Levels of Electronic Information Resources Usage among Undergraduate Students in Taraba State University Library, Janligo, Taraba State

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Abstract: *The research work investigated levels of electronic information resources usage among undergraduate students in Taraba state university library Jalingo Taraba state. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population comprised students in Taraba state university library Jalingo Taraba state. The simple random sampling technique was adopted for selecting the students. However, various opinions of authors from the reviewed literature all showed that the concept of the electronic information resources has grown out of recent educational trends. Types, use and benefits of electronic information resources were discussed. Based on a detailed literature review a total of five (5) research questions were and tested on a sample size of 78 representing the total population undergraduate students of the Taraba state university library Jalingo Taraba state Nigeria. The instrument employed for the collection of data was the questionnaire. Frequency counts and simple percentages were used in analyzing the data collected. From the data analysis the following findings were advanced. There is a low level of skillfulness in the use of ICT among Students of the University of Port Harcourt Library, River state. There is a low level of electronic resource experience amongst Students of the University of Port Harcourt Library, River state The internet via Cybercafé is the major facility used to access electronic resources by undergraduate students of Taraba state university library Jalingo Taraba state The level of electronic resource usage by Postgraduate Students of the Taraba state university library Jalingo Taraba state is high. Issues like large mass of irrelevant information, the need to filter the results from search, download delay, failure to find information, inadequate/lack of search skills, high cost of access, power outages, inaccessibility of some electronic resources, and difficulties in navigating through electronic resources.*

Keywords: Electronic, Resources, library, undergraduate and students

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1. Introduction

The application of the concept of Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) into library functions and services have invariably changed the connotation of what an academic library stands for. The current trends defined academic library by function rather than place which is the building. Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) is the presence of printed information in a format only viewed and accessed through the use of ICT via electrical manipulations (Obaseki & Amune, 2009). This assertion indicated that a electronic information resource connotes not only those information resources accessed only with the aid of computer, but also other forms of ICTs such

as blackberry phones or Samsung galaxy phones and Ipad,

For any academic library to thrive in this information age, the library irrespective of the size of its collection must embrace Information Communication Technology. Online dictionary of library and information science (2004) defines electronic information resources as materials consisting of data and/or computer program(s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer, such as a CD-Rom drive or remotely via network such as the internet by use of a peripheral device directly connected to the computer. Shim et al (2001) defined Electronic information resources as those resources that users access electronically via a computing network from inside the library or remote to the library.

Shariful (2012), is of the view that Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) are those resources that deal with both born electronic and digitized materials which can be either accessible from library's in house database or from the world-wide-web. The born electronic materials includes: e-books, e-journal, e-newspaper, e-magazine, e-projects, e-thesis, e-dissertations, e-reports, website, www-resources and other related materials which can be considered necessary by the users, researchers, information professionals or even by the library management itself. On the other hand, electronicized materials mean converting the materials from other formats into electronic format.

Nkanu and Okon, (2010) referred to Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) as the new wave of air blowing many libraries globally, simply because there is increasing amount of information now available in electronic form and this is likely to have significant consequences for information retrieval. With electronic libraries abstracts and indexes are available online and there is easy access to computer-held information, together with the possibility of including sound and video. Meaning that, for many other reference tools electronic format has notable advantage over print.

Singh and Sharma (2002) stated that a majority of the electronic scholarly publishers, trade publishers, information aggregators, vendors, and information disseminators, now-a-days, increasingly act globally to provide electronic information (e -information) on Internet. Singh and Sharma went further to say that Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) include full text archives or databases of journals, books, patents, standards, or technical reports of a particular publisher or a group of publishers.

