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VISIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOLARLY JOURNALS IN BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

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Abstract
The study investigates the current status of scholarly journals in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria their visibility, accessibility via traditional and digital means and the challenges encountered by the university scholarly journals. The online survey, using Google Forms, was developed by the researcher to solicit data for the study. All Editors-in- Chief of fifty (50) scholarly journals in the university were purposively selected as research respondents. The survey link was sent, between January and February 2022, to individual respondent through WhatsApp platform and email contact in few cases as requested. The online response rate was very interesting as all Editors-in-Chief of the existing journals participated and the data collected were analyzed using frequency and percentage. The findings revealed that majority of the university scholarly journals were active, visible and accessible through the Serials sections of the University libraries. Few active journals were reported visible and accessible through online platforms, like African Journals Online (AJOL), Web of Science and journal websites with open access mode. Inadequate infrastructure for digital visibility and accessibility and insufficient source of funding among few others were the challenges encountered by the scholarly journals in the University. The study concludes that the university has many current and active scholarly journals but with a limited digital visibility and accessibility. It is recommended that provision of adequate digital facilities and sufficient source of funding will facilitate the online visibility and accessibility of the university scholarly journals.

Keywords: Visibility, Accessibility, Scholarly Journals, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

Introduction
Learning, teaching and research activities are considered as part of the mandate for ranking all universities and other academic institutions globally.

Scholarly publications are recognized to disseminate research findings and knowledge across the globe. Visibility is comprised of a number of features including visibility of authors and content through abstracting and indexing databases, availability in library collections, web-based publishing, and visibility of research performance as measured through various bibliometric measures such as citation counts and impact factors. Visibility of scholarly communication means that specific knowledge and authored works can be discovered because they are traceable (Ezema & Onyancha, 2017).

Accessibility means that potential users can gain access to the hard copy or electronic format of any research, in order to evaluate the work through a review of the abstract, or engagement with the full text or content of the work. If the technological means for access exists (both on the publisher's side and on the user's side) and the copyright constraints to access are addressed, then most, but not all, the requirements for access are met (Ola, 2015).

Many Open Access research papers have considered the visibility and accessibility as undividable terms and they have reported a positive relationship with the two concepts in traditional or digital environment. It was suggested that increased visibility improves accessibility to scholarly publications (Gbaje, 2010 and Ezema, 2011).

In this regard, researchers generally want a broad range of scholarly journals to be visible and accessible on digital platforms for easy usage. The visibility and accessibility of scholarly journals in digital format globalizes sharing and evaluating research findings and observations among scholars.

Digital visibility and accessibility of scholarly journals was practically impossible prior to the availability of Internet and adoption of Open Journal Systems for facilitating open access initiative at global and local levels. The Internet provides global visibility to research outputs and creates the accessibility for people to such scholarly publications from all over the world.

Nigeria (241) and South Africa (98) have the largest proportion of scholarly journals published in Africa for visibility and accessibility on African Journals Online (AJOL) database (African Journals Online, 2022). Most journals were published by universities, research institutes and professional associations as the database was accessed by the researcher in March, 2022.

The prospects of digital visibility and accessibility of the university journals sound exciting, it should be noted that the challenges experienced in the print publication need to be addressed first before moving to online publishing of the journals can succeed (Ajao & Ugwu, 2011; Ezema, 2011 and Mohammed, 2013).

However, the researcher considers visibility as a segment of accessibility but

it is not sufficient as if they are not used together because the presence of journal articles within traditional or digital platform does not guarantee their accessibility. This indicates that visibility is a necessary precondition for readers or users to gain access to needed information sources through open access or subscription. The visibility and accessibility modes reveal how scholarly journals published in Bayero University are visible and accessible, and used by other researchers in Nigeria, other African countries and beyond the continent.

Scholarly Journals in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

The academic and research staff of universities in Nigeria like their counterparts in the universities of other developed and developing countries are expected to conduct and publish their research works as part of their teaching, research and promotion requirements. This has given birth to the establishment of many scholarly journals which are published by departments, faculties and other related established schools and research centres in any particular university.

