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November 2021

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Ofua, Justice Owajeme Mr, "Awareness and Utilization Of Online Subscribed Databases by Academics in University Libraries in Delta State." (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 6436.
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Awareness and Utilization Of Online Subscribed databases by Academics in University Libraries in Delta State.

By

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine academics' awareness and use of online databases subscribed to by university libraries in Delta state. The study's objective was to ascertain the availability of online subscribed databases, the amount to which academics were aware of and used them, as well as the purpose of usage, source of awareness, and issue encountered when using the university library's online subscribed database, comprises of the three campuses (Asaba, Oleh and Abraka Campuses). The method of survey research was used, and the instrument used to collect data was a questionnaire. Three hundred and thirty questionnaires (330) were delivered to respondents, with a total of two hundred and twelve (212) duly completed and deemed usable for the survey. Tables, frequency distributions, and percentages were used to examine responses. The findings indicated that while the majority of databases are open to the public, the University Library subscribes to only seven (7) internet databases, including Agora, Proquest, Hinari, Oare, Ajour, Sciencedirect, and Ebscohost. This demonstrates that the university library did not subscribe to a large number of online databases, particularly in the sciences, despite the fact that several were interdisciplinary. The overwhelming majority of academic staff members use online subscription services for research, modern consciousness, and creating lesson notes. Power outages, slow internet connectivity, limited computers, and librarians' reluctance to promote users are just a few of the difficulties academic staff face when utilizing online subscribed databases. The academic faculty at Delta State University is aware of and makes use of online subscription databases. The University Library should ensure that there are sufficient networked computers connected to the Internet at a high speed. This will result in increased use of internet databases, distribution of full-text materials, and electronic document delivery.

Keywords: Electronic Databases, Academic Staff, Delta State University, Subscribed databases

Introduction

The technological revolution witnessed in the last few decades has made a tremendous impact on the way information is acquired, processed, organized, retrieved, and disseminated. The majority of the sources of information especially the electronic resources are now available both online and offline. Because of these advancements, information reaches the people in a short time, at a less cost and occupies less space. This huge development, which came about as a result of advances in information and communication technologies through the adoption and the use of online databases by academic staff of universities.

There is a wide range of electronic databases on the internet, some of them are free, most, however, are available only by subscription. All university libraries pay licensing fees to a wide variety of selected databases to provide students, faculty, and staff with the necessary access. These licensing agreements often allow access only through library computers or those connected to the campus network like library catalogs, electronic databases are searchable by author, title, subject, and keywords. Electronic databases are widely available and can be accessed from anywhere and by many users at the same time, it is, therefore, convenient to use. University libraries spend a substantial amount of money on the subscription of these databases, it is only appropriate and economical that those databases are optimally utilized to contribute to the academic achievement of students and faculty and also to get value for money.

The concept of electronic resources consists of texts, audio, visuals, graphics, and animations in nature that are accessible through the aid of digital technologies. Ideally, these should provide users access to electronic information resources via electronic means. However, this definition also includes electronic resources such as a database on standalone, personal computers, information on computer CD-ROMs that may not be accessible through the internet or other networks (Alkali and Gama, 2017). Brophy (1993) stated that the merit of electronic resources over print include the speed of access, ease of use, ability to search multiple files at the same time, ability to store articles electronically, print and repeat searches, more frequent updating, and access to information from outside the library.

Statement of the Problem

The academic library is a critical component of the knowledge-promotion infrastructure of universities, supporting teaching, research, and study. The library's main resources had previously been in print, but with the development of information technology came the added burden of managing online subscribed databases. For university libraries to pick and subscribe to relevant online databases, administrators must first understand the users' opinions of the usefulness, satisfaction, and constraints, as well as make them fully aware of these resources.

Since the provision of electronic databases library services in Nigeria only began in the last decade, little research has been done to assess the availability of online subscribed databases and the extent to which users are aware of them. Providing users with access to online subscribed databases is only worthwhile if university libraries have a good grasp of how users are aware of the databases' availability and how they utilize them. The purpose of this study is to look into the availability and awareness of electronic subscribed databases among academics in Delta State Universities with a special focus on university libraries.

Objectives of the Study

Given the importance of E-databases as a valuable source of information to teaching, learning, and research, the broad objective of this study is to examine the availability and extent of awareness of electronic subscribe databases by academics with a special focus on university libraries in Delta State. It is against this background that this study was conceived to;

- i. find out the online subscribed databases available in university libraries in Delta State.
- ii. determine the extent to which academics in the university under study are aware of the online subscribed databases in the university libraries.
- iii. find out the sources through which academics become aware of the online subscribed databases in the university libraries.
- iv. study the purpose of use of the online subscribed databases available in the university libraries.
- v. determine the frequency of use of the online described databases available in the university libraries.
- vi. examine challenges faced by the academics while assessing and using the online subscribed databases available in the library

Research Question

The following research question was raised to guide the study;

1. What are the different types of online subscribed databases available in the library?
2. Are the academics staff aware of the types of online subscribed databases available in the university library?
3. What sources do Delta State University academics use to learn about the library's online subscription databases?
4. What is the purpose for which academics use databases available in the library?
5. What is the frequency of use of online subscribed databases available in the university library?
6. What are the difficulties that academics confront when accessing the library's online subscribed databases?

