

## **Use of Internet Resources and Its Perceived Effects on Academic Librarians in Academic Libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

*The purpose of the study is to investigate “use of internet resources and its perceived effect on academic librarian in academic libraries in Nasarawa State”. Survey research design was adopted. A self-constructed questionnaire with reliability coefficient of 0.88 was used for data collection. A total of 136 respondents were sampled for the study using probability sampling technique. The data generated were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions while Chi-Square was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The result revealed among others that the types of internet resources enumerated were used with the  $x = 3.47$  and  $S.D = 0.53$ , there were perceived effect of internet resources on academic librarian in academic libraries in Nasarawa State with a mean of 3.01 and SD 0.96, the study also revealed the problems militating against effective use of internet resources.*

**Keywords:** Internet Resources, Use, Effects, Academic libraries, Nasarawa state.

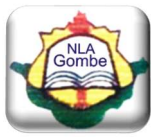
### **Introduction**

The Internet is a relatively new channel for scholarly resources, and contains vast quantities of information that vary a great deal regarding its contents, aims, target group and reliability. Hence, it is important that the end-user is aware of the diverse information available on the Internet and educated in the criteria by which the information content should be assessed (Chapman, 2002). The fabulous growth in telecommunication has brought online services, specialized electronic networks, Web-Pages, e-mail, software and global information resources to our homes as well as education. Thus, internet provides an environment in which millions of people participate and engage in the creation and exchange of information cited in Asdaque, Khan & Rizvi (2010).

The Internet is increasingly becoming an important source of academic information that needs to be integrated within the overall services that are offered in the library. These services, range from providing books and other informative materials such as current awareness service, selective dissemination of information and internet services.

Oyedun (2007) defines academic libraries as “those libraries that are mainly found in tertiary institutions, as opposed to school libraries found in primary and secondary schools”. They are established to support learning, teaching and research processes. Okiy (2011) maintained that “the roles of academic libraries in Nigeria are to effectively support the institutions to attain the key functions of teaching, research and community service”.

Internet has impacted on every sphere of academic library activity especially in the form of the library collection development strategies, library building and consortia. Internet presents



an opportunity to provide value-added information services and access to a wide variety of digital based information resources to their clients. Furthermore, academic libraries are also using modern ICTs to automate their core functions, implement efficient and effective library cooperation and resource sharing networks, implement management information systems, develop institutional repositories of digital local contents, and digital libraries: and initiate ICT based capacity building programmes for library users. Therefore the need for internet services and resources deployment in university libraries will go a long way in improving service delivery and enhance the productivity of library users.

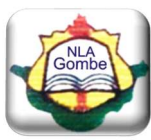
Information form the basis of any sound education system thus: there is an increased demand for all kinds of information products and services. Implications for the library is bound to be overwhelming, bearing in mind that this changes have a direct and equal effect on its services. On the other hand, internet has the potential to offer a solution for some of the demands for information products and services brought about by these changes. According to Twigg and Miloff cited in Abdulrahman (2012), information products and services can be achieved through the Internet and course material can be offered independently of time and place.

Younis (2002) stated that, the increased demand for online information has forced libraries to question the role of the Internet in their individual institutions. Academic libraries face the challenge of exploring the information super-highway to provide reference services to their clients. Younis goes further to state that internet access is viewed by users (faculty members, staff, and students) as a core resource and a basic right, similar to a library catalogue. Smart (2016), has stated also that, the internet has become an important component in academic libraries as it plays a pivotal role in meeting the information needs of the institution the university system has changed the learning environment. In Nigeria, in spite of the success recorded by some Internet services and resources, in terms of providing access to information resources, its effects on library service delivery has been a subject of debate and controversy.