Bayero University was the first institution in Kano State to establish an academic journal. Kano Studies: Journal of Savanna and Sudanic Research was the first scholarly journal it established in 1965, just a year after Abdullahi Bayero College, now Bayero University, was founded (Abba, 2004). The journal has been sustained from 1965 to date considering its existence to mark fifty seven (57) years and Mohammed (2008), reported that Bayero University, Kano, established a total number of twenty-three (23) scholarly journals between 1965 and 2008. His report also revealed that out of these journals, eight ceased to function and fifteen of them were found active. The journal ownership includes two, for the university management, seven, for faculty and fourteen for departmental based- journals respectively.

The university has maintained the trend of establishing scholarly journals to the present time of conducting this study to examine the current status of the journals including the digital and traditional modes of their visibility and accessibility. It is apparent that visibility and accessibility of research outputs are worthy of examination from the perspective of a university characterized by increase in establishment of scholarly journals.

Before this study, it had been observed by the researcher that there was no adequate study that had investigated the visibility and accessibility modes of scholarly journals published in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. The findings of this study therefore, will fill the gap and provide stakeholders in scholarly publishing with insights into strategies for improving the visibility and accessibility modes of scholarly journals. In view of the findings, recommended

strategies have been made for overcoming the challenges militating against the transition of print scholarly journals to digital visible and accessible publications for worldwide knowledge sharing.

Statement of the Problem

Digital visibility and accessibility of scholarly journals has transformed the world dissemination and sharing of research findings faster than traditional means. The traditional methods of disseminating scholarly journals are still mainly reigning in print format with limited visibility and accessibility. *Keeping pace with the technology for global visibility and accessibility is a big challenge for many scholarly journals published in Nigeria and in some other countries in Africa.* This situation has created a great gap for scholarly journals to suffer from low dissemination and restricted visibility to the university community and the global communities at large.

The researcher observed that publishers of scholarly journals in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, have not adequately adopted the Internet facilities as a tool for improving the visibility and accessibility modes of scholarly publications. With poor digital visibility and accessibility, many scholarly journals published in print format in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, are cited less frequently than would have been the case if their online visibility and accessibility modes have been adequately addressed and improved upon. It is against this background that this study examined the current status of scholarly journals published in the university, including their visibility and accessibility modes and challenges encountered.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study was to examine the current status of scholarly journals published in Bayero University, Kano. The study had the following specific objectives:

a. To identify the visibility and accessibility modes of scholarly journals in Bayero University, Kano
b. To examine the preparedness of the Editors-in-Chief for the digital visibility and accessibility of scholarly journals in the University
c. To identify the challenges encountered by the Editors-in- Chief in digital visibility and accessibility of scholarly in the University

Methodology

The researcher adopted survey method for the study and purposive sampling technique was employed using an online questionnaire to collect data

from the editors-in-chief of scholarly journals published in Bayero University, Kano. The University currently has a total number of fifty (50) active scholarly journals. Some of the early journals published in the University were no longer in existence for accessibility and some were replaced with the currently **established journals.** All the existing journals were purposively used in the study.

All the editors-in-chief were purposively selected because they were in a better position to provide the main sources of information required as they influence the policy direction of their scholarly journals.

The online survey was designed using Google Form and sent to the respondents through individual WhatsApp and e-mail contact. The data were collected between January and February, 2022. Responses were analyzed using frequency and percentage.

Presentation and Discussion of Findings

4.1 Background Information of Editors-in-Chief

Table 1: Background Information of Respondents

S/N	Characteristics of Editors-in-Chief	Category	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gender	Male	Male	45	93.7
		Female	Female	3	6.2
	Total			**48**	**100**
2	**Rank**	Professor	Professor	29	60.4
		Associate Professor	Associate Professor	13	27.1
		Senior Lecturer	Senior Lecturer	6	12.5
	Total			**48**	**100**
3	**Computer Literate**	Yes	Yes	48	100
		No	No	0	0
	Total			**48**	**100**

The result as seen above reveals that majority of the editors-in-chief, 45 (93.7%) are male and three of them (6.2%) are female. This implies that being an editor-in-chief of any scholarly journal does not require gender equity. The male gender domination is not a requirement for editorial affairs of scholarly journals.

