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INFLUENCE OF AVAILABILITY AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON STUDENTS UTILIZATION OF E-RESOURCES IN FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC LIBRARIES IN NORTH-EAST, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The study investigated the influence of availability and management practices on students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria. The objectives of the stud were to determined: the influence of availability of e-resources on students' utilization, the influence of planning of e-resources on students' utilization, and the influence of budgeting plan of e-resources on students' utilization of e-resources on students' utilization in federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria. The study was guided by three research questions. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The target population for the study were one hundred and ninety-two (192) library staff of federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria. A total number of 192 copies of questionnaire were administered to the library staff of the federal polytechnic libraries out of which 175 (91.1%) were retrieved and found valid for analysis. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts to answer the research questions, while results were presented in tables. Findings of the study revealed availability and management of e-resources, budgeting and planning of e-resources influenced students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria. Recommendations were made base on the findings that: e-resources such as electronic database in house, such as e-libraries, e-books, e-serials, database, search engines should be provided or made available for the libraries under study to enable students' effective utilization.

Keywords: *Influence, Availability, Management, E-resources, Utilization*

Introduction

There is no gainsaying that the 21st century education paradigms requires a modern library with available electronic resources to enhance productivity, ease of learning and educational development. The Century will be remembered for the advent of globally profound revolution that is historically unprecedented. In this era of globalization, digitalization and computerization, emphasis is gradually shifting from traditional based library services to electronic based services. Abdulaziz, Usman and Ibrahim (2015) opined that "Academic libraries in the 21st century are experiencing innovations in the provision of libraries and information services through applications of modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)". Polytechnic libraries in Nigeria are centers for effective teaching and research which are expected to provide current, adequate and qualitative information resources to enhance the academic activities.

Linus (2014) defined e-resources as "resources which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals; image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with the aim of being marketed". Similarly, Kazaure (2014) also defined e-resources as "any source of information encoded and made available for access through the use of computer". The access can be remote or direct. Remote access refers to the use of electronic resources through computers. Etc. Electronic resources provide many advantages over the traditional print resources such as 24/7 access, universal access; saving physical space; ability to link indexing and abstracting databases; accessibility from the user's home, office, or hostels irrespective of whether or not the physical library is opened.

Ugwuanyi and Igbokwe (2014) mentioned that the "term management is seen as the activity or function of planning, organizing, directing and controlling". The coordination of all the resources of an organization through the process of planning, organizing, directing and controlling in order to attain organization goals is known as management. Management can also be seen as the supervising, controlling and coordinating of activities to attain optimum results within an organization. Furthermore, it is the process of allocating an organization's inputs (human and material resources) by planning, organizing and directing and controlling for the purpose of producing outputs (goods and services) desired by the customers so that organization's objectives are accomplished

Availability is the state in which resources of the library are physically present and are easily usable. As part of the effort to ensure global accessibility of e-resources from user desktops connected via intranet/internet, influence of

availability on students' utilization of e-resources requires management function such as planning, organizing, directing, staffing, and budgeting on students' utilization of e-resources. The availability of e-resources can have significant influence for students' utilization. Ensuring that relevant e-resources and management commitment goes a long way to encourage user to download current e-resources in the library regularly. This can only be achieved through influence of management of the Federal Polytechnic Libraries. The importance of e-resources in polytechnic libraries are immense. Libraries prefer e-resources for many reasons such as: e-resources can be linked from and to indexing and abstracting database; access can be from the user's home, office, dormitory and classroom whether or not the physical library is opened; the library can enjoy heavy usage, statistics that are not available in print collections can be obtained, and digital resources saves space and are relatively easy to maintain (Bamigboye and Owolabi, 2012). Again, e-resources offers a rather more conservation vision for the foreseeable future of academic libraries and gradual increase in electronic scholarly publication, some publications may be distributed electronically rather than in print; some electronic publications may simply be an added alternative to present print publication.

Statement of the Problem

Computers are well established technologies in academic libraries especially polytechnic libraries, though the age of total electronic libraries are yet to materialize to a large extent. Since the advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), polytechnic libraries began to partition their conventional building with a view to provide electronic library with e-resources. The library landscape has indeed been altered and reshaped by the information and communication technology across the globe. The assurance of effective use of e-resources for learning and research in Federal polytechnic libraries in North-East depends on the influence of availability of the e-resources, influence of planning, influence of budgeting plan of the libraries, the maintenance culture, Polytechnic libraries are expected to provide research, leisure, recreation and administrative information resources in electronic format in addition to the paper format. These e-resources ranges from e-journal (full text and bibliographic), e-books, online data bases, websites, and other portable computer data bases.