According to Ajala, Adegun. & Oyewunmi (2010), the internet is found to useful for research activities, however, it has not been utilized for effective teaching and learning purposes., Apart from these, others include; failure in examination, poor performance in schools and lack of current and relevant material for quantity and quality research outputs and eventual shift of loyalty by library users. Unfortunately, since the deployment of internet resources in academic libraries in Nasarawa State Nigeria, their effect on academic libraries has not been demonstrated. It will therefore expect that the extent to which internet resources are used will be an indication of the perceived effect on academic libraries in Nasarawa State Nigeria. Therefore, there is the need to critically examine use of internet resources and its perceived effects on library service delivery in Nasarawa State. A detail understanding of these effects may provide necessary information and guide towards providing a more effective and sustainable internet resources that can serve the library users better. It is against this background that this study seeks to determine the use of internet resources and its perceived effects on academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

### **Statement of the Problem**

It is in recognition of the potentials of the internet in academic libraries service delivery that government spent a lot of capital investment in internet acquisition and development of hardware, software and standby generators, trained and retrained librarians and students alike for the skills required for internet use.



However, in spite of the huge investment in internet acquisition and deployment in academic libraries in Nasarawa State, it is observed every now and then that library users face various kinds of frustration ranging from outdated library resources, worldwide web (www), high rate of recall and low precision. The extent to which internet services actually affect academic library operations and contribute to proactive library service delivery in Nasarawa State is a subject of debate. It is expected that the deployment of internet services in academic libraries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria will enhance service delivery, but this has not been demonstrated. Alarm had also been raised about the high rate of poor service delivery by academic libraries in Nigeria (Uganneya, Ape & Ubagir. 2012). An evidence of this includes low patronage and struggle of loyalty by library users. This is the challenge that prompted this study. In essence, this study is seeking to provide an answer to the “use of internet resource and its perceived effects on academic libraries in Nasarawa State”.

### **Objective of the Study**

The main purpose of this research was to investigate use of internet resources and its perceived effects on academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa state, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. determine the types of internet resources used by academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.
2. investigate the perceived effects of internet resources on academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.
3. ascertain the challenges hindering the effective use of internet resources by academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

### **Research Questions**

The following questions guided the study.

1. What are the types of internet resources used by academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa State?
2. What are the perceived effects of those internet resources on academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa State?
3. What are the challenges hindering the effective use of internet resources by academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa State?

### **Research Hypothesis**

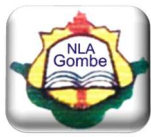
The following null hypothesis is tested at 0.05 level of significance and guided the study.

1. Internet resources have no significant effect on academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

### **REVIEW OF RELATED EMPIRICAL LITERATURE**

Tadasad, Maheswarappa and Alur (2003), carried out a study on the internet use among students in several engineering field in Philippines Defense Academy (PDA) College of Engineering, Gulbarga. The finding showed that 32% of the higher education students went online for various reasons such as chatting, reading news and courses related activities (20.7%), e-mail (20.5%) and playing games (26.8%).

In Malaysia, Noor cited in Ayub, Hamid & Nawawi (2014), studied on the use of internet in the university libraries. Findings from the study showed that more than 60% of the respondents used internet for various activities including communication with each other, online purchasing, search for academic resources for assignments and study, while 35% used internet for social activities.



In a related study by Adogbeji and Blessing (2005) on the impact of ICT (internet) on research and studies; the experience of Delta State University students Abraka, Nigeria. The finding showed that a mean rating of 2.5 of internet use has affected research and study positively, 2.8 mean rating stated that internet has helped in quick access to study material in the field of study and the use of different kinds of electronic databases for current information resources for study and research.

Balakrishnan (2010) did a study on internet use in the University of Malaysia. The study revealed that even though the majority of the students used the internet to find books in the library, 32.6% reported that they never used the internet to search for books. Students preferred to use search engines such as Yahoo, Google and others to supplement materials provided by the University library, such as ProQuest, university e-learning resources, university web resources and university library publications.

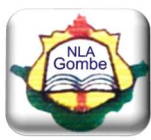
Younis (2002) did a study on the extent of Internet utilization in Jordanian university libraries. The study investigated the administrative effect of the internet in academic libraries in Jordan and the effect of the Internet on the acquisition of traditional and non-traditional information sources (i.e. CD-ROMs), problems and solutions. The results of the study indicated that librarians perceived the internet as a supplement to libraries' collections, as a substitute for databases on CD-ROMs, and a way of saving on subscription charges for printed journals, but not as a replacement for printed books.

