

## **Influence of Electronic Library on User Access to Information Resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi**

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### **Abstract**

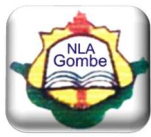
*The study is the influence of Electronic library on user access to information resources in the University community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. The objectives are to identify the types of information resources users' access via the Electronic Library in the University community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, to determine the level of influence that Electronic Library has on user access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University and to find out the factors that limits the influence of Electronic Library on User access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University. The research design is a descriptive survey with an estimated population size of 11,300 and sample population is 370. The Instrument of the Study is a Structured Questionnaire. The findings are that the type of information resources users access via the Electronic Library are Electronic Text books, ( $X=3.94$ ) and Electronic Journals ( $X=2.66$ ). The level of influence that Electronic Library has on user access to information resources is high (52.21%). Finally, the factors that limit the influence of Electronic Library on User access to information resources are Limited ICT resources in the Electronic Library ( $X=3.05$ ) and Electronic Library has computer virus ( $X=3.13$ ).*

**Keywords:** Electronic Library, Influence, Information Resources and Users

### **Introduction**

The University community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi is located in Yelwa in the metropolis. A large amount of people located in the University Community are mixture of Undergraduate and Postgraduate with addition of Polytechnic Students and business/working class people. According to tri-suggest.com (2021), Yelwa in the region of Bauchi State is a town in Nigeria.

The Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi is a federal University of technology with its University community located around it. The University Library has an Electronic section that serves as an Electronic Library which provides access to information resources to users. The University community benefits from the Electronic Library services provided. Sofia



(2017) opined that the advancement of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Librarianship has brought unprecedented growth of information resulting in information explosion and the information being generated in different formats providing cost-effective information services to University community. Electronic Libraries are not replacements for traditional libraries. They are rather the future of traditional libraries (Seadle, 2006). Electronic Library also include a collection of textual, numeric data, scanned images, graphics, audio & video recordings that provides access to electronic collection for ease of retrieval of information to the users. Oduwole & Akpati (2003) study revealed that accessing various types of electronic information cuts across all members of the University community that it was to a greater extent easy to use and were satisfied with their search outputs. The constraints identified included insufficient number of terminals available for use despite high demand and inadequate electricity supply.

Milind & Dipak (2012) identified that the term 'electronic library' is being used in broad terms to mean a collection of networked computerized digital information resources and associated technical and managerial infrastructure. The electronic library is assumed to include data in various formats which are created or assembled in order to provide a service to end users. Over the last decade a growing numbers of libraries in Bauchi adopted e-services to provide their users with electronics access like e-mail, web, and mobile phone to wide range of services. Suresh (2016) explained that the electronic services rendered with the help of ICT are faster and more effective. The electronic services have changed the procedure of information handling with the help of development of ICT. The specific services of e-services include providing remote access library resources service deliveries and generation of information by library.

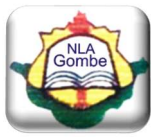
### **Statement of the problem**

Electronic Library is a concept that refers to locations used to access information resources via a computer system (Milind & Dipak, 2012). With its influence, Electronic Library provides better access to information resources to users for their research and other purposes around the University communities. The researchers observed that there are challenges encountered by users in accessing the electronic Library section in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Yelwa campus in Bauchi. Also, the community has difficulty with the distance and utilization of the Bauchi State Library Board Electronic Library. This may be because of poor internet networks or difficulty in accessing information resources. Thus, this may negatively affect the Electronic Libraries influence on user access to variety of information resources. Hence, there is need to carry out this study.

### **Objective of the study**

The main objective of the study is to investigate the Electronic Library influence on user access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. Other specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the types of information resources users access via the Electronic Library in the University community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University.
2. To determine the level of influence that Electronic Library has on user access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University.
3. To find out the factors that limits the influence of Electronic Library on User access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University.



## Research questions

The following are the research questions for the study:

1. What are the types of information resources users' access via the Electronic Library in the University community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University?
2. What is the level of influence that Electronic Library has on user access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University?
3. What are the factors that limit the influence of Electronic Library on User access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University?

## Methodology

Below is the methodology that was used for the study:

The research methodology is a quantitative type because it involved statistical method of presentation of the data collected. The research design is a descriptive survey design because of the large population of the study. The respondent group for the study is only the residence of the University community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi with an estimated population size of 11,300 (*Source: residence*). The sample population is 370 drawn using Krejcieand Morgan (1970) Table of determining sample size of a known Population. A Simple random sampling technique was also adopted by the researchers to select the respondents from the University community that were administered the Instrument of the Study (Structured Questionnaire) so as to collect data. Finally, the data collected was analyzed using simple percentages and frequency distribution.

## Results

The researchers' results are presented and interpreted in the tables below:

**Note 1:** The statistics is presented using Strongly Agreed (SA) = 4, Agreed (A) =3, Disagree (D) =2, and Strongly Disagree (SD) =1. Figures in bracket in the table are weighted values.

**Note 2:** Frequency and Percentages were also used to present the level of influence.

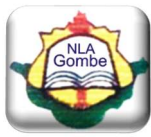
**Table-1: Number of Questionnaire administered**

SN	Questionnaire Administered	Questionnaire Returned	Questionnaire Not Returned
1	370	316	54

The Researchers administered 370 Questionnaires to the respondents and 316 were returned duly completed. While 54 were not returned at all.Hence, the researchers will analyze 316 Questionnaires for the study.