It is of essence to note here that these electronic resources are quite expensive to acquire especially considering the slim budget allocation to academic libraries. However, the researcher observed that students of Federal Polytechnic Libraries seems to be underutilizing e-resources for learning and research. These could be lack of regular subscription to internet connectivity or internet services,

and provision of basic hardware and software for students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries. It could as well be inadequate fund to subscribe and renew the subscriptions, Poor internet access as a result of poor network, poor power supply, inadequate planning and organizing to influence students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries in North-East, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study determined:

1. The extent of influence of availability on students' utilization of e-resources in the Federal Polytechnic Libraries in North East Nigeria.
2. The extent of influence of planning on students' utilization of e-resources in Federal Polytechnic Libraries in North-East in Nigeria.
3. The extent of influence of budgeting on students' utilization of e-resources in Federal Polytechnic Libraries in North-East, Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

The development of effective information delivery system is a key component of university teaching and learning, and modern technology greatly enhances the process. Over the years, the supply of various needs and demands by University libraries was achieved through an essentially manual process of acquisition, organization, preservation and dissemination of printed materials comprising of books, journals, periodicals etc. as well as considerable number of audiovisual resources. According to Osimetha (2019), 'the usage of electronic resources in recent years has yield positive results in the area of teaching and research and that through the use of electronic resources, researchers, academic and students now have access to global information resources particularly the internet for their scholarly intercourse." Osimitha (2019) revealed that average of 80.4% of the respondents were satisfied with the nine (9) electronic e-resources, while average of 19.6% of the respondent were not satisfied with available library electronic resources Osimitha (2019) noted that 54.4% of undergraduates in Nigerian Universities are confronted with various challenges relating to inadequate telecommunication infrastructure, high cost of subscription, lack of awareness of library e-resources, inaccessibility to some e-resources, incessant power supply, poor internet access, poor user skills, inadequate computer facilities to access information amongst others in the use of e-resources. Accordingly, Kazaure (2014) asserted that 'e-resources includes electronic books texts, electronic journals; library catalogues; reference sources such as dictionaries, almanacs, and encyclopedia" etc. He further itemized other available

sources such as statistical sources, sound recordings; image databases such as maps, arts, medical etc

Isiakpona and Goodluck (2012) revealed that the available databases for electronic resources available in the university library studied, 178 (43%) respondents indicated that EBSCOHOST was not available while 236(57.0%) respondents indicated that it was available. Again, 230(55.6%) of respondents indicated that Science Direct was not available while 184(44.4%) respondents indicated that it was available. Similarly, Abdul (2014) observed that 'in Africa and particularly Nigeria, adoption and adaptation of web portal is a case; nonetheless, significant progress will have to be made for Nigerian libraries to be in the mainstream of the digital revolution". According to Jacobs (2013) 'the present rapid growth in the availability of inter alia electronic/digital information, subject depositories and digital contents".

Commenting further on the use of electronic resources in Nigerian universities, Fasola (2013) opined that electronic resources as a technological initiative have come to stay; and its availability and use in university libraries is now very common. He pointed that electronic resources are invaluable research tools that compliments the print-based resources in a traditional library setting. Fasola (2013) revealed that 63 (70%) of the respondents are aware of e-journals, e-books and online databases available in the library. However, Fasola (2013) revealed that majority of the respondents (67.9%) identified constant power failure as a major constraint encountered in their use of these electronic resources. The results of a study conducted by Ahmed (2013) 64(71.1%) of the respondents agreed on the use of electronic resources in Bangladeshi public universities showed that, generally, academic staff were not satisfied with the current level of e-resources subscribed by the public universities.

