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Library Research Journal is an institution based journal from Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. It is an online peer reviewed Google Scholar journal, published in the month of September. This edition is a compilation of research reports from various institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. The research reports cover a wide array of issues in Library and Information Science. This volume addresses topical issues in librarianship such as NgRen, Competency Appraisal of law cataloguers as well as law students' profile as a correlate of library use. Emerging concepts in librarianship such as MOOC's, parenting styles and readership were part of the compilation. Research reports from Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library focused on library practices in the Circulation Department, Information Literacy, Zik Research Centre and reprographic services in the library.

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MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES IN ALEX EKWUEME LIBRARY, FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC OKO, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

The study sought to investigate library management and utilization of electronic information resources in Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko in Anambra State. Information and Communication Technology has transformed the way information is created, stored and exchanged and has become a driving force in the 21st Century. This study was guided by six research questions. Descriptive survey research design was used. Population of the study comprised fifty-four (54) library staff of the institution studied. The entire population was studied because the number was considered small and manageable. Hence no sampling was conducted. Instrument for data collection was a questionnaire. A total of 54 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and same number was returned. The questionnaire contained sixty-one (61) items. Data collected were analyzed using simple percentages and mean(x) scores. A criterion means of 2.50 was used to determine items that received positive rating or otherwise. Findings of the study revealed that management does not make constant provision of electronic information resources (EIRs), as they were identified in the Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko. Based on the findings, the study recommends that the library management should organize training on EIRs on regular, increase the library budget to enhance the acquisition and maintenance of EIRs in Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko, Anambra state, Nigeria. This will enhance the teaching and learning in the institution.

Keyword: *Electronic Information Resources, ICT, Polytechnic Libraries, Information Resources Management, Information Resources Utilization, Alex Ekwueme Library.*

Introduction

It is widely accepted that developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has affected every sector of the society and institutions, including the functions, services, and resources of libraries (Elly, Ally, Chilimo, and Sife, 2004). Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has changed the world and has become one of the important tools for storing and retrieving information. A major portion of library collection is Electronic Information Resources (Garg and Tamrakar, 2014).Tsakonas and Papatheodor (2006) asserted that the electronic information resources have provided users with new tools and applications for information seeking and retrieval. Similarly, the revolution has brought about dramatic changes in information storage, access and retrieval (Egberongbe, 2011). The application of information and communication technology has changed the way researchers, librarians, and information professionals access and utilize information resources, which has become an integral part of their information resources and can substitute print resources (Mardhusudhan, cited in Mwantimwa and Elia, 2017) They observed that developments in the information and communication technology has enhanced services that are available in present day library operations. It has also affected the knowledge acquisition of users. An Electronic Information Resource (EIR) is any information source the library provides access to,

which is in electronic format. The library subscribes to many electronic information resources in order to provide users access to them, free of charge. Clearly the print age is paving the way for electronic information resources. Since the early 1990s, several initiatives aimed to increase the availability of e-resources have resulted in a significant increase in the number of African and other institutions subscribing to these e-resources. Some important initiatives include; International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASPs), Programme for Enhancement of Research Information (PERI), African Journal Online (AJOL), JSTOR- Journals Storage, as well as other institutes founded by the United Nations (UN) namely: Access Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE), Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI), Global Online Access to Legal Information (GOALI), and Health Internetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI) (Alphonce, 2015; Msagati, 2014; Masinde, 2011). Literature has shown that in Africa, Tanzania has the highest institution of higher learning accessing e-resources. Accordingly, the formation of the Consortium of Tanzania University and Research Libraries (COTUL) constitutes an innovative collaborative effort in the country aimed at broadening and consolidating access to and utilization of e-resources. COTUL primarily seeks to address the shortage of teaching, learning and research resources through joint information resources provision activities, particularly the acquisition and subscription of e-information resources such as AJOL, JSTOR, Oxford Journals, Emerald and other e-journals as well as other databases, research, training, consultancy and other services that are crucial to attaining academic excellence (Alphonce cited in Mwantimwa and Elia, 2017).

Accordingly, researchers and academic staff are aware of different e-resources and databases (e.g. EBSCO, Emerald, PROQUEST, Springer, Science Direct, INGENTA, J-Gate, INDEST, IEEE, DELNET, Research Gate, Statista, Gale, Elsevier, Google Scholar, Scopus, LexisNexis, IDRC/CRDI, MEDLINE etc.).

