AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AMONG POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS OF SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY MINNA, NIGER STATE.

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ABSTRACT

The study investigates the awareness and utilization of library electronic resources among Postgraduate students of School Engineering and Engineering Technology, Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State. Design/methodology/Approach A descriptive method has been used in this research. A total of 150 questionnaires distributed but 105 were returned dduly filled. The collected data were analyzed using Simple Percentile analysis to generate tables and to arrive at conclusion. The study covers the Postgraduate students of School Engineering and Engineering Technology, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State from all departments and was limited utilization of library electronic resources among Postgraduate students of School Engineering and Engineering Technology, Minna, Niger State. The finding revealed that 37% of respondents are from chemical engineering department, followed by 24% of respondents are from mechanical engineering department, 20% of respondents are from electrical engineering department, 11% are from Agric and bio-resources engineering department and only 8% of respondents are from civil engineering. 63% of respondents are aware of online resources while only 37% of them are not aware. (29%) and (23%) of the respondents use E-Thesis/Dissertations and E-Journals respectively followed by 13% who use %e-magazines It is followed by use of E- Database and E- Books 15(13%) respectively; e-magazines 11(10%) while only 14(12%) responses indicated that they use all of the e-resources listed respondents access E- resources twice a week while 6(5%) of them fall under occasionally. 37(32%) of them fall under daily whereas 15(13%) of the muse e-resources once in a week. (44%) are satisfied with all e-resources they are getting from all the library identified sources. Similarly, 20(17%) indicated they were fully satisfied while only 14(12%) and 31(27%) indicated that they are less satisfied and dissatisfied respectively. 54% of respondents faced problem of low Internet access speed which consume a lot of their time to retrieve the relevant information.

Key words: Awareness and Utilization of Library Electronic Resources

INTRODUCTION

"Library is a growing organism" as stated by Ranganathan. As libraries grow, changes are inevitable. Changes sweeping across libraries have never been as pronounced as seen in recent times with the advent of ICT applications. Phenomenal changes are seen in the way users' access information and how libraries are managing their information resources in the present era. These changes are also affecting LIS professionals in new ways as never before (Mahesh and Mittal, 2009 and Agyen-Gyasi, 2010)). The professionals of today need to be skilled in many ways in order to optimize the use of the libraries resources. The success of academic/ university libraries depends on the ability of users to utilize information sources to better serve the needs of the academic community.

Nowadays, the use of electronic resources is becoming important among researchers and academic staff worldwide visa vis printed resources. For example, in higher education, scholarly electronic resources have become essential tools for learning and research as they provide access to timely, high quality and relevant scientific information to scholars and researchers with a view to keep them abreast with new discoveries and developments. Moreover, members of academic staff use electronic journals to update their lecture notes as well as avoiding duplication of efforts. On the other hand, electronic resources have added enormous resources to the collection and improved services of the library, enhanced access to journal articles and decreased demand for photocopy services as well as document delivery(Madhusudhan and Chirra, 2009 and Madhusudhan, 2010 and).

Electronic resources are information stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks. These resources include Online-Databases, OPAC, CD-ROMs, E-journals E-books, and Internet resources and so on. Anywhere and multiple accesses speed, richer in content, reuse, and timeliness are some of the features of e-resources. Ebscohost, Hinari, Oare, Agora , IEEE Explore, Elsevier Science Direct, etc. are the example of some e-resources online data bases available in Nigeria universities and World at large. These resources are paid resources and only accessible on subscription in order words these resources

are limited access. Subscriptions could be through personal subscriptions or consortium discounted price arrangement. In view of these rapid growing technological trends FUTMINNA university library in a bid to enhance rapid resources delivery and effective utilization of its resources for improved research and teaching subscribes E-Books and E-Journals through the following Databases: Ebscohost, Hinari, Oare, Agora , Science direct. Thus for effective utilization of the enormous resources that are bound in this databases, the lecturers and postgraduate student need a proper sensitization. it is however, imperative to note that the university library has created awareness through the various schools desk officers, campus bulletin and campus radio. Electronic resources provide access to information that might be restricted to the user because of geographic allocation or finances. Electronic resources provide access to current information as they are of ten updated frequently. Through their various search techniques electronic resources provide extensive links to explore additional resources or related content. In addition, electronic resources are considered as important resources of teaching, research and training. Thus, most of libraries as well as the universities of the present day provide electronic resources for higher education and research.