## **METHODOLOGY**

For the purpose of this study, a survey research design was adopted. The area of study is Nasarawa State. The population of the study was 163 academic librarians in five academic libraries in Nasarawa State. One hundred and thirty six (163) respondents were selected to represent the total population. That is to say that Nasarawa State University Keffi Library 25, Federal University Lafia library 36, Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa library 30, Nasarawa State Polytechnic Lafia library 25, College of Education Akwanga library 26, totaling one hundred and thirty six (136) using the probability sampling techniques which gave every member of the population equal opportunity of being selected. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Copies of the questionnaire were subjected to face and content validation by three experts in Librarianship. The reliability of the instrument was calculated using Cronbach Alpha formula. The reliability coefficient of 0.88 was obtained for the instrument, indicating that the instrument is reliable for the study. The questionnaire were distributed directly by the researchers to the librarians. The questionnaire were collected immediately after completion from the academic librarians in the various academic libraries under study. The data generated were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Mean and standard deviation was used to answer the research questions while Chi-Square was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. Bench mark of mean of 2.50 and above was considered for usage for research question 1 while any item with a mean rating of less than 2.50 was regarded as not used. Also, the same rule of mean of 2.50 above as considered having effect while less than that resulting to having no effect. The decision rule for the rejection or acceptance of hypothesis was based on the set value of 0.05, where the P- value was equal to or greater than the set value of 0.05( $P > 0.05$ ) the hypothesis was accepted but was rejected when the P-value was less than the set value of 0.05( $P < 0.05$ ).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results are presented and analyzed based on the research questions raised and hypothesis formulated for the study.



## Result

**Research Question 1:** What are the types of internet resources used by academic librarians in academic libraries in Nasarawa State?

**Table 1:** Mean and Standard Deviation of types of internet resources used by academic librarian in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

S/N	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1	Inter-cat	3.13	1.06	Used
2	Computer	3.44	0.87	Used
3	OPAC	3.18	1.023	Used
4	ERIC	2.88	1.06	Used
5	Web index	3.01	1.00	Used
6	Webpage	2.94	0.97	Used
7	Blog	3.00	0.97	Used
8	Webliography	3.08	0.93	Used
9	E-book/e-journal	3.01	0.87	Used
	<b>Cluster Mean</b>	<b>3.47</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>Used</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

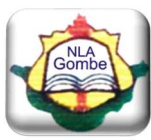
All the nine items on table one revealed a mean more than 2.50 which ranges from 2.88-3.44 with a cluster mean of 3.47 and S.D 0.53, having ERIC with the least mean of 2.88 this result indicated that all the identified internet Resources material were useable.

**Research Questions Two:** What are the perceived effects of internet resources on academic libraries in Nasarawa State?

**Table Two:** Mean and Standard Deviation of Perceived effect of internet resources on academic Libraries.

S/N	Item of Internet Resources	Mean	S Deviation	Decision
1	Internet provided E-journal	3.38	1.00	Effect
2	Internet provided E-journal from the database	3.38	1.00	Effect
3	Internet acquired specialized subject disciplines from the webliographic	3.38	1.03	Effect
4	Internet classified and Catalogued books/journals from the web protocol	2.29	.49	Effect
5	Internet provided access to books to library users through OPAC	3.23	.45	Effect
6	Internet selected information resources through webliographies for library acquisition	2.87	.46	Effect
7	Internet verified bibliographic details through webliographies	3.25	0.93	Effect
8	Internet deployed search engine to provide e-journal for students project	3.33	0.99	Effect
9	Internet reached new user through online reference services	3.09	0.90	Effect
10	Internet provided up-date e-book/journal through the use of ERIC/LISA database	3.36	1.00	Effect
11	Internet used subject specific blogs to meet information needs of specialized users	3.32	.93	Effect
	<b>Cluster Mean</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>Effect</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2019



The finding on table 2 revealed that internet resources has effect on academic libraries with a cluster mean of 3.22 and SD of 0.83. The entire item that answered the research questions range from 2.87 to 3.38 and SD of 0.45 to 1.03

**Research Question Three:** what are the challenges hindering the effective use of internet resources by academic librariansin academic libraries in Nasarawa state?

**Table Three:** Mean and Standard Deviation of challenges hindering the effective use of internet resources in academic libraries.

