



**AWARENESS AND USE OF E-RESOURCES IN ABDULLAHI FODIYO LIBRARY
COMPLEX AMONG THE ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBERS OF USMANU DANFODIYO
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ABSTRACT

The paper investigated the level of awareness and usage of available electronic information resources in Abdullahi Fodiyo Library Complex and its impact on the teaching and research performances of the academic staff members of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. It examined five faculties namely: Social Sciences, Sciences, Law, Health Sciences and Education. The objective of the paper is to find out the level of awareness on the existing e-resources in the library, e-resources frequently used, level of satisfaction and challenges encountered while using the e-resources. Adaptive structuration theory (AST) of the media was used as the theoretical perspective. Survey technique was used using the questionnaire as instrument which was randomly distributed among respondents in the five faculties. It was concluded that although respondents use e-resources frequently, which is characterised by a number of challenges such as network down time, slow download, and erratic power supply among other challenges. The paper recommended for an inclusion of a specialised online bibliographic database on the library portal, develop adequate awareness programmes to sensitize the academic staff on available e-resources and the existence of a library portal. The paper also suggested user training as well as regular revision of network infrastructure to meet the ever-growing user demand within and outside the institution.

Keywords: Utilization, E-resources, Academic staff

Introduction

E-resources in academic libraries nowadays is very common especially in the universities. As a result of this, what matter most is their proper and maximum use by the patrons? There exist various e-resource and databases in Abdullahi Fodiyo Library. Experience has shown that researchers attached more preferences and importance to online resources because of their currency, remote accessibility and flexibility of use. Advances in computer applications to Library and Information Services have brought radical changes in the way information is acquired, organized, stored, accessed,

retrieved and disseminated. The application of computers and communication technologies in information processing has brought several products and services to be visible globally. The Internet and the Web are constantly influencing the development of new scholarly communication models as they overcome successfully the geographical limitations associated with the print media (Sharma, 2009).

As a result of this, the distribution time between product publication and its time of delivery has been drastically reduced. The Internet can be used for efficient retrieval of information needs. This is very important for university libraries since most of them call for more and more research work. This factor is very important and is convincing many libraries to move towards e-resources, which are found to be less expensive and easily accessed. This is equally helpful to distant users' who have limited time to visit the library physically but now can access the library resources electronically outside the library building. Such e-resources are CD-ROM, OPACs, databases and Internet, which are complementing the print copies (Eqbal & Khan, 2007). Libraries have witnessed a great metamorphosis in recent years both in their collection development and in their service structure. Over the last several years, a significant transformation has been noticed in collection development policies and practices. Print medium is increasingly giving way to the electronic form of materials.

Brief History of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto

According to the official website of the university (www.udusok.edu.ng/about), Usmanu Danfodiyo University (UDUSOK) formerly known as University of Sokoto is one of the initial twelve Federal Universities in Nigeria founded in 1975. It is situated in the ancient city of Sokoto in North-West Nigeria. It is made up of two campuses namely: the city campus and the main campus. The main campus house the administrative offices and faculties such as sciences, social sciences, agriculture, arts and languages, education, law and research facilities. The city campus hosts the college of health sciences and school of veterinary medicine. The school is named after Usmanu Danfodiyo the founder of the Sokoto caliphate. It runs a four-year and six-year university degree programmes, postgraduate degrees and remedial programmes (pre-degree) and has a large accredited medical programmes. The remedial study is only conducted for the sciences and science related courses. Admission into other courses is sought by the standard JAMB (UME or DE) procedure.