## Research Question-1

What are the types of information resources users' access via the Electronic Library in the University community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University?



**Table-2:** Below shows the types of information resources users’ access via the Electronic Library in the University community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University.

SN	DESCRIPTION	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	TOTAL	X	DECISION
1	Electronic Text books	301 (1204)	11 (33)	4 (8)	0 (0)	316 (1245)	3.94	Agree / accepted
2	Electronic Journals	56 (224)	133 (399)	92 (184)	35 (35)	316 (842)	2.66	Agree / accepted
3	Electronic Magazines	21 (84)	157 (471)	120 (240)	18 (18)	316 (813)	2.57	Agree / accepted
4	Electronic Dictionary	52 (208)	208 (624)	34 (68)	22 (22)	316 (922)	2.92	Agree / accepted
5	Electronic Thesaurus	44 (176)	57 (171)	114 (228)	101 (101)	316 (676)	2.14	Disagree /not accepted
6	Electronic Encyclopedia	78 (312)	134 (402)	102 (204)	2 (2)	316 (920)	2.91	Agree / accepted
7	Electronic Newspapers	142 (568)	135 (405)	34 (68)	5 (5)	316 (1046)	3.31	Agree / accepted
8	Electronic Thesis/Projects	120 (480)	95 (285)	45 (90)	56 (56)	316 (911)	2.88	Agree / accepted
<b>Total X</b>							<b>23.33</b>	

The table-2 above shows that items 1,2,3,4,6,7 and 8 were all agreed/accepted; while 5 is disagree/not accepted. This also shows that majority of the respondents agreed that the type of information resources users access via the Electronic Library are Electronic Text books, (X=3.94), Electronic Journals (X=2.66), Electronic Magazines (X=2.57), Electronic Dictionary (X=2.92), Electronic Encyclopedia (X=2.91), Electronic Newspapers (X=3.31) and Electronic Thesis/Projects (X=2.88). This is in confirmation with Oduwole & Akpati (2003) study which revealed that users access various types of electronic information with satisfaction of search outputs.

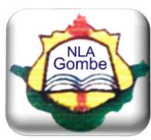
### Research Question-2

What is the level of influence that Electronic Library has on user access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University?

**Table-3:** Below shows the level of influence that Electronic Library has on user access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University.

SN	DESCRIPTION	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Very High level of influence	72	22.78
2	High level of influence	165	52.21
3	Moderate level of influence	56	17.72
4	Low level of influence	21	6.64
5	Very low level of influence	2	0.63
<b>Total</b>		<b>316</b>	<b>100%</b>

In table-3 above, the respondents indicated that the level of influence that Electronic Library has on user access to information resources is high (52.21%). Others is Very high (22.78%), and Moderate (17.71%). This is in agreement with Sofia (2017) who opined that the advancement of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Librarianship has brought unprecedented growth of information resulting in information explosion and the information being generated in different formats providing cost-effective information services to University community.



### Research Question-3

What are the factors that limit the influence of Electronic Library on User access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University?

**Table-4:** Below shows the factors that limit the influence of Electronic Library on User access to information resources in the University Community of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University.

SN	DESCRIPTION	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	TOTAL	X	DECISION
1	Poor Internet Network access in Electronic Library	12 (48)	33 (99)	177 (354)	94 (94)	316 (595)	1.88	Disagree / not accepted
2	Limited ICT resources in the Electronic Library	129 (516)	108 (324)	45 (90)	34 (34)	316 (964)	3.05	Agree / accepted
3	Limited space in the Electronic Library	60 (240)	11 (33)	146 (292)	99 (99)	316 (664)	2.10	Disagree / not accepted
4	Electronic Library has computer virus	80 (320)	210 (630)	12 (24)	14 (14)	316 (988)	3.13	Agree / accepted
5	Limited power supply in the Electronic Library	106 (424)	167 (501)	2 (4)	41 (41)	316 (970)	3.07	Agree / accepted
<b>Total X</b>							<b>13.23</b>	

The table-4 above shows that items 2, 4 and 5 were all agreed/accepted; while 1 and 3 disagree/not accepted. This also shows that majority of the respondents agreed that the factors that limit the influence of Electronic Library on User access to information resources are Limited ICT resources in the Electronic Library (X=3.05), Electronic Library has computer virus (X=3.13), and Limited power supply in the Electronic Library (X=3.07). This is in confirmation with Oduwole & Akpati (2003) study which revealed that the constraints to Electronic Library included insufficient number of terminals available for use despite high demand and inadequate electricity supply.

### Findings

The study found out that:

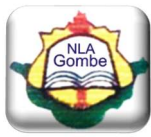
1. The major type of information resources users access via the Electronic Library are Electronic Text books and Electronic Journals.
2. The level of influence that Electronic Library has on user access to information resources is high.
3. The factors that limit the influence of Electronic Library on User access to information resources are Limited ICT resources in the Electronic Library and computer virus.

### Conclusion

The Electronic Library is very important in proving access to information resources. It influences the level of user access which has improved knowledge in various University communities. Even with the challenges involved in providing and accessing Electronic services, the level of positive influence cannot be overemphasized.

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