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ASSESSMENT OF THE INFLUENCE OF AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES IN BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
This study assessed the influence of awareness and utilization of library electronic resources on academic performance of library and information science students in universities in Benue State. Research design adopted for the study was descriptive survey. The population of the study comprised of 1,201 students from Moses Orshio Adasu University, Makurdi and Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi in Benue State. Simple random sampling technique was used to sample 411 respondents. The instrument used for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire structured on a 4-point Likert scale. The findings of the study revealed that, library electronic resources are available in libraries in the universities in Benue State. The findings of the study also revealed that, library and information science students in universities in Benue State are aware of the electronic resources and also utilizes the electronic resources. The study also revealed that, awareness and utilization of electronic resources significantly influence academic performance of library and information science students in universities in Benue State. The study also found that, library and information science students in universities in Benue State faced challenges in awareness and utilization of library electronic resources. Based on the findings of this study, the study concluded that, if respondents utilized these library electronic resources religiously, academic performance of LIS students would be enhanced. The study recommended that universities in Benue State should create programme for students to be aware of the available library electronic resources. It's also recommends that the Universities in Benue State should encourage students to utilize the available library electronic resources to enhance their academic performance.

Keywords: Influence, Awareness, Utilization, Electronic Resources, University Library

Introduction

Library is an agent of educational, social and economic development. That plays vital roles in the academic performance of students in the universities generally and library and information science in particular. Also, a library is one of the social institutions that has the primary role of acquiring, processing, organizing, preserving as well as conserving the print and non-print library resources for users. Library is a collection of books and other forms of recorded information purposefully selected and systematically organized and preserved by qualified library personnel for use by either the public or a target group (Oluwaniyi, 2010). According to Norman (2012) a library is a collection of materials, books or media that are easily accessible for use and not for display purpose. Opotta (2016) outlined the types of libraries to include school library, academic library, special library, public library, national library and university library.

The purpose of setting up libraries is to acquire, process, organizes, preserve and make available current and relevant print and non-print materials that will meet the needs of its users at appropriate time. According to Adegbore (2011) their major aim is to support the curricular educational needs of the students as well as to support the teaching staff in their up-to-date information resources required for their teaching jobs (Igbo & Dike 2006). According to Akporhonor (2005) academic libraries are attached to tertiary institutions such as Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, Colleges of Agriculture, Colleges of Technology and Research Institutes. Agber (2025) reported that university libraries are yoked with the responsibility of selection and acquisition of information materials. This is true; especially that it includes electronic resources. The primary purpose of the university library is to support teaching, learning and research in ways consistent with, and supportive of the institution's mission and goals. Ola (2021) highlighted the major functions of the university library including developing collections of print and non-print media resources such as electronic resources.

Electronic resources can be defined as the electronic representation of information which can be accessed via systems and computer network and they provide accurate and timely information (Johnson, Evensen, Gelfand, Lammers, Sipe & Zilperet, 2012; Ukpebor, 2012; Yebowaah & Plockey, 2017). The importance of electronic resources to students cannot be over-emphasized. They offer both undergraduate and postgraduate students the chance to access a variety of relevant and current information from different subject fields. The emergence of electronic resources, according to Zhang and Liu (2011), Ukpebor (2012), Ani and Edem (2012), has tremendously transformed the handling, management and utilization of library resources in Nigerian academic environments and university library in particular. It is of paramount importance for students to be aware of the available electronic resources to enhance academic performance. In essence, this study is important because it will expose the available library electronic resources and measure its utilization on academic performance of library and information science students in universities in Benue State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Awareness of electronic resources indicates students' knowledge of the availability of the resources; their services and the extent to which electronic resources are utilize to enhance their academic performance. Students need to be aware of complete potential electronic resources. Awareness of electronic resources indicates the extent to which students have information and knowledge of electronic resources being subscribed to by a library. When students have adequate information on the resources available in the library, they are encouraged to utilize them as the need arises. The utilization of electronic resources has tremendous impact on the academic performance of students. Awareness and utilization of electronic resources is very important so as to keep students alert of the available resources through which they can utilize the needed information. If students are aware of the electronic resources, they will utilize them to improve their academic performance.

Therefore, students' academic performance is a key feature in university education. It is one among the major criteria for measuring the success or failure of students. Similarly, universities are ranked high based on the involvement of their students in academic performance activities. It is however, unfortunate that, no Nigerian University is among the best one thousand (1,000) universities worldwide. This could be as a result of no or inadequate relevant library electronic resources. The emergence of electronic resources initiative has brought academic relief to students and leverage to learning and research activities especially in low income countries like Nigeria and Benue State in particular for those students that are aware of the existence of electronic resources. Students of Library and Information Science in Universities in Benue State make use of the opportunities granted by the availability of electronic resources to expose themselves to diverse resources to attain their academic productivity.