Statement of the Problem
Given that the role of the library to collect, organize, access and preserve remains the same, it is possible that the manner in which these functions are performed in the e-resources environment will change. Hence, the need to address the effect of this technology on library operation so to ensure that its potential is harnessed in libraries. Hawkins (2000) observed that the library of the future will have the daunting mission of helping scholars discover what relevant information exists anywhere in the world and in a variety of formats and media. Guidelines are very important for explaining the selection, acquisition, access, use, and preservation of digital information in libraries alongside the traditional print resources. These formed the focus of this study.

Objective of the Study
The objective of this study was to investigate the management and utilization of electronic resources in Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko. Specifically, the study sought to:
1. Identify the types of electronic information resources available in Alex Ekwueme Library
2. Ascertain the various databases/search engines that are used in Alex Ekwueme Library
3. Determine the impact of utilization of electronic information resources in Alex Ekwueme Library
4. Identify the frequency of utilization of electronic information resources in Alex Ekwueme library
5. Find out the level of library management's commitment in utilization of electronic information resources in Alex Ekwueme Library
6. Find out the challenges facing management and use of electronic information resources in Alex Ekwueme library

Research Questions
This study is meant to provide answers to the following questions:
1. What types of electronic information resources are available in Alex Ekwueme Library?
2. What databases/search engines are used in Alex Ekwueme Library?

3. How are electronic information resources utilized in Alex Ekwueme Library?
4. What is the frequency of use of electronic information resources in Alex Ekwueme library?
5. What is the level of library management's commitment in the utilization of electronic information resources in Alex Ekwueme Library?
6. What challenges are faced by the library in the management and use of electronic information resources in Alex Ekwueme library?

Review of Related Literature

The term electronic resources according to Graham (2003), appear not to be used consistently; they may be referred to as electronic information resources (EIRs), electronic library resources, digital resources, digital materials, and soft library resources. EIRs are information resources packaged in electronic media. They 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 (Tsakonas, and Paptheodor, 2006). The works of Uwaifo (2012), Sharma, (2019), and Negahban and Talawor (2019) identified a checklist of EIRs that are available for use. These include: databases, e-books, e-mail, e-journals, e-conference, online newspapers, e-maps, e-thesis, e-research reports, e-magazine, e-shopping, online public access catalogue, etc. These EIRs are computer and Internet based. Generally, majority of academics and researchers Kumar, 2016; Mammo and Ngulube, 2015; Haridasan and Khan, 2009; Watton, 2007 are aware of different kinds of e-resources such as e-journals, books, theses, articles, dissertations, dictionaries, encyclopedias, databases, newspapers, magazine, e-mail, Internet, OPAC etc that exist. The importance of e-resources cannot be over emphasized. Electronic resources have no physical boundary; it provides round the clock availability and access to information at any time at different locations. It provides multiple accesses to information; it has made information retrieval process easier. It preserves and conserves information in digital forms (Waldman, 2003).

According to Kimmon (2017), search engine is a website that collects and organizes content from all over the Internet. A search engine is a software program or script available through the Internet that searches documents and files for keywords and returns the results of any files containing these keywords. Today, there are thousands of different search engines available on the Internet each with their own abilities and features (Kimmon, 2017). They are: google, ask.com, cuel, mamma.com, galaxy, go.com, altavista, yahoo.com, bing, aol, baidu, yandex, msn, overture, excite, netscape, youtube etc. A search engine is accessed through a browser on the computer, smart phone, tablet, or other device. The level of information literacy of researchers and academic staff predict the level of awareness (Angello, 2010; Mardhusudhan, 2010). A significant number of researchers, library users, and academic staff use the e-resources for research work. The e-resources are also utilized frequently to update knowledge, prepare assignments, study, collect data, entertain information, and develop careers (Mwantimwa, and Elia 2017 cited Harridasn, and Khan 2009). Korobil *et al.* (2006) underscore the value of e-resources by asserting that a "great majority of the faculty members use e-resources quite frequently". Accessing and utilization of e-resources were mainly to support their teaching, learning, research, and projects (Swain and Panda, 2009).

According to Kumar (2016), the use of EIRs enhances communication, career development, teaching and research in addition to providing subject-specific and updated information. Zhag ye and Liu (2011) observed that EIRs in most universities form an integral part of the e-library and stand as vital academic resources that support teaching, learning and research activities. Ukpehor (2012), posits that e-resources provide accurate and timely information especially for students who depend greatly on the e-resources for information to advance research and collaboration with other researchers around the world for intellectual growth. Tyagi (2011), had earlier stated that access to and use of e-resources helps faculty members and researchers to collect current teaching and research materials. To a very high extent, EIRs have become a substitute for printed materials". EIRs have brought about dramatic change

in learning, teaching, and research in institutions of higher learning.

