Awareness and Use of Electronic Information Resources in Polytechnic Library Zungeru, Niger State, Nigeria.

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Abstract
The study investigated the awareness and use of electronic information resources in the Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State, Nigeria. The study was anchored on four objectives and one hypothesis. Survey research design was adopted. The population of the study consisted of 1,373 full time National Diploma (ND) II and High National Diploma (HND) II students and a sample size of 301 respondents was adopted through random sampling technique. Structured and four rating scale questionnaire and observation check-list were used as data collection instruments. Data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings revealed that e-books, e-journals, CD-ROM data bases and online e-resources databases were the available electronic information resources in the Polytechnic library Zungeru. The level of awareness of electronic information resources was low, while the mean frequency use of library electronic information resources was on monthly basis. Some of the challenges encountered in the use of electronic information resources include: inadequate awareness of the electronic information resources, irregular power supply and inadequate Internet facilities in the library. The study recommended that electronic information resources such as electronic theses/dissertations should be acquired and made available to students; the library management should use education program to sensitise students more on the availability and usefulness of the electronic information resources to their studies. The library management should also ensure that acquisition policy is tailored towards users' information needs.

Keywords: Awareness, Electronic information resources, Polytechnic library Zungeru, Students and Use

Introduction
The main objective of any library is supporting and achieving the primary aim of its parent organisation through acquisition and dissemination of information resources based on users need. Resources in libraries include books, encyclopaedia, newspapers, journals, audio-visuals and electronic devices which contain vital information for library users. The emergence of technology has infiltrated the core of man's existence and his activities, and libraries are not an exception to these transformations. Libraries have changed into virtual and digital libraries where

library resources such as books, newspapers, magazines and journals have been transformed into e-books, e-newspaper, e-magazines, e-journals, e-thesis and so on (Akpojotor, 2016). Also, reference materials such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, indexing and abstracting services are available online, leading to an improved global dissemination of information to users (Olasore and Adekunmisi, 2015).

Electronic resources such as e-books, e-newspaper, e-magazines and e-journalsare viewed as the latest deve opment in information technology, and are becoming essential to the academic community (Ayele and Sreenivasarao, 2013). Electronic resources are a variety of products ranging from mailing list and electronic periodicals to databases and CD-ROMs; all of which have the same means of usage and sometimes, changed by a computer (Thanuskodi, 2012).An electronic information resource simply refers to electronic resources or e-resources preserved in electronic form in computer-related facilities or computers (flash drives, digital libraries, CD-ROMs or the Internet) (Ani, 2012). E-resources such as online databases (AJOL, AGORA, EBSCOHOST JSTOR and HINARI), e-journals, e-books, websites, e-abstracting, e-text and indexing databases (MEDLINE, E-news, E-images and E-music) are essentially used for research and reading (Ani, 2012). Some e-resources are pay-walled and require subscription in order for students to access them (Ajayi,et al., 2014). E-resources are now used to supplement printed information sources in the polytechnic libraries (Ani et al., 2014) and are vital research tools that supplement the print-based resources in a traditional library setting (Egberongbe, 2011).

The availability of information resources has to do with the resources attainable at hand to meet the information needs of the users; these resources which are stocked in libraries can be in both print and non-print forms (Adegboye, 2015). In essence, the availability of the required infrastructure is the highlighting factor for effective establishment of electronic resources in libraries. The electronic resources which are readily accessible by the polytechnic libraries must be fully utilized, and this can only be achieved if basic infrastructures are put in place. In polytechnic libraries, the electronic resources that are very important for use are e-books, e-projects and e-journals because they are the electronic version of the conventional books and journals found in the library. These e-resources are stored and organized in various databases to permit easy retrieval. Some of these databases are subject-based while others cover a wide range of subject areas (Alhassan and Macaulay, 2015).

E-resources such as e-book, e-thesis, CD-ROM are easily available and accessible from anywhere, even in remote areas. They also help in storing large volumes of data thereby controlling the flood of information. The quick advancement of innovative technologies, such as digitization of print sources, has transformed the communication process leading to reduced communication cost. E-resources are regarded as the latest development in information technology, and are becoming essential to the academic community (Ayele and Sreenivasarao, 2013).

Statement of the Problem
Academic libraries are storehouses of knowledge and have been termed as the nerve centre for scholarship (Yusuf and Iwu, 2010). However, to accomplish effective use of the library resources, users need to be aware that they are available and accessible. Resources may be available in the library but the user may not be aware of them. Das and Maharana (2013) were of the opinion that awareness is fundamental to the use of information resources in electronic format. When materials are in closed access, users' ease of access to such e-resources is by far reduced.