According to Shuling (2007), electronic information has gradually become a major resource in every university library. The emergence of electronic information resources, simply referred to as electronic resources, has tremendously transformed information handling and management in academic environments and in University libraries in particular. Ellis and Oldman (2005) 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. The death of current and up-to-date information for research in University libraries is attributed to poor levels of developing electronic information resources, (Afolabi, 2007; Faborode, 2007; Bozimo, 2007). Libraries need to be vanguards for technology transfer from the developed world to the developing economies of Africa; to meet these expectations African university libraries must provide a link between local researchers, scholars and their counter parts in other parts of the world. Utilization of online information resources is the way of

achieving this objective. According to Tsakonas et al. (2006) electronic information resources are information resources provided in electronic form, and these include resources available on the Internet such as e-books, e-journals, online database, CD-ROM databases and other computer –based electronic networks, among others.

Commenting on the advantages of electronic resources, Dadzie (2007) writes that electronic resources are invaluable research tools that complement 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. This rapid emergence and development of electronic information technologies therefore makes it possible to envision radically different ways of organizing the collections and services the library has traditionally provided. While libraries approach a crisis point in financing collection development, these new technologies offer possible ways to mitigate costs and revolutionize ways to access information.

Purposes of the Study

1. To know the different types of electronic resources and services available in Taraba State university library;

2. To determine the level of awareness of electronic resources available in the library;

3. To study the purpose of use of the electronic resources and services available in the library by the undergraduates;

4. To determine the frequency of use of electronic resources available in the library by the undergraduates;

5. To examine the challenges faced by the under-graduates while accessing and using the electronic resources in the library;

Research questions

The following questions were raised to guide the study:

1. Are the undergraduate students aware of the types of electronic resources available in the library?

2. What is the purpose for which undergraduate students use electronic resources?

3. What is the frequency of use of electronic resources by undergraduate students?

4. What are the challenges faced by undergraduate students in their attempt to use electronic resources?

5. To what extent does the use of electronic resources impact on the academic performance of the under-graduates?

6. what is the impact of electronic resources on the academic performance of the undergraduates.

2. Literature Review

The University of Chicago Library listed some of the electronic information resources that should be available at every academic library's disposal to include:

1. **CD ROM**: is a pre-pressed optical compact disc which contains data. The name is an acronym which stands for "**Compact Disc Read-Only Memory**". Computers can read CD-ROMs, but cannot write on the CD-ROM's which are not writable or erasable. Until the mid-2000s, CD-ROMs were popularly used to
distribute software for computers and video game consoles. Some CDs, called enhanced CDs, hold both computer data and audio with the latter capable of being played on a CD player, while data (such as software or digital video) is only usable on a computer (such as ISO 9660 format PC CD-ROMs).

2. **Electronic Books:** Libraries now provides access to a variety of electronic books, as well as the other printed works (such as essays, poems, or historical documents). Some of these electronic books and texts are part of large, searchable databases.

3. **Electronic Journals:** Most academic libraries now have an offline E-Journals Database to help you find journal materials that is useful to users and an online versions of e-journals which the library subscribe to have access to current journal publication.

4. **Online Database:** Is a web based filing system designed to store information. It is a database accessible from a network, including from the Internet. Most academic libraries now subscribe to online databases of books and journals that are relevant to the University curriculum which will help to facilitate teaching and
learning in the University environment.

5. **Online Sources:** Online sources are materials that are available online. It can be an online newspaper, magazine or television website such as NBC or CNN. Peer-reviewed journals, WebPages, forums and blogs are also online sources. Some other names for online sources are 'electronic' sources, 'web' sources and 'internet' sources. These are very useful electronic information resources which many libraries are now making available to satisfy the urgent needs of their user community.

Uses and benefits of electronic information resources
Studies have also been carried out on the use of electronic resources by teachers, students and research scholars of universities and research organizations. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the respondents feel that the use of the UGC – Infonet e-journals has created high dependency value on their research work and they needed current article alert services and electronic document supply services (Madhusudhan, 2008). In the context of developing countries, Okello-Obura and Magara (2008) investigated electronic information access and utilization at the East African School of Library and Information Science, Makerere University, Uganda. Out of the 250 targeted students, 190 responded, giving a response rate of 76%. The study revealed that users derived a lot of benefits from electronic resources gaining access to a wider range of information and improved academic performance as a result of access to quality information.