The researcher's has however, observed that there is low level of awareness and utilization of electronic resources by students of library and information science in universities in Benue State. Low level of awareness and utilization is capable of causing low or poor academic performance, low grades or average (CGPA), massive failure in examination and poor research work. It is pertinent at this point to imagine whether students of library and information science in Benue State are aware of the opportunities presented by library electronic resources and whether they utilize them to enhance their academic performance.

There is therefore the need for an empirical study to ascertain whether students of library and information in universities in Benue State are aware and utilize library electronic resources to advance their academic performance. For now, there seems to be no known study and this has provoked the researcher to ask the following questions: what are the available library electronic resources that enhance academic performance of library and information science students in universities in Benue State? If they are available, to what extent are library and information science students in universities in Benue State aware of the available library electronic resources for their academic performance? If they are aware, to what extent do library and information science students utilize the available library electronic resources for academic performance in universities in Benue State? If they utilized, what is the influence of awareness of library electronic resources on academic performance of students of library and information science in universities in Benue State,

Nigeria? It is in the light of the above that the researcher's felt the need to examine the influence of awareness and utilization of library electronic resources on academic performance of library and information science students in the universities in Benue State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to assess the influence of awareness and utilization of library electronic resources on academic performance of Library and Information Science Students in the universities in Benue State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

i. find out the kinds of library electronic resources available for utilization to improve academic performance of library and information science students in Universities in Benue State.
ii. ascertain the influence of library and information science students' utilization of library electronic resources on their academic performance in universities in Benue State, Nigeria.
iii. identify the challenges faced by students of library and information science in getting aware and utilizing library electronic resources to promote their academic performance in universities in Benue State.

Review of Related Literature

Electronic resources are library resources that are available in computer process-able form. Electronic resources are systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks. Awareness of electronic resources means students have information and knowledge of e-resources been subscribed to (Aina, Mutula & Tiamiyu, 2008). When users of a library have adequate information on what resources available in the library, they are encouraged to use them as the need arises. These resources include OPAC, CD-ROMs, Online- Databases, E-journals E-books, Internet resources etc. Multiple accesses speed, richer in content, reuse, timeliness, anywhere access is some of the features of e-resources. Electronic information resources are a wide range of products going from electronic periodicals to CD-ROMs, from mailing list to databases, have a common feature of being used and sometime modified by a computer (Thanuskodi, 2012). Moreover, there are different types of electronic resources.

The emergence of electronic resources has greatly transformed information handling, management and usage in Nigerian University Communities such as CD-ROM database, online databases, online journals, OPACs, Internet and other computer-based electronic networks (Quadri, Adetimirin & Idowu, 2014). Ankrah and Atuase, (2018) identified various types and forms of e-resources in academic libraries like e-databases, e-journals, e-data archives, e-manuscript, e-maps, e-books, e-magazines, e-thesis, WWW, e-newspapers, e-research reports, and e-bibliographic databases. In addition, Amankwah, (2014) listed different types of electronic resources that are used in the study as e-journals, e-books, online databases, electronic conference proceedings and CD-ROM databases. Incidentally, these electronic resources have the potential of influencing academic performance of students.

Academic performance represents performance outcomes that indicate the extent to

which a student has accomplished specific goals that were the focus of activities instructional environment, specifically in school. Spinath (2012) emphasizes the importance of academic performance with regard to different perspectives such as for individual and societies as well as psychological and educational research. Academic performance refers to a student's success in meeting short or long-term goals in education.

In addition, awareness is the key to the best use of scholarly literature. Being aware of availability of a given service does not necessarily mean outright use of that service. Awareness is knowledge about particular information and manifested through a particular behavior (Akpojotor, 2016). Oni and Ahiauzu (2008) also indicated that Awareness is knowledge about something that exists or understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on information or experience. It can also be seen as knowledge or perception of a situation, fact, consciousness, recognition, realization, grasp and acknowledgement concern about and well-informed interest or familiarity in a particular situation or development.

Awareness of the changes in technology in recent years has dramatically altered how resources are accessed, stored and disseminated (Tsakomas & Papatheodorou, 2006). Whereas awareness of library resources in academic libraries was previously based upon the collection of physical library materials, it is now increasingly the case that academic libraries are moving into the virtual arena. With advances in technology and e-publishing, Emerald, Science Direct, Academic Search Premier, Ebscohost, TEEEL, Oare Sciences, Hinari, Virtual Library (NUC), online public access catalogue (OPAC), CD-ROMs (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory), e-books collections, e-journals covering a variety of subjects, and major bibliographic databases like AGORA and MEDLARS, access to information on a local, regional, national and international basis has overcome the traditional barriers of time, easy of accessibility and space (Prangya & Rabindra, 2013).