Awareness and Use of electronic information resources and services is the key to the success of students in any institution and the library plays the central role in making information and information resources available for use. However, the researcher has observed that a lot of literature has been available on the awareness and use of electronic information resources by students in university, but a peruse of literature in the area of e-resources revealed a dearth of information on awareness and use of e-resources by polytechnic students in Nigeria.

It is in light of this that the study aimed at examining the awareness and use of electronic information resources in Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State Nigeria with the following specific objectives:

1. To find out the available electronic information resources in Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State;
2. To determine the level of awareness of electronic information resources in the Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State
3. To determine the frequency of use of electronic information resources in the Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State.
4. To identify the challenges encountered in the use of the library electronic information resources by students of Niger State Polytechnic Zungeru.

Hypothesis

The hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level significance:

H_o There is no significant relationship between level of awareness and the frequency of use of the electronic information resources by students' of Niger State Polytechnic Zungeru.

Literature Review

Polytechnic libraries are the academic hearts of any Polytechnic system and their main mission is to provide staff, students, and other researchers with information resources and materials while emphasizing the use of the resources and providing an enabling environment thatwould facilitate teaching, learning and research for their patrons (Oyewusi and Oyeboade, 2009). Information today is a commodity packaged and sold at obtainable price (Nwachukwu et al., 2014). These information resources include print, non-print, electronic and multimedia information resources. Odu (2015) stated that libraries as central points of academic activities in institutions should contain and stock up information resources in electronic form, book and non-book materials and government documents. Oyedum and Agbaji (2015) viewed the concept of electronic libraries as systems providing a host of users with comprehensible access to an enormous and structured depository of information and knowledge. The findings of Chandra et al., (2014) in

their study on Use Pattern of E-Resources among Faculty members in Arts and Science Colleges in Chennai revealed that majority of the participants were aware of e-resources available in their college library. The study of Ferdinand, et. al. (2015) hinged on the usage of Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) in the library by Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun. The study revealed that majority of the students are aware of e-resources available in the library and they mostly used them for research purpose. Aina (2014) study of awareness and utilization of e-resources among academic staff of Babcock University however reported low level of awareness of e-resources in the university.

Gupta and Rogers (2011) compared the use pattern of print and electronic journals at the Kurukshetra University, India. The author's study found out that majority of the faculty staff used the e-journals daily and few of the faculties using them either weekly or monthly. The main findings indicated respondents were more attracted towards e-journals than print journals. Nevertheless, they depended more on open-source materials other than those available via INFONET which is the University based subscribed e-resources. Respondents also acknowledged that there is the need for regular trainings on e-resources, its uses and how to retrieve information from them.

Bhatia (2011) study was hinged on Usage of E-Resources and Services by the Users of Degree College Libraries in Chandigarh, survey findings revealed that e-books were used more frequently than the other resources by the Users. The main purpose of accessing e-resources was to keep up to date on subject of interests and knowledge growth. The major problems faced by the respondents include lack of IT skills and limited access to computers. It was further noted that 71.43% respondents agreed that they required more training for the optimum utilization of e-resources. In another research by Bassi and Camble (2011), in their study on Gender Differences in the use of Electronic Resources in University Libraries of Adamawa State, Nigeria, revealed that Internet had the highest level of usage as recorded for41.05% (392) of the respondents

who used it most, and this was closely followed by the use of e-journals from 125 (13.09%) respondents. The high level of use of electronic resources in the opinion of Afebende and Uyanah, (2008) can be attributed to the fact that both the internet and e-journals regularly contain updated information which academics cherish and also because these resources brought about a revolution in the activity of information provision and dissemination. The uses of Electronic information resources provide an improved platform and more prospects for users, being that they have apparent leverage over the print resources.

The study by Bashorun et al. (2011) on User perception of electronic resources in the University of Ilorin, reported that the rate of use of e-resources by faculty staff of the University of Ilorin was low due to inadequate time for research as against the focus on teaching; inadequate awareness, inadequate power supply, ineffective communication channels, slow network and inadequate searching skills among others. This shows that the challenges revealed were the reasons for the low usage and not necessarily preference for other types of resources. None of the studies in the literature reviewed, investigated polytechnic libraries in Niger State.

Research Method

The research method that was used for this study is the survey research design. This method was adopted because despite the fact it is only one polytechnic, it involve several departments in the polytechnic that run both National Diploma (ND) and High National Diploma (HND) programs. Data was collected from301 full-time ND II and HND II students of 2017/2018 academic session of Niger State Polytechnic Zungeru. Of these numbers, 284 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved signifying 94.8% response rate. The data collected were analysed descriptively using frequency counts, percentages and mean scores while Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the null hypothesis.