Similarly, the result shows that majority of the editors-in-chief, 29 (60.4%) are Professors as the high rank order in scholarship, while thirteen editors-in-chief (27.1%) are Associate Professors and six editors-in-chief (12.5%) are Senior Lecturers overseeing the editorial affairs of the scholarly journals in the University. This implies that editorial affairs of scholarly journals require experienced scholars in various disciplines of knowledge covered by the journals. The professorship adds more values to the quality and standard of scholarly journals in the university system.

Also, the result reveals that all the editors-in-chief are computer literate. This encouraged them to actively respond to the online survey employed by the researcher for data collection. It also reflected their proper usage of information technologies especially handling Google Forms and accurate responses on digital visibility and accessibility of the journals in a digital era.

Table 2: Faculty/School Affiliation of Respondents

S/N	Faculty/School Affiliation	No of Editors-in-Chief	No of Responses Received	Percentage
1	Agriculture	3	3	6
2	Allied Health Sciences	4	4	8
3	Arts and Islamic Studies	9	9	18
4	Basic Medical Sciences	1	1	2
5	Communication	3	3	6
6	Earth and Environmental Sciences	1	1	2
7	Education	6	7	14
8	Engineering	1	1	2
9	Law	5	5	10
10	Life Sciences	2	2	4
11	Management Sciences	6	6	12
12	Physical Sciences	1	1	2
13	Social Sciences	4	5	10
14	School of Continuing Education	2	2	4
	Total	**48**	**50**	**100**

The Table reveals that all the forty eight (48) editors-in-chief representing fifty scholarly journals participated in the study. Their affiliation can be traced to thirteen faculties and School of Continuing Education in Bayero University. The responses reflect on a total of fifty (50) existing scholarly journals across faculties, departments, centres, schools and institute in the University. All the editors-in-chief responded to the online survey employed by the researcher to solicit data for the study. The findings can also be generalized across the scholarly journals

published in the University due to the high response rate achieved by the researcher representing (100%).

The table above reveals forty eight (48) respondents as editors-in-chief representing fifty (50) journals participated in the study. This implies that one of the editors-in- chief from Faculty of Education was in charge of two (2) journals published by the department of Education and Faculty of Education respectively. Also, another respondent from Faculty of Social Sciences as editor-in-chief was in charge of two (2) journals published by the department of Sociology and the School of Continuing Education respectively. The responses were counted based on the frequency of fifty participating journals in the study, not based on the total of forty eight (48) editors-in-chief.

Status of Journals in Bayero University, Kano

The university has joined the global practice in academic and research institutions to establish many scholarly journals which are published by its departments, faculties, schools and colleges.

The respondents were asked to provide information on the status of scholarly journals published in the University based on the following subheadings:

Year of Establishing the Journals

Table 3: Establishment Year and Generation of the Journals

Year	Generation	Description	Frequency	Percentage
1965-1980	First	(1: 1965, 1971, 1978, 1980)	4	8
1981-1996	Second	(1:1982, 1994)	2	4
1997-2002	Third	(1: 1997, 1999, 3: 2001)	5	10
2003-2018	Fourth	(2: 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 1: 2010, 2011, 2: 2012, 2013, 2014, 4: 2015, 2016, 2: 2017, 4: 2018)	34	68
2019-	Fifth	(1: 2019, 3: 2020, 1: 2021)	5	10
Total			**50**	**100**