According to Gwari, Gabriel and Musa (2018), 'Electronic resources are valuable tools for study, learning and research, and capable of servicing a large number of patrons in any educational settings". They are easily transmitted virtually compared with the traditional print-based resource characteristically, contains current information and can be updated frequently, offer advance search capabilities and are flexible because they are not bound by time and location. The prioritization of access to electronic resources in Kashim Ibrahim library necessitated the establishment of a unit popularly called CD-ROM search services, strictly for undergraduate students to learn how to find, select and used wide variety of electronic resources subscribed by the university library. According to Habiba (2018) observed that, library spend a substantial percentage of their budget on acquiring electronic resources and make them available for users. These

resources provide access to information far beyond the limit of the libraries' print collections.

In a related development, the content of the resources may change over time and require periodic review by the selectors. This requires a continuous evaluation process, which is a time-consuming job. Duplication and availability of content from various sources add confusion to users as well to the selectors (Ifeoma and Ekere, 2019). Again, Ifeoma and Ekere cited Agim (2015) disclosed that inadequate budget adds challenges for the selectors in making decisions for renewal of e-resources. Budgetary allocation to the educational sector in Nigeria has always fallen far short expectation. This affects the ability of Nigerian tertiary institutions to cope with fast growing trends in electronic resources acquisition. Most libraries do not systematically receive additional funding to maintain and to develop electronic collections; it becomes difficult to add new resources within limited budgets (Ifeoma and Ekere, 2019). Commenting further, Ifeoma and Ekere (2019) compares the costs involved in the acquisition of printed document and their counterpart in electronic format. They pointed that, it costs heavily in the initial stages to install the hardware and software to make full advantage of electronic resources. As more and more of a library's acquisitions budget is devoted to e-resources, selectors often have curtailed the purchase of monographs or cancel some print subscriptions. Due to an increase in the demand of users for e-resources, selection becomes more user-driven. Again, Ifeoma and Ekere 2019) identified twelve items of strategies libraries employ to overcome the challenges of electronic resources collection development had a mean value ranging from 2.92 to 3.36 which are all above the cut-off point of 2.50 on a 4-point rating scale. The findings indicated that the respondents agreed that all the twelve items could be used as strategies that the libraries can employ to overcome the challenges of electronic resources collection development. The top on the list was increase in budgets of the university libraries which has highest mean of 3.36 ranked highest as strategies library employ to overcome the challenges of electronic resources collection development.

Research Methodology

The research design for this study was descriptive survey. According to Aina (2004), descriptive survey research involves gathering the opinions of people on a particular issue or problems. This method was used because, it was appropriate for the study due to the fact that, the study is based on opinions, conditions, practices that prevail points of view attitudes and effects that are being felt by the respondents.

The population of the study consists of one hundred and ninety-two (192)

library staff in the federal polytechnic libraries under study. The Federal Polytechnics are: The Federal Polytechnic Bali Taraba State, the Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, Bauchi State, the Federal Polytechnic Damaturu, Yobe State and the Federal Polytechnic Mubi, Adamawa state.

Data Analysis
Analysis and Presentation of Background Information

Table 4.2.1: Respondents' Gender and Category

Name of Library	MWLB		OOLD		PJALM		FPBLT		TOTAL	
Gender	**Freq.**	**Per.**	**Freq.**	**Per.**	**Freq.**	**Per.**	**Freq.**	**Per.**	**Freq.**	**Per.**
Male	33	82.5	21	87.5	82	90	32	86.4	168	87.5
Female	7	17.5	3	12.5	9	9.8	5	13.5	24	12.5
Total	**40**	**100.0**	**24**	**100.0**	**91**	**100.0**	**37**	**100.0**	**192**	**100.0**
Professionals.	11	27.5%	6	25%	16	17.5%	14	37.8%	47	24.4%
Para-professionals'	29	72.5%	18	75%	75	82.4%	23	62.1%	145	75.5%
Total	**40**	**100.0%**	**24**	**100.0%**	**91**	**100.0%**	**37**	**100.0%**	**192**	**100.0%**

The result from Table 4.2.1 indicates that, 168(87.5%) were males and 24(12.5%) were females. This implies that majority of the respondents were males, 47 (24.2%) were professionals Staff while 145 (75.5%) were para-professionals.

Research Questions 1: What is the Extent of the influences of available e-resources in the Federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria?

Table 4.3.1:Extent of the influence of availability on students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnics.

