducting a pilot study in which 10% of the sample representing 23 questionnaires were administered and retrieved from respondents from the Federal University, Wukari. The reliability was determined by using Cronbach Alpha which reveals a reliability of 0.71 representing a reliability of 71%. Collected data was analysed using frequencies, percentages and mean with 2.5 selected as the criteria mean. Values below the criteria mean were termed negative and values above it were termed positive. The results show that electronic Library resources have a positive effect on the students' academic performance and the challenges associated with use of electronic library resources were identified as poor accessibility of internet, lack of constant power supply, among others. Recommendations were made to address the challenges faced.

Keyword: Electronic Library Resources, Academic Performance, Library and Information Science, Undergraduate Students, Taraba State University, Jalingo

Introduction

Library is considered an essential part of modern society and plays a very important role in helping different sectors of the society. It can help the education sector in quality service production; enable a businessman to improve business prospects; create in learners a love for reading which can lead to the formation of reading habits at an early age, and help students of all ages. It can also provide job information that help unemployed people to look for job. Members of the society who intends to pursue self-education, a public library can provide information for their growth and development.

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Every organization has both human and material resources that are required to adequately combine to provide the required products or services to meet the needs of the clients or customers (Barba-Sanchez, Calderon, Milan & Atien-huquillo, 2018). The material resources are not readily available and therefore, need to be acquired and stocked before productive utilizations in the company. Based on this, organizations across the globe who engaged in continuous production of services stock pile resources for production. The effectiveness and efficiency of libraries through the utilization of ICT in planning, organization, coordination and efficient resource allocation would provide the required result for any library.

Libraries provide easy access to knowledge to all learners in the universities irrespective of race, colour, nationality, age, sex, religion, language, status or educational attainment. It is therefore, a centre for supporting education, promoting culture, communicating ideas, and disseminating information to all facets of the society. It is crystal clear that the more the demand for electronic library resources, the more the usage of technology in general. This implies that the application of technology and internet by government will also improve in such areas as on-line, weather focusing on-line and above all even students' knowledge and attitudes is fast transforming into a more superior technological affair (Okundaye, Fan & Dwyer 2019).

Today every university library welcomes electronic library resources; the use of computers, peripheral devices connected to it and communication tools for collecting, processing, storage and dissemination of information. Electronic library resources are a term that applies to any communication device or program, such as: radio, television, cellular phone, computers, software, hardware, networking, satellite systems and the like of it. Electronic library resources are often in specific concept and positioned in a more accurate review of application, such as Electronic library resources in learning, studying and research. The most important feature of electronic library resources is influencing students' knowledge and attitude towards academic (Fu, 2013).

Just like every learner, students in Taraba State University (TSU) require certain knowledge and attitude towards library resources system to be able to obtain the required resources that would guarantee their success in their academic work and in life generally. The library has long development process chain through the use of electronic library resources to help in ensuring performance of electronic library resources on students' knowledge and attitude towards learning, studying and research in Taraba State University.

Statement of the Problem

In recent time, the use of electronic library resources is considered as a prerequisite for the effective control of today's complexity of the use of library for learning process. In-deed, recent study conducted by most researchers indicates that majority of the university libraries of developed nations are increasingly dependent on the benefits brought about by electronic library resources to enhance students' performance. But in developing countries the case was different due to certain challenges associated with effective application of electronic library resources system of administration in libraries (Barba-Sanchez, Calderon-Milan & Atienza-Sahuquillo, 2018).It is worthy to mention that electronic library resources used in services provision in emerging economies has been hindered by many problems which include, insufficient fund allocation, power outages, prohibitive cost of importation of hardware, software and the accessories of ICT, conservation on the part of management and