A range of 15 years is used to group the journals according to their year of establishment into five generations. The result seen above reveals that the first scholarly journal was established in 1965 when the University was Abdullahi Bayero College affiliated to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Based on the range of years used to segment the journals into generations, the first generation contains four active journals (8%) established between 1965 and 1980 in the University excluding the ceased journals. The second generation consists of two journals (4%) established between 1981 and 1996. This generation contains few journals as most of the journals established at this period were found discontinued and the active ones remain two as discovered by the researcher during the pilot study. Most of the university journals between the two generations were ceased as discovered by the researcher and also reported by Mohammed (2008) in his study on the development of scholarly journals in higher institutions in Kano State. The third generation has five journals (10%) established between 1997 and 2002, while the fourth generation has a large number of thirty four journals (68%) established between 2003 and 2018 and the fifth generation includes five journals (10%) established from 2019 to date, which will continue to cover any other forthcoming journals till 2034. This implies that the university had witnessed a rapid development in establishing and sustaining a huge number of scholarly journals between 2003 and 2018. This could be as a result of many new programmes concurrently introduced in both existing and newly established faculties and departments in the university.

Language/languages of the journals

Table 4: Language/languages of the journals

S/N	Language Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Single (English)	41	82
2	Double 1 (Arabic and English)	3	6
	Double 2 (Hausa and English)	2	4
	Double 3 (English and French)	1	2
3	Triple (Arabic, English and Hausa)	2	4
4	Multiple (Arabic, English, French and Hausa)	1	2
	Total	**50**	**100**

T he result above reveals that English Language was mainly used by forty one journals (82%) for the publication. Of course, three journals (6%) used Arabic and English, two journals (4%) adopted Hausa and English and one journal (2%) used English and French as double languages for their publications respectively. Also, two journals (4%) adopted Arabic, English and Hausa as triple languages, while only one journal used Arabic, English, French and Hausa as multiple languages for their publications. This implies that English has been a common language used by all fifty (50) scholarly journals published in the university. Nine journals (18%) have advantage of other three languages which include Arabic, Hausa and French due to the language specialization of their publications' authors.

The language of scholarly journals is fundamental and critical to global visibility and accessibility of academic publications. The study revealed that English is the dominant language of the university scholarly journals. This is expected, considering the position of English language in the university system and the fundamental background of many programmes in Nigeria. Arabic, Hausa and French languages equally received sizeable portions in the language of scholarly journals published in the University.

This finding collaborates with Ezema and Onyancha's (2015) study reported that global visibility of research outputs published and indexed in major databases skewed in favour of English and other major speaking languages of the globe.

Current Issue of the Journals

Table 5: Year of Current Issue of the journals

S/N	Year of current Issue	Frequency	Percentage
1	2015	1	2.3
2	2017	1	2.3
3	2018	2	4.6
4	2019	5	11.6
5	2020	13	30.2
6	2021	20	46.5
7	2022	1	2.3
	Total	**43**	**100**

The result above reveals that 43 out of 50 journals studied had current issues published as from 2015 to date. Twenty out of forty three journals (46.3%) published their current issues in 2021, while thirteen journals (30.2) and five journals (11.6%) published in 2020 and 2019 respectively. In addition, it was only one newly established journal (2.3%) in 2021 that had published its current issue as a maiden edition in 2022. This implies that forty one journals with their current issues published between 2018 and 2022 are very active. The two journals with their current issues in 2015 and 2017 are also active but possess a slight gap in disseminating current research findings as expected by scholarly journals. The remaining seven out of fifty journals studied were not able to publish any issues as since 2015 to date. It is evident from the findings that nine out of 43 journals with current issues were newly established between 2018 and 2021.

Publication Status of the Journals

The respondents were asked about the publication status of the scholarly journals, which revolves around the consistency of the journal publication, publishing format and editorial scope of the journals.