Utilization of electronic library resources is significant to students who are the beneficiaries of the resources. Therefore, utilization of library electronic resources is not only a choice but inevitable in the era of information technology (Dar, Jeelani, Mir, & Ganaie, 2017; Prakash, 2017 & Aboluwarin, 2001). Amankwah (2014) posited that to utilize the growing range of electronic resources, users must acquire and practice the skills necessary to exploit them using a variety of online databases. However, many university libraries in Nigeria have not been able to acquire collections enough to meet the needs of their users as the 10% of allocations meant for the library as stipulated by the National University Commission (NUC) has not been adhered to in many Nigerian universities (Nnadozie & Nnadozi, 2008). Lack of time is the main reason given for not using electronic resources. Unfamiliarity with computerized searching comes next (Rehman & Ramzy, 2004). Chisenga (2004) indicated that most libraries had internet connectivity, very few were offering web-based information services to their users. Popoola and Halison (2009) submit that lack of time is the main reason given for not using electronic resources. Unfamiliarity with computerized searching comes next.

Bhatt and Rana (2011) also identified that the most common problems with e-resources are low speed connectivity, lack of awareness about statutory provision for accessing e-resources by the institutions, technical problems, unavailability of sufficient e-resources, doubts in permanency,

high purchase price and lack of legal provision. A similar study by Shukla and Mishra (2011) revealed that majority of research scholars have problem of low internet connectivity.

Research Methodology

The study adopted a survey research design. According to Nworgu (2006), survey research design aims at collecting data on, and describing in a systematic manner, the characteristic features or facts about a given population. The rationale for choosing this design as the appropriate one for this study was because, the population is relatively large. The population of the study comprised of 1,201 students of Library and Information Science from the two selected universities in Benue State namely: Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) and Moses Orshio Adasu University, Makurdi formerly known as Benue State University (BSU). A sample of 411 respondents was drawn for the study using simple random sampling technique. The choice of simple random sampling technique was because; it gives each element of the population equal and independent chance of being included in the sampling. Taro Yamen's formula for sample size determination was applied in drawing the sample. Descriptive and inferential statistics were both used to analyze the data that was generated from the instrument. Weighted Mean scores and Standard Deviation were employed to analyze the research questions.

Data Analysis, Interpretation and Discussion

Research Question 1: ***What are the available library electronic resources for academic performance of library and information science students in universities in Benue State?***

To answer research question one, the analysis of Frequency and Percentage on the available library electronic resources for academic performance of library and information science students in universities in Benue State is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Checklist on Available Library Electronic Resources in Universities in Benue State

		BSUM Library		JOSTUM Library	
S/No	**Library Electronic Resources**	**AV**	**NA**	**AV**	**NA**
1	E-books				
2	E-journal				
3	Online Database				
4	Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)				
5	E-Newspapers		X		X
6	E-Magazines		X		X
7	E-Government Publications				
8	E-Theses		X		X
9	E-Conference papers				

AV= Available, NA= Not Available

Table 1 shows the list of library electronic resources in University libraries in Benue State with items 1-9. The observation checklist indicated that apart from items 5, 6 and 8 which were

checked NA , all other items (1,2,3,4,7 & 9) were checked AV.

Research Question Two: ***What is the influence of utilization of library electronic resources on academic performance of students of Library and Information Science in Universities in Benue State Nigeria?***

To answer research question five, the analysis of mean scores and standard deviation on the influence of utilization of library electronic resources on academic performance of students of Library and Information Science in Universities in Benue State is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Mean Scores and Standard Deviation of the Influence of Utilization of Library Electronic Resources on Academic Performance of Students of Library and Information Science in Universities in Benue State

Utilization of Library Electronic Resources	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
I am motivated to study more any time I utilized electronic resources for learning to enhance my academic performance	411	2.91	1.15	High Extent
It has provided me with current and up -to-date information than the printed resources to study	411	2.85	1.23	High Extent
I access them easily to help me in my exams	411	3.03	1.09	High Extent
It widened my scope of learning.	411	2.83	1.21	High Extent
It widens my literature search for productivity writing	411	2.80	1.25	High Extent
My aggregate scores improved because I utilized the electronic resources in the library.	411	2.96	1.15	High Extent
It exposes me to new facts that enhance my academic performance	411	2.57	0.94	High Extent
It aids me in writing my projects, thesis or dissertations	411	2.80	1.19	High Extent
It increases my access to online journals, articles.	411	2.94	1.14	High Extent
It gives me unlimited access to information resources and makes it easier for me to study and pass examinations	411	3.03	1.10	High Extent
Cluster Mean Score and Standard Deviation		**2.87**	**1.15**	**High Extent**

Key: N=Number, $\bar{x}$= Mean, SD= Standard Deviation

Table 2 shows that, all the items have Mean scores above the decision point of 2.50. The cluster Means scores and Standard Deviation was 2.87 and 1.15. This shows that utilization of library electronic resources influence academic performance of students of Library and Information Science of Universities in Benue.