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unfavourable library policies (Okundaye, Fan & Dwyer 2019). Others include; lukewarm attitude towards improving performance of librarians, lack of training culture in ICT skills, inadequate infrastructures such as personal computers and communication facilities (Adegun, 2014). According to Abdulkareem (2016), the difference in accessibility and usage of electronic library resources may have accounted for inefficiency in library services. The digital divide has been caused by different factors such as disparity in literacy level between rural and urban areas, infrastructural gap, poverty and high cost of internet connectivity among others. Despite this, libraries still deploy electronic library resources in their library services system because of their importance in serving as a means of impacting knowledge in students. It is therefore required to provide for efficiency through the use of electronic library resources for students in order to improve their level of understanding in Taraba State University. Therefore, the concern of this study is on the effect of electronic library resources on the students' academic performance in Taraba State University. The study is based on the assumption that the students of the department of library and information science in the Taraba State University have adequate knowledge about electronic library resources.

Objectives of the study

The ultimate objective of this study is to ascertain the effect of electronic library resources on the academic performance of the undergraduate students of library and information science department, Taraba State University, (TSU) Jalingo. The specific objectives are:

i. To identify the effect of electronic library resources on academic performance of the undergraduate students of library and information science department, Taraba State University, (TSU) Jalingo.
ii. To identify challenges associated with accessing electronic library resources in the Taraba State University Library.

Research Question

In other to attain the stated objectives, the following questions are posed:

i. What is the level of influence of electronic library resources on academic performance of the undergraduate students of library and information science department, Taraba State University, (TSU) Jalingo?
ii. What are the challenges associated with accessing electronic library resources in the Taraba State University library?

Review of Related Literature

Historical background of electronic library

The history of electronic library resources is synonymous with the use of information and communication technology. The earliest use of any technology in Nigerian libraries was the introduction of microform technology at the University of Ibadan with the purchase of three microform readers in 1948 (Igben & Akobo 2017). The first instances of the usage of computers in Nigeria were when IBM set up the African Education Centre at the University of Ibadan (UI Computing Centre) in 1963, and when computing services were brought to Nigeria in connection with the analysis of the 1962/63 national census. By 1977 the total computer installations in Nigeria had grown to 70 and interest in this technology had increased, and by the late 1970s computer science courses had been established at the Universities of Nigeria, Lagos, Ibadan, Ife and others (Abdulkadir, 2009). Computer applications were strongly embraced by the banking industry, in administrative and production from management, word processing, process control and computer-aided design

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and engineering in that order. However, the adaption of information and communications technology and its implementation as an enabling tool was more slowly introduced into Nigeria's libraries as they are still seen primarily as storehouses for books, despite all of the talk about "virtual libraries" (Okiy, 2008). This popular fever to have a virtual library serve as the solution to all access problems to information is unreasonable unless a robust infrastructure is in place in order for this potential solution to be realized (Abdulkadir, 2009).

The development and implementation of technology in libraries of Nigeria is still a work in progress and Nigeria is severely challenged by the lack of a basic infrastructure which has prevented strong economic development in most areas. The national electricity grid is still underdeveloped and this basic necessity for technological development has made progress in technological implementation an almost impossible task (Igben & Akobo 2017). The implementation of the tools necessary for technological development requires a stable and robust electrical infrastructure in order to ensure success (Aguolu, Haruna & Aguolu 2006).

Technology was initially embraced by libraries because it allowed bibliographical, financial and other records to be kept, managed and retrieved by both library staff and patrons. The addition of communication technology using the internet and intranets adds to the obvious advantages to that of the technology available using computers and CD-ROMs' as it allowsfor the seamless sharing and dissemination of information both locally and world-wide. Various types of libraries have only been able to adopt ICT dependent on the constraints of funding and infrastructure available to them (Igben & Akobo 2017).