S/n	Items	N	HI		MI		LI		NI	
			Freq.	**%**	**Freq.**	**%**	**Freq.**	**%**	**Freq.**	**%**
1	e-Books	175	150	85.7	15	8.5	06	3.4	04	2.2
2	CD ROM, Library software e.g. KOHA		09	5.1	46	3.4	105	82.8	15	8.5
3	E-serials		85	48.5	76	43.4	05	2.8	09	5.1
4	Online database		100	57.1	40	22.9	20	11.4	15	8.6
5	Search engines e.g e-journal etc		98	56	50	28.6	20	11.4	07	04
Gross Total			**442**	**252.4**	**227**	**106.8**	**156**	**111.8**	**50**	**28.4**
Average			**88.4**	**50.5**	**45.4**	**21.4**	**31.2**	**22.4**	**10**	**5.7**

Key: -HI = Highly Influence, **MI** = Moderately Influence, **LI** = Low Influence, **NI** = No Influence.

Table 4.3.1 indicates the Extent of the influence of availability and managing of e-resources for their utilization of e-resources in Federal polytechnic

libraries. It was revealed that an average of 88.4(50.5%) respondents accepted thatavailability on students' utilization of e-resources highly influence their utilization in federal polytechnic libraries; 45.4(21.4%) respondents agreed that, it moderately influence their utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries; 31.2(22.4%) respondents indicated that availability and managing of e-resources influence their utilization in federal polytechnic libraries to a low extent, 10.(5.7%) respondents showed that it has no influence completely. This implies that, availability and managing of e-resources influence students' utilization in federal polytechnic libraries.

Research Question 2: What is the Extent of influence of planning on student's utilization of e-resources in Federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria?

Table 4.3.2: Extent of the influence of planning on students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnics libraries in North-East, Nigeria.

S/n	Items	N	HI		MI		LI		NI	
			Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1	Procurement of e-resources		13	7.4	15	8.5	30	17.1	117	66.8
2	Decision of the Librarians		148	84.5	18	10.2	04	2.2	05	2.8
3	Students involvement		25	14.2	36	20.5	79	45.1	35	20.0
4	Participatory among faculty members	**175**	106	60.6	49	28.0	14	8.0	06	3.4
5	Collaboration with other libraries		99	56.6	56	32.0	13	7.4	07	4.0
Gross Total			**391**	**223.3**	**174**	**99.2**	**140**	**79.8**	**170**	**97.0**
Average			**78.2**	**44.7**	**34.8**	**19.8**	**28**	**16.1**	**34.0**	**19.4**

Key: - HI = Highly Influence, **MI** = Moderately Influence, **LI** = Low Influence, **NI** = No Influence.

Table 4.3.2 indicates the extent of influence of planning on students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries. It was revealed that 78.2(44.7%) respondents indicated thatplanning of e-resources highly influence their utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries; 34.8(19.8%) respondents responded that, it moderately influence for their utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries; 28(16.1%) respondents indicated that planning of e-resources influence for their utilization in federal polytechnic libraries to a low extent, 34.0(19.4%) respondents showed that it has no influence completely. This implies that, planning of e-resources has a great influence on students' utilization in federal polytechnic libraries.

Research Question 3: What is Extent of the influence of budgeting plan on students' utilization of e-resources in Federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria?

Table 4.3.3: Extent of the influence of budgeting plan on Students utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnics.

S/n	Items	N	VGE		GE		ME		LE	
			Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1	Releasing of funds		140	80.0	23	13.1	07	4.0	05	2.9
2	Poor funding		31	17.7	109	62.3	18	10.3	17	9.7
3	Inexperience of library management and staff		20	11.4	135	77.1	12	6.9	08	4.6
4	Separate budgeting for e resources	- **175**	55	31.4	105	60.0	11	6.3	04	2.3
5	Supplementary budgeting for e-resources		49	28.0	98	56.0	20	11.4	08	4.6
Gross Total			**295**	**168.5**	**470**	**268.5**	**68**	**38.9**	**42**	**24.1**
Average			**59**	**33.7**	**94**	**53.7**	**13.6**	**7.8**	**8.4**	**4.8**

Key: - VGE = Very Great Extent **GE** = Great Extent, **ME** = Moderate Extent, **LE** = Low Extent.