Table 1: Availability of Electronic Information Resources in the Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State.

S/N	Electronic Resources	Available	Not Available
1	Electronic journals	√	
2	Online electronic resource database	√	
3	Electronic books	√	
4	Electronic theses / dissertations		√
5	Electronic newspapers / magazines		√
6	Electronic project		√
7	CD-ROM database	√	

From Table 1, the observation checklist shows that the types of electronic information resources that are available in Polytechniclibrary Zungeru, Niger State include electronic journals, online electronic resource database, electronic books and CD-ROM electronic resources database.

Table 2: Level of Awareness of Electronic Information Resources in the Polytechnic Library Zungeru, Niger State.

S/N	Items	Very High	High	Low	Very Low	MEAN	Remark
1	Electronic journals	62 (21.8)	175 (61.6)	33 (11.6)	14 (4.9)	3.00	High
2	Online electronic resource database	23 (8.1)	93 (32.7)	107 (37.7)	61 (21.5)	2.28	Low
3	Electronic books	59 (20.8)	104 (36.6)	85 (29.9)	36 (12.7)	2.66	High
4	Electronic theses / dissertations	17 (6.0)	48 (16.2)	121 (42.6)	98 (34.5)	1.94	Low
5	Electronic newspapers / Magazines	7 (2.5)	46 (16.2)	141 (49.6)	90 (31.7)	1.89	Low
6	Electronic project	4 (1.4)	122 (43.0)	108 (38.0)	50 (17.6)	2.28	Low
7	CD-ROM electronic resources database	44 (15.5)	102 (35.9)	85 (29.9)	53 (18.7)	2.48	Low
	Sectional mean					2.40	Low

Table 2 revealed the mean responses of 3.00 and 2.66 for item 1 and 3 respectively with combined percentages of 84 and 57 for very high and high for the same set of items indicated that the items fall under high awareness. The mean responses of 2.28, 1.94, 1.89, 2.28 and 2.48 for items2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 respectively indicated that there was low awareness for these items.

However, the sectional mean of 2.40 indicated that majority of the items fall under low awareness. From the above result, it can be seen that majority of the respondents level of awareness of Electronic Information Resources in the Polytechnic library was low.

Table 3: Frequency of use of the Electronic Information Resources in the Polytechnic Library Zungeru, Niger State.

S/N	Items	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Annually	Mean	Remark
1	Electronic journals	28 (9.8)	115 (40.5)	82 (28.9)	59 (20.8)	2.39	Monthly
2	Online electronic resource database	67 (23.6)	46 (16.2)	85 (29.9)	86 (30.3)	2.33	Monthly
3	Electronic books	47 (16.5)	92 (32.4)	68 (23.9)	77 (27.2)	2.38	Monthly
4	Electronic theses / dissertations	11 (3.9)	62 (21.8)	50 (17.6)	161 (56.7)	1.73	Monthly
5	Electronic newspapers / Magazines	23 (8.1)	80 (28.1)	49 (17.3)	132 (46.5)	1.98	Monthly
6	Electronic Projects	13 (4.6)	63 (22.2)	60 (21.1)	148 (52.1)	1.79	Monthly
7	CD-ROM electronic resources database	49 (17.3)	40 (14.1)	79 (27.8)	116 (40.8)	2.08	Monthly
	Sectional Means					2.10	Monthly

Table 3 revealed the mean responses of 2.39,2.33, 2.38, 1.73, 1.98, 1.79 and 2.08 for items 1 to 7indicated that the majority of the respondents visit the library to use electronic resources on monthly bases. The section mean

of 2.10 also indicated that responses of respondents on the frequency of use of electronic resources in the Polytechnic library is mostly once in month.

Table 4: Challenges in the use of Electronic Information Resources in the Polytechnic Library Zungeru, Niger State.