University libraries are generally the most developed libraries in Nigeria as they are the core of any university and therefore are at least minimally sustained with university funding. The first Nigerian university library, the Yaba Higher College Library, opened in 1934 and was later transferred to Ibadan University (IU) in 1947, where it formed the nucleus of the Ibadan University Library. Other Universities such as the University of Nigeria at (UNN), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) in Zaria, and Universities in Lagos and Ile-Ife developed fledgling libraries in the 1960s (Okiy, 2008).Libraries in Nigeria have traditionally offered only printed books and print holdings still make up majority of the resources of Nigerian libraries (Aguolu, Haruna & Aguolu 2006). The introduction of ICT and digital libraries is a very new development in Nigeria libraries and the desire to use emerging technologies is spreading fast despite the constraints in implementing them. Libraries did not have technology tools at an earlier time and the effort to implement technology was not seen as necessary by many then since their collections were small and they did not see the real need for embracing technology until the information revolution evolved and the realization that virtual information was valuable and could be accessed if one had the proper infrastructure in place (Igben & Akobo 2017).

The first attempts at computerizing were focused on enabling easier searching of indexed terms and library automation often began with the production of computer-generated bibliographic and serial lists. When Aguolu stated that "In fact by 2000 most university and research libraries in Nigeria had not computerized any of their functions" he is not referring to more complex computerization than just lists of serials or the use of spreadsheets for accounting type purpose (Igben & Akobo 2017). There seems to be a general consensus that automating library services is useful because of the following reasons: for the facilitation of easy identification and retrieval of library materials; for the easy creation and updating of inventory of library records; for provision of easy and faster library services to its clientele; to

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allow remote access of library resources through library webpages and Online Public Access Catalogs (OPAC); to provide better communication between library staff and its users; and to enable automatic updating of order, financial and other records (Okiy, 2008).

Nigerian libraries have embraced a certain level of computerization but the everyday usage is still quite basic and consists mainly of word processing and spreadsheet applications. The jump from these basic users of IT to ICT came with the availability of the Internet which allowed for the sharing of resources electronically throughout the world. ICT as a tool, is beginning to be implemented in some libraries but it requires the accessibility of the adoption of full-fledge ICTs in libraries and its implementation will be a slow process in the current Nigerian environment (Aguolu, Haruna & Aguolu 2006).

Emeka, Oyebola and Izuchukwu (2015) examined the use of electronic library resources in academic libraries in Nigeria, with the aim of highlighting the capabilities and potentials of electronic library resources and its practical importance to academic libraries across the globe. The study was guided by five objectives and five research questions. The descriptive survey design was adopted in the research, for the population of twenty-five (25) staff selected randomly from twenty-five different higher institutions that use electronic library resources in Nigeria: 19 universities (federal, State and Private), 4 Polytechnics (Federal and State) and two Colleges of Education. The instrument used to generate data was questionnaire and the data generated was analysed using frequency table and percentages. It was found that many libraries in Nigeria and across the globe have turned more and more to electronic library resources. The major challenges confronting the libraries include; inadequate funding, inadequate managerial support, inadequate power supply, etc. The findings of this study will serve a very useful purpose for academic libraries in Nigeria and their counterpart across the glove in general. The flexibility and friendly nature of the software will also enable user maximize their gain in the search for information.

Dhakal and Jamil, (2021) had undergone research in the internal revenue offices of Kathmandu Valley in order to understand the problems and challenges of electronic library resources for improving service delivery in Nepal. Data revealed that the majority of the respondents saw much improvement in terms of easiness to recognize information in time (70%), easiness to make complain (5%), and service delivery in time (52%). On the order head, more than half of the respondents confirmed that reporting of services like ‘decreasing discrimination’ (61%) and ‘easier to report’ (50%) has been in the application of electronic library resources for better delivery of services however, the research did not include the effect of electronic library resources which is what this study seek to uncover.

In another study, Heeks (2022) found that the use of information and communication technology can make a significant contribution to the achievement of good governance. Analysing case studies from countries such as the Philippines, Hunduras, Chile and South Korea, the study outlined three key contributors of e-governance: Improving government process (e-administration), concerning citizens (e-citizens and e-services) and building external interactions (e-society). Heeks also identified two major challenges that developing countries face when it comes to the successful implementation of electronic library resources. The strategic challenge of e-readiness and the tactical challenge of closing design reality gap, adopting best practice in electronic library resources projects in order to avoid failure and to achieve success.