Table 6: Publication Status of the Journals

	Consistency of the journal publication	**Yes**	**%**	**No**	**%**
i.	Our journal publication frequency has not been interrupted to date	32	64	18	36
ii.	Our journal publication frequency has ceased, few years back	16	32	34	68
2	**Publishing format of the Journals**	**Yes**	**%**	**No**	**%**
i.	Our journal maintains print publishing only	41	82	9	18
ii.	Our journal adopts electronic publishing only	4	8	46	92
	Our journal considers hybrid publishing modes print and electronic	24	48	26	52
3	**Editorial scope of the Journals**	**Yes**	**%**	**No**	**%**
i.	It cuts across universities and related institutes in Nigeria	50	100	0	0
ii.	It extends to some African countries	28	56	22	44
iii	It includes other continents of the world	26	52	24	48

Regarding the consistency of the journal publication, the result above reveals that thirty two out of fifty journals (64%) had not been interrupted to date in their publication frequency and the publication frequency of sixteen out of fifty journals (32%) had ceased, few years back without consistent issues. This implies that many journals were able to maintain their publication frequency and few journals experienced inconsistency of publications.

Similarly, the result reveals that majority of the journals, 41 (82%) maintained print publishing format only, while few journals, 4 (8%) adopted electronic publishing format only and twenty four journals (48%) combined both print and electronic formats as hybrid publishing modes. This implies that the print publishing mode is the main practice of majority journals and the electronic publishing mode is gradually gaining ground among the journals. This may be due to inadequate technological facilities and insufficient source of funding the journals.

Finally, the result indicates that the editorial scope of all the journals cut across universities and related institutes in Nigeria. Twenty eight journals (56%) extended their editorial scope to include members from few African countries and twenty six journals (52%) extended such scope to other countries of the world beyond African continent. This implies that the editorial scope of the journals includes membership across national, continental and global jurisdictions. It enhances the quality and standard of journals.

Sources of Funding the Journals

The sources of funding to some extent determine the sustainability of the journal. Hence the researcher sought to find out from the respondents the sources of funding for the publications of scholarly journals. The sources of funding reflect on the ownership, editorial work and donors' grant base of the journals. The ownership base as a source of funding the journals comprises the first seven items, while the second three items revolve around the editorial work of peer reviewing the journals and the third two items entail support received from either national or international donors as presented in the Table below.

Table 7: Sources of funding the journals

S/N	Sources of funding	Yes	%	No	%
1	Faculty	7	14	43	86
2	School	2	4	48	96
3	College	1	2	49	98
4	Institute	1	2	49	98
5	Centre	6	12	44	88
6	Department	24	48	26	52
7	University Management	9	18	41	82
8	Acceptance fees from Authors	44	88	6	12
9	Revenue from sales	35	70	15	30
10	Revenue from client/patrons	12	24	38	76
11	National Grant	2	4	48	96
12	International Grant	1	2	49	98

The result above reveals that majority of the journals, 44 (88%) sustained the sources of their funding from acceptance fees received from authors, while thirty five journals (70%) used the revenue from sales to maintain their publications and twenty four journals (48%) sourced their funding from the departments to augment the publication expenditure. In addition, few journals sourced their funding from the University Management, revenue from client/patrons, faculties, schools, centres and institute respectively. The National and International Grants were not indicated by the majority as sources of funding their journals except for few cases as indicated by two journals. This implies that the acceptance fees from authors are the main sources of funding the journals. This source is meager to sustain the publication frequency of the journals and other related expenditures as expected to maintain the quality and standards of journal publications.

The study has revealed that the acceptance fees from authors and sales revenue have been the main sources of funding the journals published in the university. This confirms the finding of Gbaje (2010) which revealed that the main source of funding journal publication in universities in Nigeria depends on acceptance fees from authors and sales revenue.