Table 4.3.3 indicates the influence of budgeting plan on students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries. It was revealed that 59(33.7%) respondents indicated thatbudgeting of e-resources influence students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries to a very great extent,94(53.7%) respondents responded that, it moderately influence their utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries to a great extent; 13.6(7.8%) respondents indicated that budgeting of e-resources influence their utilization in federal polytechnic libraries to a moderate extent, 8.4(4.8%) respondents showed that it has an influence to a low extent.This implies that, budgeting of e-resources has a moderate influence for students' utilization in federal polytechnic libraries.

Discussion

The findings of this study have shown that the availability and management practices on students' utilization of e-resources is highly influence students' utilization in federal polytechnic libraries in North-Eastern, Nigeria. This was indicated by the fact that, majority of the respondents that is, 88.4(50.5%) respondents responded that availability and managing of e-resources highly

influence students' utilization in federal polytechnic libraries. The findings corroborates Osimetha (2019) that substantial percentages of undergraduates not only make use of library e-resources such as e-courseware, internets search engines e-books, e-reference materials and e-past question papers, they as well derive satisfaction with using those e-resources especially with regards to ease of use, accuracy, quality/relevant, availability and accessibility of e-resources to mention but few. Osimetha (2019) emphasized that, it is obvious that effective utilization of e-library and e-resources depends absolutely on the following variables: availability of computers and internet access, network connectivity, highly skilled personnel and steady power supply.

In determining the influence of planning on students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries in North East Nigeria, it was discovered that planning highly influence students' utilization in federal polytechnic libraries in North eastern Nigeria. This is backed by the fact that majority of the respondents that is, 78.2(44.7%) responded thatplanning of e-resources highly influences students' utilization of e-resources in Federal polytechnic libraries. This corroborates with the study of Ifeoma (2019) as cited in the study of Vashishth (2011) who emphasized that the main problems in building collections in electronic environment are planning, quotation system, and cost factor, rate of library discount, unorganized book trade and reminders of books.

The influence of budgeting on e-resources s by students' utilization in federal polytechnic libraries was unveiled. It was revealed that 94(53.7%) respondents indicated thatbudgeting of e-resources moderately influences students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries. Gwari, Gabriel and Musa (2018) observed that, library spend a substantial percentage of their budget on acquiring electronic resources and make them available for users. These resources provide access to information far beyond the limit of the libraries' print collections. The findings agree with Ifeoma (2019) that the cost involved in acquisition of printed documents and their counterparts in electronic format. Electronic format and technology are happening so fast that there is a need for continuous budgeting, staff training and professional development among librarians and computing specialists.

Summary of Findings

1. Availability and management of e-resources has influence on students' utilization of e-resources to the high extent in federal polytechnic libraries in North-east, Nigeria.
2. Planning has influence on students' utilization of e-resources to the high extent in federal polytechnic libraries in North-east, Nigeria.

3. Budgeting plan of e-resources has influence on students' utilization of e-resources to a great extent in federal polytechnic libraries in North-east, Nigeria.

Conclusion

From the findings of this study, it was concluded that,availability and management of e-resources influence students' utilization of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria. It is therefore important for the management of the libraries under study to continuously provide e-resources so as to facilitate users' satisfaction, it is also crucial that the resources are adequately managed to have a sustainable e-resources utilization among users. It can be concluded that involving library staff in decision making enhance planning of e-resources in Federal Polytechnic Libraries in North-East, Nigeria.The management of Federal Polytechnic Libraries should therefore have more allocation of funds for subscription and maintenance of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries under study.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of this study, the following recommendations were made. That the:

1. The Federal polytechnic libraries management under study should ensure the Availability of three categories of e-resources such as electronic data base in-house e.g. e-library, e-books, e-serials, database e.g. EBSCO, KOHA, AGORA, etc. and search engines e.g. Web portal, Google, Zportal, institutional library website etc. for effective utilization of e-resources in Federal polytechnic libraries in North-East Nigeria.
2. The Federal polytechnic libraries Management under study should involve the library staff in planning and decision making on procurement of e-resources in federal polytechnic libraries. Students should be informed anytime new e-resources are procured for effective utilization.
3. The Federal polytechnic libraries management under study should provide a lucrative budget to have a collection development policy of e-resources as a guide in handling the materials as it affects selection, acquisition, and general management of the resources. Separate budget plan should be made for procurement and maintenance of e-resources in Federal polytechnic libraries.

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