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Adeyeye and Aledesanmi (2020) observed that active community participation and involvement especially in matters that affect them is a sine qua-non to proper resources handling and maintenance. The is reinforced by genuine acceptance by officials of local government of the rights of community members to determine their needs and allow them to direct their efforts as opposed to pseudo-participation for programmes decided by official as this is capable of encouraging people's dependence on government to do things for them. The gains of participatory democracy as illustrated above can be fully maximized by a local government service that has keyed into the electronic library resources programmes.

Ogbomo (2019) in his study used 200 respondents to investigate electronic library resources in local government administration, using Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State as a case study. The study found out that the benefits of electronic library resources towards local government administration are enhancement of communication and increased productivity. The study equally revealed that electronic library resources in government have set the stage for greater transparency and possibility for greater citizens' participation. It identified limited availability of electronic library resources facilities and recommended that electronic library resources such as internet, GSM system, computer and online tools for effective information and communication for service delivery should be made available in the local government. The study failed to include the effect of electronic library resources on students' academic performance which this study will lay bare.

Methodology

Survey research design was employed in this study. The study was guided by two objectives which are to identify the effect of electronic library resources on academic performance of the undergraduate students of library and information science department, Taraba State University (TSU), Jalingo and to identify challenges associated with accessing the electronic library resources in Taraba State University library. Population of the study is constituted of the 560 undergraduate students of the department of Library and Information Science. Using Yaro Yamane sampling technique a sample size of 233 was drawn from the population of the study. Stratified sampling method was used for the study. The instrument used was validated by two experts of the department of Library and Information Science of the university. The instrument was designed on 4-scale Likert rating with 4 as "Strongly Agreed", 3 as "Agreed", 2 as "Disagreed", and 1 as "Strongly Disagreed". The reliability of the instrument was established by conducting a pilot study in which 10% of the sample representing 23 questionnaires were administered and retrieved from similar respondents from Federal University, Wukari. The reliability was determined by using Cronbach Alpha which reveals a reliability of 0.71 representing a reliability of 71%. This value indicates a significant reliability on the instrument. Collected data was analysed using frequencies, percentages and mean and 2.5 was selected as the criteria mean used as basis for making decision. Values below the criteria mean were termed negative and values above it were termed positive.

Results

Table1: Rate of questionnaire returned

S/N		Administered	Returned	Valid	Invalid
1.	Frequency	233	233	210	23
2.	Percent (%)	100.0	100	91.2	8.8

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Table 1 above shows the rate of questionnaire returned. It can be seen that 233 questionnaires were distributed representing 100%. All were completed and retrieved however, 210 (91.2%) were found usable. The remaining 23(8.8%) where having missing data and therefore considered invalid.

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of respondents

Item	Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	131	56.2
	Female	102	43.8
		233	**100**
Level	100	63	27.1
	200	60	25.7
	300	50	21.4
	400	60	25.7
		233	**100**

Table 2 above shows the demographic characteristics of respondents. There are 131 male and 102 female respondents. The highest number of respondents 63 (27.1%) are the 100 level students while the least is 50(21.4%) which is the 300 level students.

Table 3: Effect of Electronic Library Resources on Academic Performance of Library and Information Science Undergraduate Students of Taraba State University, Jalingo.