S/N	Item	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Inadequate funding	3.50	0.79	Agreed
2	Epileptic power supply	3.44	0.79	Agreed
3	Lack of search skills	3.37	0.78	Agreed
4	Automation at infancy level	3.12	1.00	Agreed
5	Lack of Qualified and experienced staff	3.37	0.78	Agreed
6	Low bandwidth	3.44	0.83	Agreed
	<b>Cluster</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

The result on table five revealed the challenges hindering the effective use of internet resources by academic librarians in academic libraries with the mean ranges from 3.12 to 3.50 and SD of 0.78 to 1.00 with cluster mean of 3.37 and SD of 1.24, this shows that these challenges hindered academic librarians to effectively utilize internet resources in academic libraries.

**Hypothesis One:** Internet resources have no significant effect on academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

**Table 4** Chi-Square analysis of internet resources on academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

	Df	P	Sig Level	Decision
Chi-square	8	0.01	0.05	Rejected
No valid Cases				

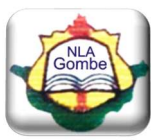
(P<0.05).

Result on table 4 shows that the P-(sig) value, 0.01 is less than alpha-value of 0.05 (P<0.05) at df =8. Therefore the null hypothesis which states that internet resources have no significant effect on academic libraries in Nasarawa State is rejected.

### Discussion of Findings

Based on the findings of the study, the following discussions were made;

Research question one revealed the various types of internet resources that are used in academic libraries in Nasarawa State. This result is in consonances with the findings of Tadasad, Maheswarappa and Alur (2003), who found out that 32% of the higher education students went online for various reasons such as chatting, while 20.7% used it for reading news and courses related activities, also 20.5% used for email and 26.8% for playing games. Also the study is in agreement with Noor (op. cit.) who findings showed that 60% of the respondents used internet for various activities including communication with each other, online purchasing, search for academic resources for assignments and study, while 35% used internet for social activities. The finding also support Sam, Othman & Nordin (2005) cited in Ayub, Hamid & Nawawi (2015) reported that the Internet was used for e-mail (98.6%), research (95.9%), and entertainment (85.1%) and for gathering product and service



information (82.4%). Other nonacademic Internet use included the downloading of software and games (66.2%), assessing newsgroups (56.8%) and chatting (50%). On average, the students spent 9.2 hours per week on the Internet. This study negates the findings of Balakrishnan (2010) who study revealed that even though the majority of the students used the Internet to find books in the library, 32.6% reported that they never used the Internet to search for books. Students preferred to use search engines such as Yahoo, Google and others to supplement materials provided by the University library, such as Proquest, university E-Learning resources, university web resources and university library publications.

Analysis of questions two in table 2 revealed that there were perceived effect of internet resources on academic libraries in Nasarawa State. The result was also buttress with the hypothesis on table 4 which indicate a significant effect of internet resources on academic libraries in Nasarawa State. Where  $P < .05$  at  $df = 8$ . The finding supports the findings of Adogbeji and Blessing (2005) whose finding showed that a mean rating of 2.5 of internet use has affected research and study positively, 2.8 mean rating stated that internet has helped in quick access to study material in the field of study and the use of different kinds of electronic databases for current information resources for study and research. Also the study agree to the study of Younis (2002) who suggested that librarians perceived the internet as a supplement to libraries collections, as a substitute for databases on CD-ROMs, and a way of saving on subscription charges for printed journals, but not as a replacement for printed books.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, it is necessary to conclude that academic librarians used internet resources and also that the effect of internet resources can either be positive or negative, and that, various factor are militating against effective use of internet resources in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

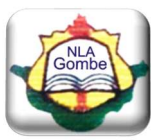
### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Since all the types of internet resources enumerated were used there should be more training, awareness, exposure and workshops on how to make use of internet resources.
2. Efforts should be made to increase the speed of the internet access and shorten the time it takes to view and download web pages.
3. The challenges hindering effective use of internet resource in academic libraries should be addressed by the government through the provision of fund, uninterrupted power supply and provision of qualified and experienced staff in academic libraries in Nasarawa State.

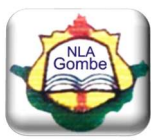
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