Visibility and Accessibility Modes of the Journals

Table 8: Visibility and Accessibility Modes

1.	**Traditional visibility and accessibility of the journals**	**Yes**	**%**	**No**	**%**
i.	Serials Unit of University Library	45	90	5	10
ii.	University Archives, Documentation and Records Unit	36	72	14	28
iii.	National Library of Nigeria (NLN)	24	48	26	72
iv.	University Bookshop	31	62	19	38
v.	Our journal is visible and accessible through traditional subscription (print)	44	88	6	12
vi.	Our journal maintains print identifier as ISSN only	40	80	10	20
2	**Digital visibility and accessibility of the journals**	**Yes**	**%**	**No**	**%**
i.	Our journal is visible and accessible online through subscription	3	6	47	94
ii.	Our journal is visible and accessible online through open access	12	24	38	76
iii.	Our journal has hybrid identifiers e-ISSN and Print ISSN	15	30	35	70
iv.	Our journal adopts Open Journal Systems to manage and publish its issues	19	20	31	62

The result above reveals that majority of the journals, 45 (90%) were traditionally found visible and accessible on the Serials Unit of the University libraries, while forty four journals (88%) were also visible and accessible through print traditional subscription and forty journals (80%) maintained International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) as their print identifiers only. The National Library of Nigeria (NLN), University Bookshop and University Archives, Documentation and Records Unit were maintained by 24, 31 and 36 journals (48%, 62% and 72%) for their traditional visibility and accessibility modes respectively. This implies that majority of these journals are still physically accessed by readers through traditional methods due to print formats. *The finding confirms the finding of Gbaje (2010) which reported that many scholarly journals published in Ahmadu Bello University were not visible and accessible online.*

*It also relates with the finding Ezema (2015) which revealed that t*he vast majority of scholarly journals in Africa were published in print formats and some of these print journals were not visible and accessible beyond the confines of the publishing institutions or regions.

Similarly, the result reveals that three journals (6%) were visible and accessible online through subscription, while twelve journals (24%) were visible and accessible to readers through open access and fifteen journals (30%) maintained electronic and print International Standard Serial numbers (ISSN) as hybrid identifiers for their both digital and traditional visibility and accessibly. In addition, nineteen journals (38%) adopted Open Journal Systems to process and manage their publications. This implies that few journals below average of the population had digital visibility and accessibility modes to compete with global publications. The digital visibility and accessibility of the journals had been considered and determined from different online platforms and academic databases.

The respondents were further asked to indicate any platforms or databases hosting the electronic version of their journals. The result shows that three journals (6%) were freely visible and accessible on African Journals Online (AJOL) database. The three journals are *Bayero Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences, Bayero Journal of Medical Laboratory Sciences and Bayero Journal of Nursing and Healthcare*. Also, other eleven journals (22%) including *African Journal of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Bayero Journal of Engineering and Technology, Bayero Journal of Evidence-Based Physiotherapy, Nigerian Journal of Basic and Clinical Sciencesand Journal of Dryland Agriculture* were visible and accessible on other online platforms and journal websites as indicated by few respondents. Such online platforms are WorldCat, Word press, Web of Science, Researchgate and Google Scholar. The Institutional Repository as a digital open access facility is not yet developed to accommodate the journals published in the University. This implies that majority of the journals were not visible and accessible through online platforms and websites. These journals maintained their print formats and readers either physically access them on the library shelves or purchase the print copies. The few digitally visible and accessible journals had adopted Journal software for facilitating the publication processes and managing their archives.

Using electronic medium to publish journals in the universities seems to attract more attention and better readership by consumers. It had been reported that majority of the university journals had a low digital visibility and accessibility status, while few journals had adopted open journal systems to join a continental and global online platforms for scholarly communication. This is in line with the

finding reported by Ezema and Onyancha (2017) that the major challenge of scholarly journals in Africa is more of creating international visibility and accessibility for research outputs.