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remark
1	The library's Electronic Resources are relevant to my Course work	480	210	60	13	3.27	Positive
2	The library's Electronic Resources have enhanced understanding of my Course work	472	129	82	31	3.06	Positive
3	The Library's Electronic Resources have enabled me to score higher grades	448	201	82	13	3.19	Positive
4	The Library's Electronic Resources have helped me carryout assignments successfully	360	201	140	6	3.03	Positive
5	The Library's Electronic Resources have helped me to have depth in knowledge in my field of study	292	294	60	32	2.90	Positive
	Cumulative mean					3.09	

Keys: SA = "Strongly Agreed", A= "Agreed", D= "Disagreed" and SD= "Strongly Disagreed"

Table 3 above displays the effect of electronic library resource on the academic performance of the respondents. It can be observed that the highest mean is 3.27 "The library's Electronic Resources have enhanced understanding of my Course work" while the lowest mean is 2.90 "The Library's Electronic Resources have helped me to have depth in knowledge in my field of study". It should be recalled that the criteria mean used is 2.5 meanwhile the cumulative mean arrived at is 3.27 this shows that the cumulative mean is above the criteria mean therefore, the effect of Electronic Library Resources on Academic Performance of Library and Information Science Undergraduate Students of Taraba State University, Jalingo is positive.

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Table 4: Challenges associated with use of Electronic Library Resources in Taraba State University Library

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remark
1	Lack of constant power supply	300	360	50	13	3.10	Positive
2	Poor accessibility of internet	560	183	20	12	3.32	Positive
3	Lack of adequate space	148	180	180	46	2.37	Negative
4	Inadequate maintenance of IT equipment	360	231	64	24	2.91	Positive
5	Inadequate IT support human resources	72	75	180	100	1.83	Negative
	Cumulative Mean					**2.71**	

Keys: SA = "Strongly Agreed", A= "Agreed", D= "Disagreed" and SD= "Strongly Disagreed"

Table 4 shows challenges associated with use of Electronic Library Resources in Taraba State University Library. It can be observed that the highest mean on the table is 3.10 "Lack of constant power supply" meaning it is the greatest challenge bedevilling the library followed by 3.32 "Poor accessibility of internet". The challenges that appear to be mild in the table are the ones that have the least mean of 2.37 and 1.83 "Lack of adequate space" and "Inadequate IT support human resources" respectively and that means that these challenges are not so disturbing since each of them did not exceed the 2.5 criteria set for the study. The cumulative mean is 2.71 which is slightly above the criteria mean of 2.5. This gives the overall impression that Taraba State University Library is actually faced with these challenges.

Discussion of Findings

The outcome on the effect of electronic library resources on students' academic performance shows that use of electronic library resource by the students exerts positive influence on their academic performance. This study dissent from the work of Daiyab and Gwarzo, (2022) whose work did not include the effect of electronic library resource on students' academic performance. The implication is that the students of Taraba State University get value from their usage of the electronic provision of information for their academic work meaning the university's expenditure on electronic resources is yielding expected fruits.

The outcome of the study on the challenges associated with use of electronic library resources in Taraba State University Library show that there are a number of challenges bedevilling the library ranging from lack of constant power supply, poor accessibility of the internet, inadequate maintenance of IT equipment, to inadequate IT support human resources. This agrees with Onuaha et al., (2019) and Yusuf, et al., (2020) who found unstable power supply to be one of the problems bedevilling the area of the study. The implication is that even though the electronic library resources have positive effect on students, it has the potential of exerting more positive effect that is yet to be explored due to the challenges prevailing.

Conclusion

This study was meant to identify the effect of electronic library resource on the academic performance of the undergraduate students of Taraba State University and to identify the challenges associated with accessing the electronic library resources in the university's library. If academic libraries are to attend their full potential for serving their users, there has to be regular evaluation of the impact of the services on the users and challenges associated with access will have to be addressed holistically. Based on the findings, it is hereby upheld

that the electronic library services have positive effect on the students' academic performance in Tabara State University, Jalingo. There is no guessing or assumption but an empirical evidence that the effort of librarians in providing electronic library resources is having a positive influence on the undergraduate students of the library and Information Science department in the university.

Recommendations:

Based on the Findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby presented:

i. The management of the university should address the manpower need in the area of handling the electronic library resource for optimum performance.
ii. The management of the university should address lapses that exist in the provision of power for the university library so that there will be stable power supply.
iii. The management of the university should address lapses that exist in the provision of
iv. internet so that the internet can be strong, stable and more reliable.

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