The Federal University of Technology, Minna Library was established in February 1984. It was housed in the Former Student's Dinning Hall. However, the library has expanded in conformity with the general expansion of the University. With the completion of the main campus library, it has now become the main library, housing the administration, support services etc. The main library serves the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology, School of Environmental Technology, School of Information and Communication Technology, School of Natural and Applied Sciences and School of Technology Education. Bosso campus library now serves the School of Science and Science education and School of Postgraduate studies.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to find out the awareness and utilization of library electronic resources among Postgraduate students of School Engineering and Engineering Technology, Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State. Specifically the study seeks to:

1. Find out the awareness and uses of library electronic resources of Postgraduate students:

2. Identify the type of e-resources used by the staff members;

3. Examine the purpose and frequency of utilization of E-Resources;

4. Identify the challenges faced by the respondents while using resources.

Scope and Limitations:

The study is limited to Postgraduate students of School Engineering and Engineering Technology, Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State design to know how best the respondents are maximizing the digital advantage.

Literature Review

Several studies have shown that electronic resources are becoming increasingly important to scholars and researchers. Nicholas and Huntington(2006) and Msagati (2014) observed that there was a growing reliance on electronic resources by scholars and a high occurrence of non-traditionaltypes of resources. This was supported by Shuling (2007) and Gakibayo & Okello-obura, (2013), Who observed electronic information has gradually become a major resource in every university library. He stated further that emergence of electronic information resources, simply referred to as electronic resources, has remendously transformed information handling and management in academic environments and in University libraries in particular. Ellis and Oldman (2005) also note that through the use of electronic resources, researchers and students; now have access to global information resources, particularly the Internet for their scholarly intercourse. However, Tiefel (2004) postulated that most library users are unaware of the quality and variety of information available. Tiefel pointed out that students are often satisfied with materials that an experienced librarian would find inadequate and /or inappropriate. In the same view Baroetal. (2011)studiedDelta State University and found that electronic scholarly journal data bases were underutilized. Users cited lack of awareness of the existing resources as the primary constraint they had.

Furthermore, Oyedapoand Ojo (2013)in a study on the use of electronic resources in Obafami Alowowo University observed very low usage of electronic resources. The major reason that contributed to low utilization of electronic resources was limited searching skills. Anaraki and Babalhavaeji (2013) found that the most obstacles to the use of library electronic resources were inadequate information about existence of these data bases and lack of training.

Rehman and Ramzy (2004) echoed the same sentiment by stating that although libraries have purchase and install the latest, most technologically advanced computerized information systems and procure expensive resources, these may not be optimally used due to lack of awareness or the lack of ability to use these resources among the users.

Therefore, it is imperative for library professionals to ensure that such electronic resourcesareeffectivelyexploited,througheconductingtrainingandemployingproactive marketing strategy Wisniewski and Fichter (2007), Kinengyere (2007), Vasishta (2013), Asemi and Riyahimiya (2007) and Msagati (2014) have supported the notion of conducting information literacy training and increasing publicity of scholarly electronic resources to the users.

Research Methodology

Descriptive survey design was adopted for this study. A well structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the selected 150 postgraduate students from all departments in School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Federal University of Technology Minna. Out of 150 respondents, hundred and fifteen questionnaires were returned dully filled by the users with over 77% response rate. The questionnaire contained both open ended and close-ended questions. The collected data were classified, analyzed and tabulated using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS).

ANALYSIS OF DATA

This chapter present the analysis of data collected for this studies.

Table 1: Demographic Variable Based on Gender

S/NO	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	81	70%
2	Female	34	30%
		115	100%
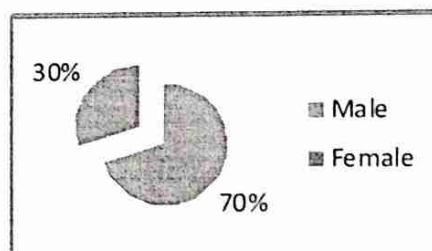
Thistableshowsthat81(70%)oftherespondentsaremalewhile only 34(30%)are female.