History and Development of Abdullahi Fodiyo Library

The library came into being in October, 1977, exactly the same year when classes for the various degree programmes were started in the university. Balarabe (1995) reported that the library was first housed temporarily in a small building which had a total floor area of 181.35m² with almost no staff offices and work rooms except a small office for the University Librarian. The library then was able to provide a reading space for only 30-50 readers at a time. Later it was expanded into three wings in 1979/80 session, so as to provide additional reading space and reference services. This made it possible for the library to accommodate about 100 readers at a time. Guide to Library Use for Students (2012/2013) revealed that presently, the library has grown into a large complex system due mainly to the rapid expansion of staff and students' population; exponential growth of the collections, diversity of services and increase in the number of staff. Due to rapid expansion of the collection and ever rising staff and students' population coupled with intense space measure, the library is at the moment split into different branches, namely Abdullahi Fodiyo Library (Main Library), Law Library, Medical and Veterinary Sciences and other annex libraries spread in other faculties.

Statement of the Problem

Information and Communication Technology is gradually taking over every facet of human endeavour ranging from education, commerce, government and so on. Interactions among the academic staff indicated that the use of e-resources has created high dependency value on their research work and they needed current articles, alert services and electronic document supply services to ease accessibility. However, this effort is often frustrated by lack of guidance/orientation to enhance their usage, absence of web links on the library catalogue, inadequate promotion and lack of training is a major de-motivating factor in the usage of e-resources. Considering this high number of users and their potentials, this study was carried out to ascertain the impact of e-resources on the research performances of academic staff members of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

Research Questions

This study will provide answers to the following research questions:

- i. What are the different types of electronic resources and services available in Abdullahi Fodiyo Library?
- ii. What are the different types of electronic resources used by academic staff members of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto?
- iii. What are the reasons and frequency of use of these e-resources by academic members of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto?
- iv. What is the level of satisfaction with the information retrieved through electronic resources in Abdullahi Fodiyo Library?
- v. What are the challenges faced while accessing and using the electronic resources available in Abdullahi Fodiyo Library?

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to analyze dependency of the academic staff members on e-resources for their academic efficiency. Specific objectives are to:

- i. identify different types of electronic resources and services available in Abdullahi Fodiyo library;
- ii. examine the different types of electronic resources used by the academic staff members of the University;
- iii. determine the purpose and frequency of using the electronic resources and services available in University Library;
- iv. assess the level of satisfaction with the information retrieved through e-resources available in the library; and
- v. identify the challenges academic staff members faced in accessing and using the electronic resources available in Abdullahi Fodiyo library.

Methodology

The research methodology used was a survey research method. The population for the study comprised of five faculties in Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto namely: Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Law, School of Health Sciences and Faculty of Science to cater for both campuses of the University. Random sampling technique was used. This is because of the belief that there is no reason for anyone that is part of the population to be different from the others with respect to the characteristics under investigation (Afolabi, 1999).

The researcher used 150 questionnaires of which 30 were administered to 30 academic staff from various departments in each of the five faculties conveniently selected for the study. Akuezuilo

(1993) remarked that one of the advantages of using questionnaire by a researcher is to enable respondents to express their opinion freely. The questionnaire contained eleven (11) items and was given to two senior lecturers to scrutinize and evaluate its validity. Their criticism and suggestions were carefully noted and necessary corrections and amendments were incorporated into the instrument. The reliability test was conducted using Guttman's split-half method of measuring reliability of the items in the questionnaire. Out of the 150 copies of the questionnaire administered to respondents, 132 were retrieved and only 126(84%) were found useful for the study. Table 1 showed demographic characteristics of respondents.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

| Academic Staff Members | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| Variables | Classification | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
| Gender | Male | 115 | 91.3 |
| | Female | 11 | 8.7 |
| | Total | 126 | 100 |
| Rank | Assistant Lecturer | 31 | 24.6 |
| | Graduate Assistant | 25 | 19.8 |
| | Lecturer I | 22 | 17.5 |
| | Lecturer II | 19 | 15.1 |
| | Senior Lecturer | 14 | 11.1 |
| | Reader | 8 | 6.3 |
| | Professor | 7 | 5.5 |
| | Total | 126 | 100 |
| Faculty | Sciences | 29 | 23.0 |
| | Social Science | 28 | 22.2 |
| | Education | 27 | 21.4 |
| | Law | 24 | 19.4 |
| | Health Sciences | 18 | 14.2 |
| | Total | 126 | 100 |

In table 1 above, the gender compositions of respondents were not proportionately distributed. It was clear that the male population is higher numbering 115(91.3%) against the females with just 11(8.7%). This may be due to the fact that Men spend more time on the network and are usually more actively involved in research work than their female counterpart.