        Ojo and Akande (2005) in a survey of 350 respondents examined students access, usage and awareness of electronic information resources at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria. The study revealed that the level of usage of the electronic information resources is not high. A major problem however identified is lack of information retrieval skills for exploiting electronic resources, thus making the level of usage of resources by medical

students very low. Jagboro(2003) had also emphasized the emerging reliance and attitude of users to electronic resources. In a study she conducted in some Nigerian Universities, it was found that 45.2% of respondents accessed electronic resources from cybercafés. Though this attitude, according to her is due to the proximity of cybercafés to user facilities. Ajuwon et al (2003) also carried out a study of uptake of ICTs by health science students at the University College Hospital, Ibadan. This study found that 57% of students sampled could not use a computer, that the use of the database was poor, due to lack of awareness, lack of access to computers, insufficient training and the high cost of provision.

In effect, all the studies reviewed above are implemented on the assumption that uptake of electronic resources is highly desirable in that it leads to increased productivity of work, learning, teaching and research.

3. Methodology

The descriptive survey research design is adopted for this study. This study was conducted in Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State. The population of the study consisted 100 of undergraduate students in Taraba State University Janligo Taraba State at the point of distribution of the instrument in the library. The simple random sampling technique was adopted for selecting the students in Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State The researcher used sample size of (100) students will be used for the research.

The main instrument used for data collection for this study is the questionnaire. Data generated from respondents were collated via the tally system to obtain the frequency of occurrence of the scores, and the total score occurrences were computed and analyzed using simple percentage.

4. Findings and Discussions

Electronic Information Resources Available at Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State

E-Resources	Available	Not Available
E-Journals	✓	
E- Books	✓	
E-Magazines	✓	
E-Thesis		✓
WWW	✓	
E-Newspapers	✓	
E-Mail	✓	
E-Research Report	✓	
Bibliographic Databases	✓	