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN	Remark
1	Time consuming	37 (13.0)	120 (42.3)	61 (21.5)	66 (23.2)	2.45	Disagree
2	Low level of ICT skill	2 (0.7)	76 (26.8)	125 (44.0)	81 (28.5)	2.00	Disagree
3	My polytechnic do not subscribe to electronic databases in my area of study	0 (0.0)	90 (31.7)	133 (46.8)	61 (21.5)	2.10	Disagree
4	Not aware of the electronic resources	53 (18.7)	96 (33.8)	106 (37.3)	29 (10.2)	2.61	Agree
5	Library staff do not assist in the use of the Electronic resources	55 (19.4)	45 (15.8)	155 (54.6)	29 (10.2)	2.44	Disagree
6	Irregular power supply	85 (29.9)	126 (44.4)	37 (13.0)	36 (12.7)	2.92	Agree
7	Inadequate Internet facilities in the library	26 (9.2)	122 (43.0)	134 (47.2)	2 (0.7)	2.61	Agree
8	Not allowed to use flash drive to copy from the library computer	25 (8.8)	152 (53.5)	97 (34.2)	10 (3.5)	2.68	Agree
	Sectional mean					**2.48**	

Key: SA= Strongly Agreed, A= Agreed, D= Disagreed, SD= Strong Disagree

From table 4, the mean responses of 2.61, 2.92, 2.61 and 2.68 for statements 4, 6 7 and 8 respectively with combined percentages of 52.5, 74.3, 52.2 and 62.3 for the same set of statements indicated that more half of the respondents agreed with the statements.

However, the mean responses of 2.45, 2.00, 2.10 and 2.44 for statements 1, 2, 3 and 5 respectively with combined percentages of 44.1, 72.5, 68.3 and 64.8 for disagree and strongly disagree for the

same set of statements indicated that more than half of the respondents disagreed with the statements.

Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between level of awareness of the library e-resources and the frequency of use of the e-resources in the library by students' of Niger State Polytechnic Zungeru.

Table 5: Pearson's Moment Correlation test on the Relationship between Level of Awareness of E-resources and the Frequency of Use of the E-Resources.

Variables	No of Sample	Pearson Correlation (r)	Significant Level (p)
Level of Awareness of Electronic Information Resources	284		
Frequency of Use of Electronic Information Resources		0.668**	0.000

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 5, revealed significant correlation between students' level of awareness and frequency use of e-resources in the Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State at 0.05 level (correlation coefficient = 0.668; p < 0.05). Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected. Hence there was significant relationship between students' level of awareness and frequency of use of electronic informationresources in the Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State. This implied that majority of students were not aware of the available e-resources in the library, hence affecting the utilization.

Discussion of findings
The decisions mean score range for this research was: high awareness 2.50 – 4.00 and low awareness 1.00 – 2.49, agreed 2.50 – 4.00 and disagreed 1.00 – 2.49 and utilization: daily 3.5 – 4.00, weekly 2.50 – 3.49, monthly 1.5 – 2.49 and annually 1.00 – 1.49.

From the results of the findings, e-journals, e-books, CD-ROM electronic resources database and online electronic resource database were the available electronic information resources in the Polytechnic library Zungeru, Niger State. The level of awareness of the electronic information resources was low; the result of this finding is in line with Aina (2014) study that found the level of awareness of electronic resources among academic staff of Babcock University was low. This means there is a need for polytechnic libraries to increase their awareness platforms available, for example using the social media platforms, emails and blogs.

The total mean frequency of use of library electronic information resources by Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru students is monthly. This finding is in line with the findings of Onaolapo (2016) that revealed a high difference in the frequency of use of print resources compared to electronic information resources by students of federal polytechnic, Offa, Kwara state. Hence the low utilization of electronic resources cannot be unconnected with students having more access to print resources than e-resources.

The challenges in the use of electronic information resources in the Polytechnic Library by Niger State Polytechnic students include inadequate awareness of the electronic information resources, irregular power supply, Inadequate Internet facilities in the library and not allowed to use flash drive to copy from the library computer. This finding is in line with the findings of Bashorun (2011) that stated the low level of electronic information resources usage by academic staff and students of the University of Ilorin, due to challenges such as power outage, ineffective communication channels, slow network and inadequate searching skills.

Conclusion
Based on the findings above, the study concluded that the level of awareness of the library electronic information resources by the students of Niger State Polytechnic Zungeru was low, which also affected frequency of use of these electronic information resources. The available e-resources in the library might not necessarily be meeting the needs of the users.

Recommendations

Arising from the findings of this study, the following recommendations are hereby proffered to the concerned management of the polytechnic:-

1. Electronic information resources such as Electronic project, Electronic theses / dissertations, Electronic newspapers / magazines should be acquired and made available to students in the polytechnic in order to facilitate their learning.
2. The library management should ensure that their acquisition policy should tailor towards users' informationneeds. These will increase the usage of library electronic informationresources.
3. Libraries should use education program to sensitize students more on the availability and usefulness of the electronicinformation resources to their studies.
4. Polytechnic libraries should also increase their awareness on several platforms available, for example using the social media platforms and blogs.

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