It was also discovered in this research that Assistant lecturers are more conversant with e-resources in the library and had 31(24.6%) while Professors had the least with 7(5.5%). This finding revealed that young lectures have more awareness and uses e-resources available in the library more than their senior colleagues. This may be due to the fact that young lecturers attended mostly, sensitization programmes organised by the Library. This explains why more awareness programmes is still needed on the available e-resources in the Library.

Again, Table 1 revealed that Faculty of Sciences had the highest number of responses with 29(23.0%) while College of Health Sciences had the least with 18(14.2%). The highest number recorded in Sciences was as a result of high level cooperation and proximity of the university library to the faculty. While, the least recorded from College of Health Sciences was due to their involvement in academic and clinical activities.

Data Presentation and Discussion

The data collected from the respondents are presented and interpreted below. The responses are presented in tables, frequency and percentage.

Table 2: Types of E-resources Available in Abdullahi Fodiyo Library

| E-resources | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| E-Journals | 126 | 100 |
| E-Books | 126 | 100 |
| Online Databases | 126 | 100 |
| Web Resources | 126 | 100 |
| E-Research Reports | 110 | 87.3 |
| E-Data Archives | 102 | 80.9 |
| E-Thesis | 96 | 76.1 |
| E-Newspaper | 71 | 56.3 |
| E-Magazines | 67 | 53.1 |
| E-Maps | 26 | 20.6 |
| E-Manuscripts | 22 | 17.4 |
| E-Bibliographic Databases | 6 | 4.7 |

Table 2 showed that the majority of the academic staff 126(100%) are aware of the available e-journals, e-books, online databases and free and open collection of URL's (www). The second highest known are e-research reports with 110(87.3%), e-data archives 102(80.9%), e-thesis 96(76.1%), e-newspaper 71(56.3%) and e-magazine with 67(53.1%). This is because only e-resources that are frequently used are well-known. However, e-maps 26(20.6%), e-manuscripts 22(17.4%) and e-bibliographic databases 6(4.7%) had the least because they are comparatively less used.

Table 2a: Types of E-resources Used by the Academic Staff Members

| E-resources | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| E-Journals | 126 | 100 |
| E-Books | 126 | 100 |
| WWW | 126 | 100 |
| Online databases | 110 | 87.3 |
| Search engines | 102 | 80.9 |

Table 2a revealed that all respondents prefer to use e-journals 126(100%), e-books 126(100%) and www with 126(100%) because they contain information that are current, relevant and are mostly free. Large number of them indicated that they also make use of online databases 110(87.3%) and search engines 102(80.9%) to get required information as result of their popularity and easy accessibility.

Table 2b: Ease of Access to E-Resources

| Options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------|-----------|----------------|
| Yes | 88 | 69.8 |

| | | |
|-----------|----|------|
| No | 38 | 30.2 |
|-----------|----|------|

Table 2b presented that 88(69.8%) of academic staff members are able to access the e-resources very easily. Only 38(30.2%) academic staff members pointed out that to use the e-resources is sometimes frustrating and as such not easy. This revealed that there is a need to train faculty members in the use of e-resources.

Table 2c: User-Friendly Interface of the Library Portal

| Options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | 67 | 53.2 |
| No | 59 | 46.8 |

Table 2c highlighted that 67(53.2%) of academic staff members responded that the interface of the library portal is user-friendly while 59(46.8%) academic staff members indicated that the interface of the library portal is not user-friendly because of the frequent inaccessibility of the databases on the library portal.