Table 2: Demographic Variable Based on Department

S/NO	Department	Frequency	Percentages
1	chemical engineering	42	37%
2	mechanical engineering	28	24%
3	electrical engineering	23	20%
4	Agric and bio-resources engineering	13	11%
5	civil engineering	9	8%

Table 2 revealed that 37% of respondents are from chemical engineering department, followed by 24% of respondents are from mechanical engineering department.20%ofrespondentsare from electrical engineering department, 11% are from Agric and bio-resources engineering department and only 8% of respondents are from civil engineering department.
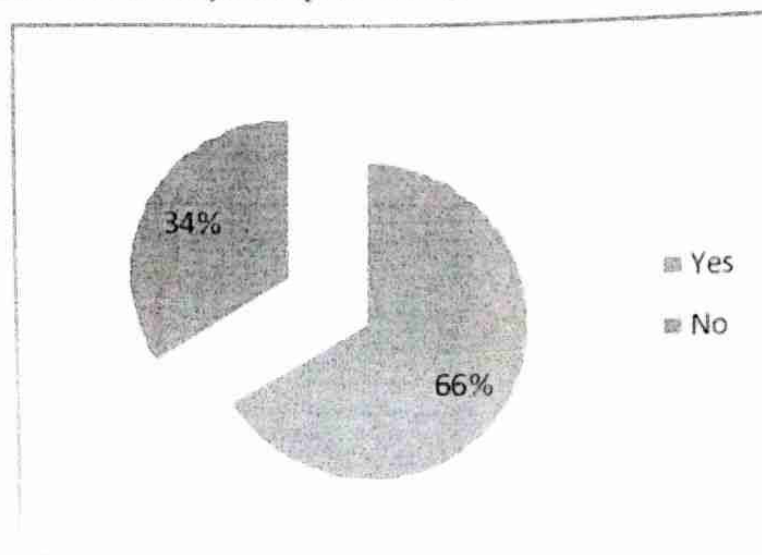
The figure below further shows table 2
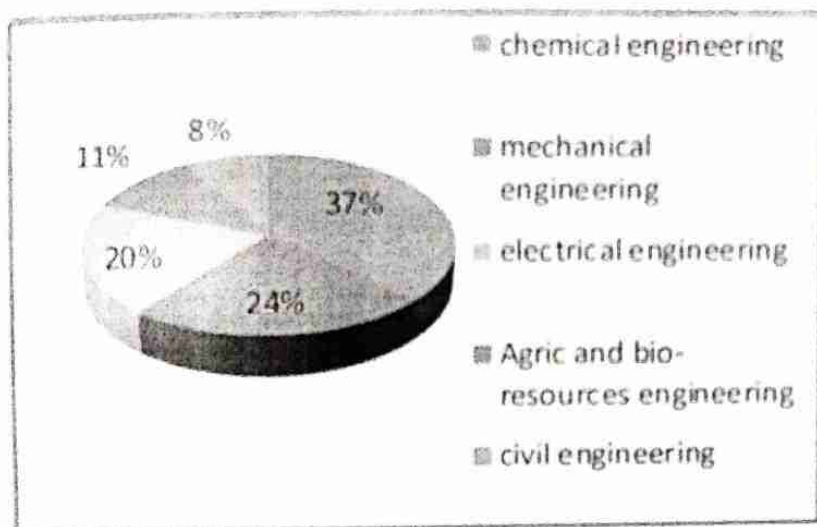
Table 3 Awareness about E-Resources

S/NO	Items	Frequencies	Percentages
1	Yes	76	66%
2	No	39	34%
	Total	115	100%

Table3indicatesthatalmost66respondents(63%) are aware of online resources but whereas only39respondents (37%) are not aware of them.