Challenges

Table 9: Challenges Encountered by the Journals

S/N	Challenges	Yes	%	Rating
1	Declining market	33	66	Significant
2	High costs involved in publishing small print runs	49	98	Highly significant
3	Declining purchase of scholarly journals by university libraries	44	88	Very significant
4	Expending of most university budgets on subscriptions to expensive online databases	33	66	Significant
5	Declining reading culture of students, academic staff and members of the University community	44	88	Very Significant
6	Lack of online visibility and accessibility of most of the university journals	45	90	Very Significant
7	Lack of functional institutional repository	40	80	Very
8	Internet connectivity problem with low bandwidth	42	84	significant significant
9	Inadequate awareness and noncompliance with university guidelines and policies for establishment of scholarly journals	26	52	Not significant
10	Low intra- university scholarly journals' trade	45	90	Very significant
11	Inadequate awareness of the journals published in the university	37	74	Significant
12	Insufficient sources of funding the journals	47	94	Highly significant
13	Inconsistency of frequent journal publication	29	58	Fairly significant
14	Inconsistency of implementing Mandatory Deposition Scheme of the University by journal editors-in-chief to deposit two copies to the university library	30	60	Significant
15	Lack of adopting Open Journal Systems (OJS) for managing and publishing the journals	44	88	Very significant
16	Lack of using plagiarism trackers to facilitate	41	82	Very

The result observed above reveals that high costs involved in publishing small print runs and insufficient sources of funding the journals are highly significant challenges encountered by majority of the journals published in the University. The two problems run around financial sustainability of the traditional and digital visibility and accessibility of scholarly journals that require sufficient fund for maintaining their frequent publications. Among the significant challenges militating against digital visibility and accessibility of the journals include lack of online visibility and accessibility of most of the university journals, lack of adopting Open Journal Systems (OJS) for managing and publishing the journals, Internet connectivity problem with low bandwidth and lack of functional institutional repository in the University. Also, few significant challenges that militate against traditional visibility and accessibility of the journals include declining purchase of scholarly journals by university libraries, low intra- university scholarly journals' trade, expending of most university budgets on subscriptions to expensive online databases and high costs involved in publishing small print runs. The significance of these barriers against traditional accessibility of the journals implies that many maintained print format of their publications, as dominated mode.

Inadequate funding is a fundamental challenge encountered by the university journals as their major source of funding is based on acceptance fees received from authors for publishing their research papers. This confirms the findings reported by Mohammed (2008) and Ezema and Onyancha (2015) that the academic journals in institutions of higher learning suffered from financial constraints.

Conclusion

The first and oldest journal of Bayero University, Kano, was established in 1965 and it has been sustained and published to date. The study reveals the efforts and engagement of the faculties, departments, schools, colleges, centres and institute in the University in establishing and managing scholarly journals. The rapid development in establishing journals in the university is expected due to new faculties and large proportion of research findings are regularly disseminated through the scholarly journals. It is an interesting point that the study revealed the increasing growth of scholarly journals in Bayero University, Kano. The sources of funding these journals are inadequate to maintain and sustain their regular publications.

The status of the university journals as a medium of scholarly communication of research findings is increasing periodically and their online

visibility and accessibility to global community requires gradual improvement. The study serves as eye opener for creating awareness and advocacy on digital visibility and accessibility of scholarly journals published in the University.

Recommendations

1. The University should budget a reasonable fund support to sustain its scholarly journals including provision of modern equipment to support the digital visibility and accessibility of the journal production. Both traditional and digital visibility and accessibility of scholarly journals in the university require management and administrative supports of the university to tackle the challenges encountered in the electronic era.
2. Similarly, marketing strategies that help to create markets for the journals published beyond the university, need to be formulated and implemented.
3. The University should adopt digital visibility and accessibility policies for making its scholarly journals published, openly accessible to national and global research communities. The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP) has a capacity of conducting trainings for Editors-in-Chief of the journals as a strategy for implementing the open access policies adopted by the University.
4. Increasing the size of Internet bandwidth in the University is needed for electronic publishing and managing the university journals using open journal systems and other related technological facilities.
5. Providing adequate funding from government to assist and sustain universities in Nigeria to uplift the global visibility and accessibility of scholarly journals using current ICT infrastructure, is highly necessary.
6. University Press, Library and Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships are hereby implored to improve their strategies for publication, management and sustainability of the University journals

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