Table 2d: Use of the Library Portal as a Gateway to Access Electronic Resource

| Options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | 44 | 34.9 |
| No | 82 | 65.1 |

Table 2d showed that only very few of academic staff members 44(34.9%) are using the library portal as a gateway to access the electronic resources while the majority 82(65.1%) of academic staff members are not using the library portal as a gateway to access the electronic sources due to lack of awareness and slow response time.

Table 3a: Reasons for Using E-Resources

| Reasons for Using E-Resources | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Time saving | 126 | 100 |
| Easy to use | 126 | 100 |
| Less expensive | 126 | 100 |
| More informative | 88 | 69.8 |
| More useful | 79 | 62.6 |
| Less informative | 46 | 36.5 |
| Less useful | 15 | 11.9 |
| More expensive | - | 0 |

Table 3a showed that majority of the academic staff prefer to use e-resources in comparison to printed resources because 126(100%) of them feel that e-resources are time saving, easy to use, and

less expensive, further followed by more informative 88(69.8%) and more useful with 79(62.6%) respectively. However, other reasons like less informative 46(36.5%), less useful 15(11.9%) and more expensive had 0(0%).

Table 3b: Frequency of Use E-Resources

| Frequency of Use | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Daily | 111 | 88.1 |
| Weekly | 15 | 11.9 |
| Monthly | - | 0 |

Table 3b revealed that 111(88.1%) of academic staff members usually use e-resources. However, 15(11.9%) of academic staff members use the e-resources sometimes. It is noted that academic staff members use the library e-resources more frequently.



Table 3c: Frequency of Use of Different Databases on the Library Portal

| Databases | Use Often | | Use Sometimes | | Never Use | | Unfamiliar With | |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Frequency | Percentage (%) | Frequency | Percentage (%) | Frequency | Percentage (%) | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
| SCIENCE DIRECT | 69 | 54.7 | 28 | 22.2 | 9 | 7.1 | 6 | 4.7 |
| JSTOR | 66 | 52.3 | 27 | 21.4 | 13 | 10.3 | 9 | 4.7 |
| EBSCOHOST | 66 | 52.3 | 27 | 21.4 | 13 | 10.3 | 9 | 4.7 |
| AJOL | 64 | 50.7 | 22 | 17.4 | 27 | 21.4 | 13 | 10.3 |
| DOAJ | 59 | 46.8 | 24 | 19.0 | 23 | 18.2 | 20 | 15.8 |
| DSPACE | 34 | 26.9 | 11 | 8.7 | 59 | 46.8 | 25 | 19.8 |
| E-LIBRARY | 34 | 26.9 | 14 | 11.1 | 33 | 26.2 | 45 | 35.7 |
| TEEAL | 34 | 26.9 | 25 | 19.8 | 48 | 38.1 | 19 | 15.1 |
| LAW PAVILION | 21 | 16.6 | 6 | 4.7 | 67 | 53.2 | 32 | 25.4 |
| OAKLEAF GLOBAL BOOK IN-PRINT | 21 | 16.6 | 17 | 13.4 | 67 | 53.2 | 21 | 16.6 |
| EDUDONOR INDEX | 17 | 13.4 | 10 | 7.9 | 71 | 56.3 | 28 | 22.2 |
| HEPSEU DATABASE | 14 | 11.1 | 9 | 7.1 | 77 | 61.1 | 26 | 20.6 |

Table 3c revealed that majority of the academic staff members use Science Direct, JSTOR, EBSCOHOST, AJOL and DOAJ often with 69(54.7%), 66(52.3%), 66(52.3%), 64(50.7%) and 59(46.8%) respectively. Use of DSPACE, E-LIBRARY, TEEAL, LAW PAVILION, OAKLEAF, EDUDONOR and HEPSEU Databases is not frequent among respondents and had 34(26.9%), 34(26.9%), 34(26.9%), 21(16.6%), 21(16.6%), 17(13.4%) and 14(11.1%) response. This may be due to their subject biasness, lack of familiarity, inadequate publicity and access restriction.