Table 4: Types ofE-Resources

S/NO	E- Resources	Frequency	Percentage
	E-Thesis/Dissertations	33	29%
	E-Journals	27	23%
	E-Books	15	13%
	E – Database	15	13%
	E-Magazines	`11	10%
	All the Items listed above	14	12%

Table. 4 reveals that E-Thesis/Dissertations and E- Journals were the most used e-resourcesbytherespondentsasseenfromthe irresponses above which are 33(29%) and 27 (23%) respectively. It is followed by use of E- Data base and E- Books 15(13%) respectively; e-magazines11(10%)whileonly 14(12%) responses indicated that they use all of the e-resources listed above.
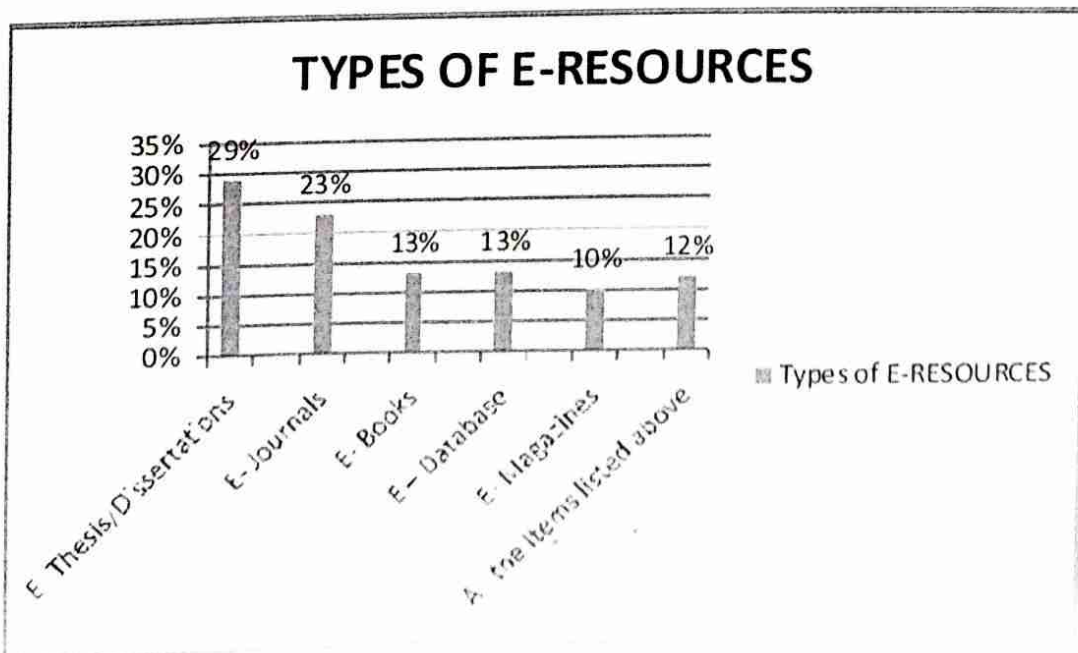

TYPES OF E-RESOURCES

Table 5 E-Resources access through library

S NO	Items	Frequency	Percentages
1	Daily	37	32%
2	Once in a Week	15	13%
3	Twice a Week	57	50%
4	Occasionally	6	5%

The above table.5 shows that the majority 57(50%) of respondents access E- resources twice a week while 6(5%) of them fall under occasionally.37(32%)of them fall under daily whereas 15(13%) of them use e-resources once in a week.