One of the functions of the polytechnic library is to provide resources and services for its users. Polytechnic libraries in the institutions of higher learning in Nigeria are facing the challenge of the paradigm shift from the traditional environment to the e-environment. In the electronic environment, these libraries are expected to provide information resources in a variety of formats and provide innovative services to their users (Ugwu, and Onyegiri 2012; Oguedoihu, 2019). With the advent of ICT, it is expected that the library management should provide abundant e-resources to meet the ever-increasing demands of users. Since the inception of Alex Ekwuweme Library Federal Polytechnic Oko, Anambra State in 1979, the library system has had a sizable collection of books, journals, and other specialized materials. They also have specialized materials that are in the grey category and they include projects, and official publications by the government, publications from the United Nation (UN) and its agencies. However, to keep abreast with the current trend, polytechnic library management has to embrace digital revolution incorporating electronic resources in their collection development and services.

Ubogu (2009) opined that failure to develop institutional capacities and technical capabilities is another challenge. Mwantinwa and Elia, (2017) reported that lack of necessary skills and competence among livestock researchers in Tanzania limit the usage of r-resources. This problem is attributable to the lack of information literacy programmes in some institutions in Tanzania. Other challenges include lack of computer knowledge, high cost of Internet, inadequate finance, Internet connectivity, poor electricity supply, lack of motivation among librarians, digitizing of resources deter the use of EIRs in teaching, learning, and research. Mmantimwa and E. (2017) added that lack of awareness, high maintenance cost, high purchase, uneasy-to-read, technical problems, outdated materials and lack of statutory provision as the main challenges and problems to effectively utilize EIRs. Madhusudhan (2010) observed that lack of awareness affect effective and efficient use of EIRs in institutions of higher education and research activities.

Methodology
This study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study was 54 library staff in Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko. No sampling was done as the population was small and manageable. This is the census enumeration technique. Instrument for data collection was a questionnaire designed into six clusters in line with the six research questions that guided the study. A total of 54 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and same number was returned. The questionnaire contained sixty-one (61) items. Data collected were analyzed using simple percentages and mean(x) scores. A criterion mean of 2.50 was used to determine items that received positive rating or otherwise. Result of the analysis was presented in tables as shown below.

Research question 1: Types of electronic resources are available in Alex Ekwueme Library?

S/n	Question Items	Frequency
1	E-journal	2
2	E-books	2
3	E-online databases,	1
4	Websites	3
5	E-thesis/dissertation	3
6	E-magazines	1
7	E-newspapers	4
8	E-mail	4
9	E-Encyclopedias	3
10	E-Conferencing	1
11	E-Dictionaries	2
12	E-Reference	1
13	E-clipping	1
14	E-patents	1
15	E-research report	1
16	E-Online public Access Catalogue (OPAC),	1
17	E-Current Awareness Service (CAS)	1
18	Selective Dissemination of Information,	3
19	E-maps,	1
20	E-yearbook	1
21	E-Index, and Abstract	5
22	CD ROM,	1
23	Diskettes	1
24	Tape and other portable computer database	6
	Total	**50 (93%)**

The analysis in Table 1 shows that 93% of the respondents identified the 24 items listed in the table as types of electronic information resources available in Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko. They include online databases, e-books, e-mail, e-journals, e-patents, e-newspapers, websites, e-encyclopedias, e-dictionaries, e-reference, online public access catalogue, e-current awareness service, selective dissemination of information, e-yearbook, e-index, and abstract, e-conferencing, e-research report, CD ROM e-maps, e-thesis/dissertation, e-clipping, e-magazine, diskettes, tape and other portable computer database.

Research Question 2: What various databases/search engines are used in Alex Ekwueme Library

S/N	Question Items	Frequency
25	Google	12
26	Yahoo.com	9
27	Ask.com	2
28	Bing	2
29	Mozilla Firefox	5
30	Aol	1
31	Cuil	1
32	Mamma.com	1
33	Galaxy	1
34	Msn	1
35	AltaVista,	2
36	Overture	1
37	Excite,	2
38	YouTube,	9
39	Netscape	1
40	Netscape	1
	Total	**51 (94%)**

Result of the analysis as presented in Table 2 shows that 94% of the respondents identified the following as databases/search engines used in Alex Ekwueme Library. Databases/search engines listed include: google, yahoo.com, ask.com, bing, Mozilla firefox, aol, cuil, mamma.com, galaxy, altavista, msn, overture, youtube, excite, netscape, and, lync.