Table 4a: Training Taken Related to Use of Electronic Resources

| Options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------|-----------|----------------|
| Yes | 72 | 57.1 |
| No | 54 | 42.9 |

Table 4 showed that 72(57.1%%) academic staff members have taken the training regarding the access and utilization of electronic resources, while 54(42.9%%) of academic staff members did not get any training regarding the access and utilization of electronic resources because they have not heard of any kind of training related to electronic resources access and utilization.

Table 4b: Satisfaction with Existing Electronic Resources

| Options | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Satisfactory | 59 | 46.8 |
| Undecided | 46 | 36.5 |
| Not Satisfactory | 21 | 16.6 |

Table 4b showed that the majority 59(46.8%) of academic staff members are satisfied with the existing electronic resources in the library while, some academic staff members pointed out that they cannot judge their level of satisfaction and had 46(36.5%). However, only 21(16.6%) of academic staff members stated that they are not satisfied with the existing electronic resources because many of them contain irrelevant information.

Table 5: Challenges Encountered while Using Electronic Resources

| Challenges | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Slow-speed network signal | 126 | 100 |
| Slow download or inability to download document | 103 | 81.7 |
| Frequent network down time | 97 | 76.9 |
| Erratic power | 97 | 76.9 |
| Inadequate skills for effective e-resources searching | 67 | 53.2 |
| Access restriction | 61 | 48.4 |

Table 5 revealed that majority of academic staff members are confronted by some challenges while using electronic resources in the library such as slow-speed network signal 126(100%), slow or inability download documents 103(81.7%) and frequent network down time 97(76.9%) among others. This may be due to inadequate bandwidth and inadequate network facilities in the university.

Discussion of the Findings

It was discovered that majority of academic staff members 126(100%) of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto are aware of the available e-resources in Abdullahi Fodiyo Library. All respondents 126(100%) prefer to use e-journals, e-books and www because of their currency. Also, 88(69.8%) prefer to use e-resources because they are easy to access and user-friendly 67(53.2%). The researcher found out that majority 82(65.1%) of the academic staff members does not make use of the library portal as a gate way to access e- resources. That they prefer using e-resources in comparison to printed resources because it saves time and easy to use and had 126(100%). Majority 111(88.9%) of the academic staff members make use of e-resources frequently. Science Direct 69(54.7%), Jstor 66(52.3%) and Ebscohost 66(52.3%) are the most frequently used databases. The majority 72(57.1%) of the respondents had participated in a training related to effective utilization of e-resources. Again, 59(46.8%) respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the existing e-resources in the university library. Majority 126(100%) of the respondents encountered slow-speed network and slow or inability to download documents with (103:68.7%) as well as frequent network down time with (97:64.7%).

Conclusion

Use of e-resources is very common among the academic staff members of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. Majority of them depend mainly on e-resources to get the desired and relevant information for their academic and research works. But practical use of e-resources is not up-to the worth in comparison to investments made in acquiring these resources. It is observed that the availability of e-resources on the campus is almost sufficient for all the existing disciplines but the infrastructure to use these resources is not adequate and can hinder the ability to meet the requirements of users.

Recommendations

The following are recommended based on the outcome of the research findings:

- i. There should be online bibliographic database of all e-resources based on the discipline and their links should be published on the library portal;
- ii. University Library should develop sensitization programmes that can adequately market and promote the Library Portal as a Gate Way to the existing e-resources;
- iii. There should be enough publicity on the availability, subject coverage and importance of databases that are rarely used e.g. Dspace, E-Library, TEEAL, Law Pavilion, Oakleaf Global Book in-Print, Edudonor and Hepseu Database to ensure maximum utilization.
- iv. Training on how to make effective use and searching of e-resources available on the Library Portal should be organised according to faculty at intervals.
- v. The university management should carry out regular review of network infrastructure to meet the ever-growing user demand.



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