E- Resources access through library
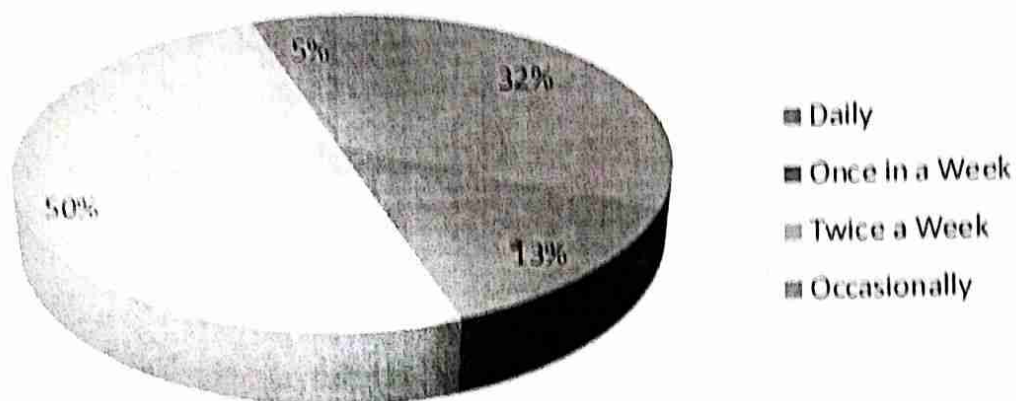
Table 6 Purpose of accessing E-Resources

S/NO	Purposes	Option	Frequency	Percentages
1	To fast track research work	Agree	95	82%
2	To find web sites of news sources, government agencies, research institutions, or faculty websites.	Agree	90	72%
3	To look out for something very specific, such as a person, place, or theory to learn more about.	Agree	98	85%
4	To find graphics to include in a research paper (this is much more true of Engineering students).	Agree	85	74%
5	If a student can't find something in their notes or is having a hard time understanding class material, they will go online to find the information.	Agree	75	65%
6	When a student is trying to gather very general fundamental information (such as at the beginning stages of deciding what topic to write a paper on, or how to narrow down a topic).	Agree	98	85%
7	When a student cannot find something specific in a database, sometimes an Internet search engine will find the information for them (for example, a particular article or conference presentation).	Agree	87	76%
8	To cast a final net to make sure they found everything of relevance. A general Internet search will sometimes provide students with information they would not have found elsewhere in one of the databases.	Agree	82	71%

The abovetable 6. shows thatthe majority of respondents access E- resourcesto satisfy all the purpose listed above. These findings complementDadzie (2007) who writes that electronic resources are invaluable research tools that supplement the print – based resources in a traditional library setting.

Their advantages, according to her include: access to information that might be restricted to the user due to geographical location or finances, access to more current information, and provision of extensive links to additional resources related contents.

Table 7 Level of Satisfaction of Library E-Resources Use

S/NO	Items	Frequency	Percentages
1	FullySatisfied	50	44%
2	Satisfied	20	17%
3	Less Satisfied	14	12%
4	Dissatisfied	31	27%
	Total	115	100%

Table7revealedthatmajorityoftherespondents50respondents(44%)are satisfied with alle-resources they are getting from all the library identified sources. similarly, 20 (17%) indicated they were fully satisfied while only 14 (12%) and 31 (27%) indicated that they are less satisfied and dissatisfied respectively.

Table 8: Problems faced by the Users while using Library E-Resources

Problems	Frequency	Percentages
Slow access speed	62	54%
Difficultyin findingrelevant information	10	9%
Librarytime is not suitable	22	19%
Infrastructurearenot suitable	15	13%
Librarystaff arenotsupportive	7	5%
	115	100%

Table 8 shows that the most problem faced by respondents while accessing the library e-resources through internet. 62(54%)indicate that slow Internet access speed takes a lot of their slot time to retrieve the relevant information.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made:

1. Professional Librarians of the central library have to create more awareness one-resources through training and orientation programmes for students and faculty members to use the available e-resources.

2. There is need to increase Speed of internet and intranet connection for quick access to available e-resources.

3. Use and usability of e-resources by the faculty members needs to be made on regular basis

4. High speed Wi-Fineeds to be should be mounted in strategic places, so that students and faculty members can use online e-resources and internet within the campus according to their suitability and convenience.

CONCLUSION

The study investigated the awareness and utilization of library electronic resources among Postgraduate students of School Engineering and Engineering Technology, Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State. In today's digital world electronic information sources and the Internet are extremely important tools for effective learning teaching and research. Students and faculty members depends heavily one-resources for their learning, teaching and research and keep them up-to date. The study reveals that students and faculty members of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State are using the available e-resources optimally. Hence, it could be argued that the Federal University of Technology Minna, library plays an essential role in library promotion and user education programme.

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