E- Conference papers etc	✓	

The observation checklist shows that the University library has e-Conference papers. Types of electronic information resources checked were available. The available electronic information resources in the library are e-Journals; e-Technical report; e-Reference materials; e-Proceedings; e-newspapers; e-Books; e-Newsletters; e-Grey document; e-Thesis; and e-Mail.
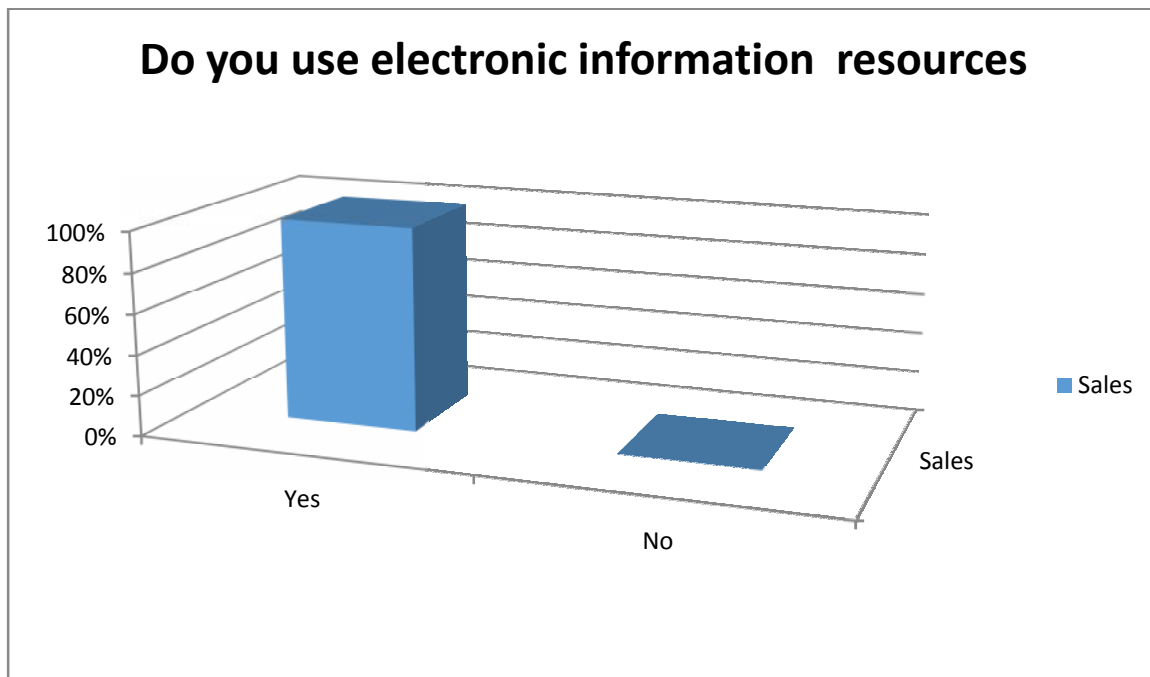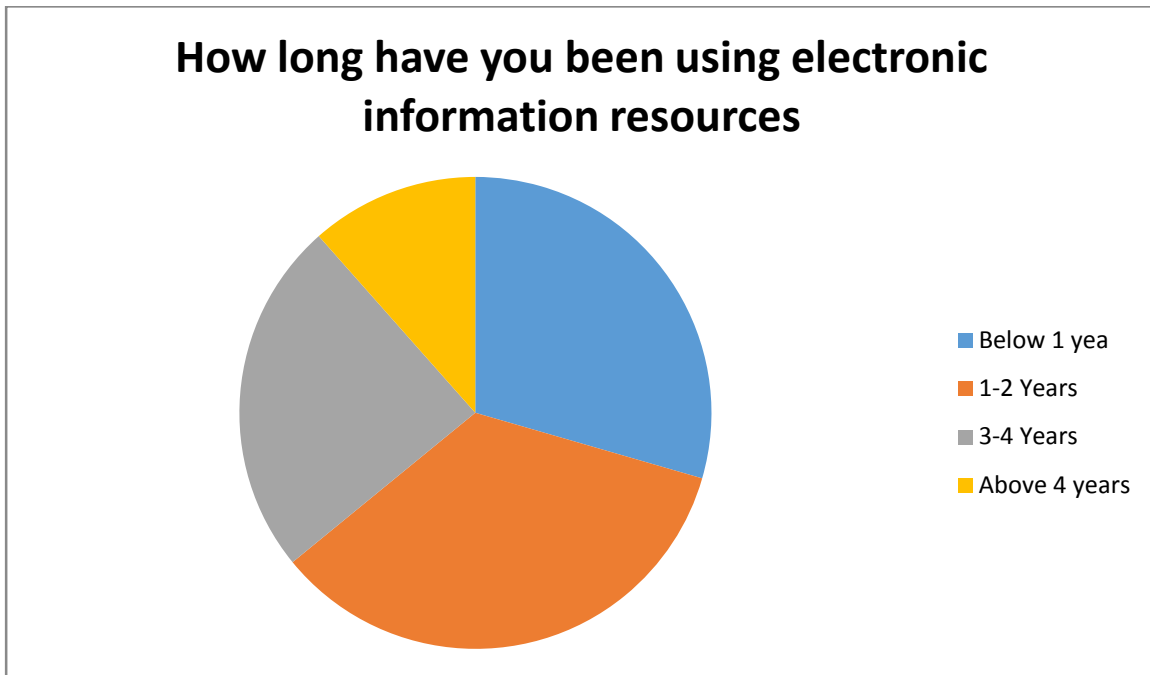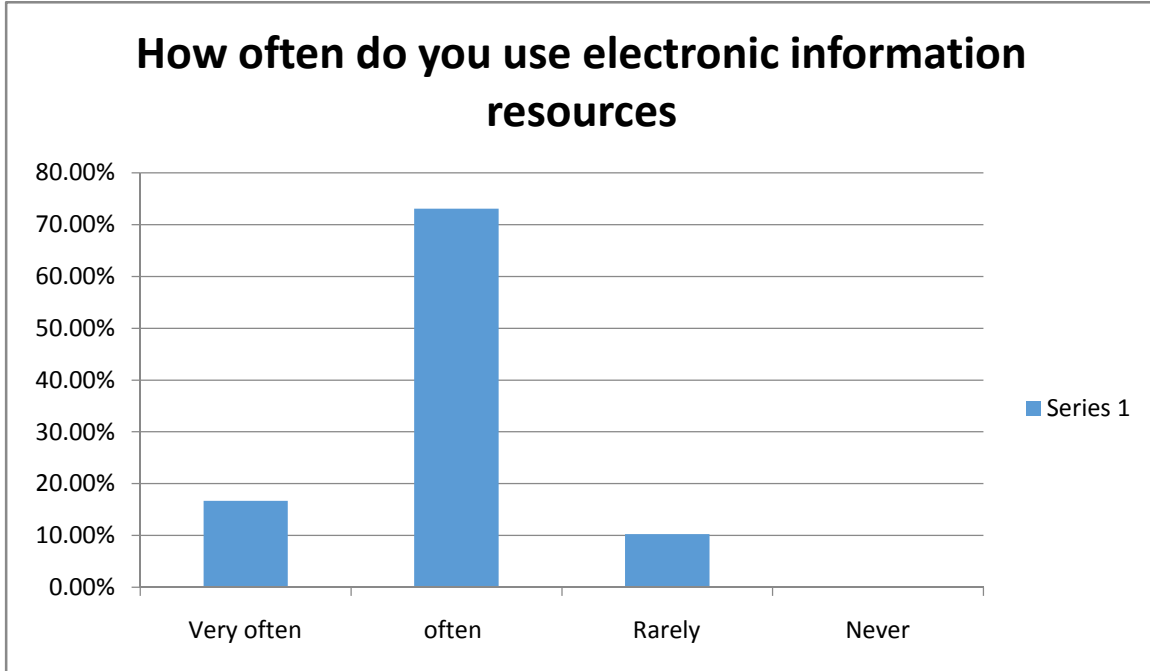
ICT skills of students