Research Question Three: ***What are the challenges faced by Library and Information Science Students in awareness and utilization of library electronic resources for academic performance in universities in Benue State?***

To answer research question six, the analysis of Mean scores and Standard Deviation on

the challenges faced by Library and Information Science Students in awareness and utilization of library electronic resources for academic performance in universities in Benue State is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: ***Mean Scores and Standard Deviation of the challenges faced by Library and Information Science Students on Awareness and Utilization of Library Electronic Resources for Academic Performance in Universities in Benue State***

Challenges	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
Inadequate power supply	411	2.58	0.90	Agreed
Limited access to computer terminals	411	2.65	0.83	Agreed
Power network connectivity	411	2.62	0.90	Agreed
Lack of computer skills to utilized the resources effectively	411	3.01	1.13	Agreed
Low bandwidth	411	2.63	0.87	Agreed
Lack of user education program	411	2.51	0.96	Agreed
Incompetency of library ICT staff to assist students	411	3.04	1.10	Agreed
Cost involved in the utilization of the resources.	411	2.60	0.90	Agreed
Lack of intellectual knowledge of the free online resources to access and utilize them.	411	2.86	1.22	Agreed
Restrictions on access to certain important e-resources	411	2.81	0.91	Agreed
Inadequate computer terminals	411	2.62	0.87	Agreed
Cluster Mean Score and Standard Deviation		**2.72**	**0.96**	**Agreed**

Key: N=Number, $\bar{x}$= Mean, SD= Standard Deviation

Table 3 shows that, all the items have Mean scores above the decision point of 2.50. The cluster Means scores and Standard Deviation was 2.72 and 0.96. This shows that Library and Information Science Students faced challenges in awareness and utilization of library electronic resources for academic performance in universities in Benue State.

Discussion of Findings

Based on the findings of the study, discussions were made on each of the research question the study sought to answer. On the availability of types of library electronic resources, the study found that library electronic resources available in universities in Benue State includes e-books, e-journals, online database, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), e-government publications as well as e-conference papers. The finding was in line with the postulation of Edem (2016) whose study is on the extent of availability and utilization of electronic resources by post graduate students in the university of Calabar library and found that, electronic resources were available in the university of Calabar library.

On utilization of library electronic resources by students of library and information science in universities in Benue State, the study found, utilization of e-resources influence students' academic performance such as e-books, e-journals, online database, OPAC, e-magazines, e-newspapers, e-government publications, e-theses and e-conference papers. This finding agrees

with that of Daramola (2016), Tofi and Kanafa (2019), Oni, Oshiotse and Mamoh (2016) who found that students utilized available electronic resources for research purpose; and it influences their academic performance.

On the challenges of awareness and utilization of library electronic resources, the study established that, students in universities in Benue state are faced with challenges of awareness and utilization of available library electronic resources such as inadequate power supply, limited access to computer terminals, poor network connectivity, lack of computer skills to utilized the resources effectively, low bandwidth, lack of user education program, incompetency of library ICT staff to assist students, cost involved in the utilization of the resources, lack of intellectual knowledge of the free online resources to access and utilize them, restrictions on access to certain important e-resources and inadequate computer terminals. This finding agrees with that of Adeleke and Nwalo (2017) who found that, interrupted power supply, lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively and none possession of requisite ICT skills and problems accessing the internet among others as challenges that students are faced with in utilizing library electronic resources.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was established that awareness and utilization of library electronic resources have influenced the academic performance of Library and Information Science Students in universities in Benue State. The study concluded that, if respondents are aware and utilizes library electronic resources religiously; academic performance of LIS students would be enhanced.

Recommendations

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

1. The Universities in Benue State should encourage students to utilizes the available library electronic resources to enhance their academic performance
2. Since the utilization of these library electronic resources is depended on the availability of power supply, good internet network, ICT facilities and students' skills in utilizing them, librarians should provide facilities and also train and re-train their staff to address the challenges in awareness and utilization of library electronic resources.
3. The universities in Benue State should create programme for students to be aware of the available library electronic resources.

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