Research question 3: Frequency at which electronic resources are used in Alex Ekwueme Library

S/N	Question Items	Mean(x)	Decision
41	electronic resources are used once a year	1.15	Negative
42	Whenever a program is organized	2.56	Positive
43	Electronic resources are used twice a year	1.17	Negative
44	Electronic resources are used every day	1.39	Negative
45	Not used at all	1.44	Negative

Table 3 presents the frequency distribution of use of EIR in Alex Ekwueme Library. Item number 42 was positively rated with a mean score of 2.56 indicating that EIRs were most frequently used only when a program was organized in the Alex Ekwueme Library. The rest of the items in the table were rated below 2.50 which is an indication that they were rarely used.

Research question 4: Level of library management commitment to electronic resources in Alex Ekwueme Library

S/N	Question Items	Mean(x)	Decision -
46	Management provides electronic resources that will enhance teaching, learning and research	1.67	Negative
47	Management constantly makes provision for e- resources	1.89	Negative
48	Management dutifully subscribes to e-resources in line with the curriculum of the polytechnic	1.70	Negative
49	Management Encourage personal use of the EIRs	2.52	Positive
50	Management ensures EIR are l functional	2.50	Positive
51	EIR are not in the priority list of library management	1.48	Negative

Analysis in **Table 4** shows that question items 49 and 50 were positively rated with mean (x) scores of 2.50 and 2.52 indicating that management encourage personal use of electronic resources, and that EIRs are functional. Items 46, 47, 48, and 51 were negatively rated with mean scores below 2.5. This is an indictment on the library management and shows lack of seriousness and commitment to the utilization of EIRs in the Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko.

Research question 5: Perceived Impact of electronic resources in Alex EkwuemeLibrary

S/N	Question Items	Mean(x)	Decision
52	Enhancement of online searching of information, teaching and learning	3. 67	Positive
53	Improvement of online cataloguing and classification skills	3.56	Positive
54	Effective online charging and discharging of books, indexing and abstracting	3.59	Positive
55	Maintaining electronic serials control for all journals	3.	Positive
56	Enhancement of online reference queries,	3.74	Positive

All the items listed in Table 5 were positively rated with mean scores of 3.00 and above. The result of the analysis shows that the provision of EIR has positive impact in Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko. This implies that EIRs have impact on online searching of information, teaching and learning, online cataloguing and classification skills, online charging and discharging of books, indexing and abstracting, electronic serials control, and online reference queries.

Research Question 6: Challenges in the use and management of EIRs by library management in Alex Ekwueme Library

S/N	Question Items	Mean(x)	Decision
57	Poor finance	3.37	Positive
58	High cost of Internet/digitizing of resources, Internet connectivity	2.78	Positive
59	Lack of ICT knowledge and skills	2.85	Positive
60	Limited access to computer	3.15	Positive
61	Poor electricity supply	3.33	Positive

All the items listed in Table 6 received positive mean rating of 2.78 and above. This shows that library staff sees them as major challenges in Alex Ekwueme Library. Item 57 received the highest mean score of 3.37; an indication that paucity of funds is a major challenge in the use and provision of EIRs in the

library. The second highest mean score was received by item 61. It had a mean score of 3.33. This rating shows that unsteady electricity supply poses a serious challenge to the use of EIR in Alex Ekwueme Library.

Conclusion

Electronic information resources enabled by rapid advances in Information and Communication Technologies is fast replacing library and information service delivery based on print media. The result of the research carried out in Alex Ekwueme Library, Federal Polytechnic Oko shows that they have started using this media form. However, the effort of the library management is affected mainly by poor funding and unsteady power supply.

Recommendations

1. Library management should create awareness and ensure the availability of EIRs in Alex Ekwueme Library.

2. Library management should widen its scope to create access to other EIRs including database which will impact on the curriculum of the polytechnic.
3. Library management should make provision, in such a way that EIRs used on a regular basis.
4. Both the Polytechnic and library management should make conscious effort to improve the finances of the polytechnic to enhance the provision and effective utilization of EIRs in Alex Ekwueme Library.
5. EIR can only be effectively utilized with a steady supply of electricity. Effort should be made in this direction.
6. Library management and its parent body should carry out a re-assessment to EIRs, and realign the resources to suit the needs of the users.
7. There is need to organize regular training library staff who render these services.

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