S/N	Items	Options	Frequency	Percentage
1.	I am skilled in the use of computer.	Agree	45	57.69%
		Disagreed	33	42.31%
2.	I am skilled in the knowledge of database structures	Agree	10	12.82%
		Disagreed	68	87.18%
3.	I am skilled in working in an interactive platforms e.g. video conferencing, BBS, LISTSERV, Chat room etc.	Agree	18	23.08%
		Disagreed	60	76.92%
4	I am skilled in formulating search queries	Agree	32	41.03%
		Disagreed	46	58.97%
5	I am skilled in online navigation techniques	Agree	49	62.82%
		Disagreed	29	37.18%
6	I am skilled in the use of electronic library tools e.g. CDROM, OPAC, Subject Gateways etc.	Agree	25	32.05%
		Disagreed	53	67.95%
7	I am skilled in online acquisition procedures/techniques	Agree	15	19.23%
		Disagreed	63	80.77%
8	I am skilled in working in a network environment	Agree	18	23.08%
		Disagreed	60	76.92%
9	I am skilled in using internet telephony	Agree	5	6.41%
		Disagreed	73	93.59%
10	I am skilled with computer system/application software e.g. MS Windows XP, Linux, MS Office, etc.	Agree	58	74.36%
		Disagreed	20	25.64%
11	I am conversant with electronic formats e.g. PDF, JPEG, MPEG etc.	Agree	25	32.05%

		Disagreed	53	67.95%

It was observed that there is a low level of skillfulness in the use of ICT among respondents These skills include a knowledge of the structure of the database and the instructions which must be input into the computer by the searcher, as well as an understanding of the ways in which the instructions are linked with one another. Brophy argues that, it has reached a situation were the acquisition of information skills is acknowledged as one of the key learning objectives for every student entering a university, so that no student leaves without being fully equipped to cope with the information intensive world as an end-user .

Level of electronic resource Usage /Benefits by students Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State

How often do you use electronic information resources

How long have you been using electronic information resources

The charts above showed that students make use of electronic information resources for academic purposes, and they make use them often as well as they have using electronic information for a period of 1- 2 years.

Problems encountered while using electronic information resources Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State

S/N	Items	Options	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Information overload (or too many information)	Agree	34	43.59%
		Disagree	44	56.41%
2.	The need to filter the results from search	Agree	58	74.36%
		Disagree	20	25.64%
3.	Download delay	Agree	55	70.51%
		Disagree	23	29.49%
4	Problem with credibility of information	Agree	12	15.38%
		Disagree	66	84.62%
5	Failure to find information	Agree	44	56.41%
		Disagree	34	43.59%
6	lack of search skills	Agree	61	78.20%
		Disagree	17	21.80%
	High cost of access	Agree	75	96.15%
		Disagree	3	3.85%
8	Power outages	Agree	78	100.00%
		Disagree	0	- -
9	Inaccessibility of some websites	Agree	40	51.28%
		Disagree	38	48.72%
10	Difficulties in navigation of some websites	Agree	50	64.10%
		Disagree	28	35.90%

It was observed that there is a general endorsement by respondents that issues like large mass of irrelevant information, the need to filter the results from search are some of the basic problems encountered while using electronic information resources(EIRs) these corroborates Eliopoulos & Gotlieb, (2003) that the major problem with search engines is that search queries turn up far too many results, erring on the side of recall rather than precision. Other problems are download delay, failure to find information, inadequate/lack of search skills, high cost of access, power outages, unavailability /disappearance of some websites, inaccessibility of some websites, and difficulties in navigating through electronic resources and

so on. Furthermore, Branch, Kim, & Koenecke, (2000) posit that profuse amounts of information are put on the Internet every day and in many cases, there is no editor, reviewer, or any other kind of review mechanism to determine the credibility, quality, accuracy, or timeliness of the material.

5. Findings

The research work is on levels of electronic information resources usage among undergraduate students in university of Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State. Nigeria. Based on a detailed literature review a total of five (5) research questions were and tested on a sample size of 78 representing the total population undergraduate students of Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State, Nigeria. The instrument employed for the collection of data was the questionnaire. Frequency counts and simple percentages were used in analyzing the data collected. From the data analysis the following findings were advanced.

There are E- resources available in the school. There is a low level of skillfulness in the use of ICT among Students of the Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State. There is a low level of electronic resource experience amongst Students of the University of Port Harcourt Library, River state The internet via Cybercafé is the major facility used to access electronic resources by postgraduate students of Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State. Issues like large mass of irrelevant information, the need to filter the results from search, download delay, failure to find information, inadequate/lack of search skills, high cost of access, power outages, inaccessibility of some electronic resources, difficulties in navigating through electronic resources and so on are problems encountered when using electronic resources by undergraduate Students of Taraba State University Library Janligo Taraba State.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing, it is obvious that Students of Taraba State University Library need to do more in order to improve on their ICT skills so as to equip them in utilizing the enormous benefits available in electronic formats. The high level of usage of electronic resources even as evident among both male and female gender is an indication to the fact that even without the expertise knowledge of manipulating information in an electronic environment, students are still getting satisfaction from the little they could get out of electronic sources although handicapped by their low level of ICT experience. This high level of use is also as a result of their perception of ease and usefulness of electronic sources such as the web. Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made by the researcher as follows:

- Libraries must reach a position where the acquisition of Information and Communication Technology skills is acknowledged as one of the key learning objectives for its students so that students will be fully equipped to cope with the information intensive world as an end-user. To this end more practical courses on ICTs should be inculcated into the curriculum.

- Government should equip schools with the enabling infrastructure such as adequate power supply, effective internet connectivity etc. that will encourage the usage of ICTs by students.
- ICT centres with well trained personnel should be established in the universities where students can have free access to computers, the web and other electronic sources.
- University of library should be staffed with more technical staff to impact ICT skills on students.

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