Methodology

The questionnaire, i.e. a structured questionnaire, was used as the study's methodology. After careful consideration, it was determined to be the most useful method of inquiry in this work because it seeks to administer the designed questionnaire to individual academic staff. As a result, each member of the staff was evaluated based on the information gathered from him or her. The primary advantage of this method, once again, was the opportunity for each subject to be assessed rather than being represented by an assessment of another academic staff member or by a literature search. As a result, the questionnaire aided in narrowing the scope of the search. Seven hundred and fifty (750) academic staff of Delta State University formed the population of this study. From this, a random sampling selected 330 academic staff from all the faculties and departments of the University. To this end, 330 teaching staff was served with the questionnaire to have widespread coverage. Out of the figure, 310 were returned and 255 were found usable. Hence the data were analyzed by the use of descriptive %ages.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Population of the study

Faculty	Frequency	%age
Education	30	9.09
Social Science	30	9.09
Pharmacy	30	9.09
Science	30	9.09
Management Science	30	9.09
Law	30	9.09
Arts	30	9.09
Basic Medical Science	30	9.09
Agriculture	30	9.09
Clinical Sciences	30	9.09
Engineering	30	9.09
Total	330	100

Table 1 show the total number of faculties in Delta State University.

Table 2: Questionnaire Distribution and return Rate

Copies Administered	Copies Retrieved and Used For Analysis	%age Retrieved
330	212	64.2

Table 2 shows the total numbers of questionnaire administered to responded and numbers retrieved and usable.

Table 3: Gender of the Responded

Male (%)		Female (%)	
137	64.6	75	35.4

Table 3 shows that majority of the responded were male.

Table 4: Educational Qualification of Respondents

Qualification	Frequency	%age
PhD	65	30.7
Masters	99	46.7
Bachelor's degree	48	22.6

Table 4 shows that 99 (46.7%) of the respondents are masters degree holders.

Table 5: Online Database Subscribed to by Delta State University library

S/N	Name	Subscribed Databases	URL	Password
1	AGORA	Access to Global Online Research In Agriculture	http://www.aginternetwork.org/en/	Consult the E-librarian
2	PROQUEST		http://portal.bigchalk/portalweb/login.do	Consult the E-Librarian

3	HINARI	Health Inter-Network Access to Research Initiative	http://hinarilogin.research4life.org	Consult the E-Librarian
4	OARE	Online Access to Research in The Environment	http://www.oaresciences.org/en/	Consult the E-Librarian
5	AJOR	African journal online	http://ajol.info/	Need Registration with AJORL
6.	EBSCOHOST	ELBERT B. STEPHEN COMPANY)	http://search.ebscohost.com	Ask the E-Librarian
7	SCIENCEDIRECT		www.sciencedirect.com	Ask the E-Librarian
8	SAGE		http://sgo.sagepub.com/	Free Access
9	DOAL	Directory Of Open Access Journals	http://www.doaj.org	Free Access
10	BIOLINE	Bioline International	http://www.bioline.org.br/journals	Free Access
11	E-GRANARY	E-granary Digital Library	http://www.widernet.org/digitallibrary/	Free Access
12	JSTOR		http://www.jstor.org/	Free Access
13	LISA	Library & Information Science Abstract	http://www.csa.com/factsheets/lisa-set-c.php	Free Access
14	DOAB	Directory of open Access books	http://www.doabooks.org	Free Access
15	UBLR	University of Bedfordshire Learning Resources	https://lrweb.beds.ac.uk/guides/a-guide-to-referencing/referencing	Free Access
16	PUBMED		http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/	Free Access
17	MEDLINE		http://www.medline.com/home.jsp	Free Access
18	POLS	Public Library Of Science	http://plos.org	Free Access
19	TFR	The free library	http://www2.thefreelibrary.com/	Free Access
20	MN	Medicinenet	http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/hp.asp	Free Access

21	CRDSC	Canadian Research & Development Of Science and Culture	http://www.esca.nada.net/	Free Access
22	ISP	Internet Scientific Publication	Ispub.com	Free Access
23	EIES	Eric Institute Of Education Science	Eric.edu.gov/	Free Access
24	ERRM	Electronic Resources For Research Methods	http.net/rm://www.informationr	Free Access
25	WWS	World Wid Science	http://www.worldwidscience.org/	Free Access
26	DAT	Dissertations And Thesis	http://digitalcom.momns.unl.edu/	Free Access
27	AJ	Academic Journals	http://www.academicjournals.org	Free Access
28	LexisNexis			Free Access
29	Law companion			Free Access
30	Pavilion			Free Access
31	The free library	Free library	Thefreelibrary.com	Free Access
32	Bione			Free Accessn

Source: E-Library Delta State University

Table 5 lists the databases available at the Delta State University Library. While the majority of databases are accessible to the general public, the University Library subscribes to just seven (7) internet databases: Agora, Proquest, Hinari, Oare, Ajor, Sciencedirect, and Ebscohost. This indicates that the university library did not subscribe to a significant number of online databases, notably in the sciences, even though some were interdisciplinary. This finding contradicts Sandra and Janet's (2005), that Utah State University (USU) subscribed to over 75 online databases to support the various courses offered, as well as Alkali and Gama's (2017) findings that Umar Musa Yar'adua University Kastina Library (UMYUKL) subscribed to twelve (12) online databases.

Table 6 Awareness of Online Subscribed Databases in the University

Awareness	Frequency	%age
Yes	155	73.1
No	57	26.9
Total	212	100

According to the findings in Table 6, 73.1% of respondents were aware of the university library's subscription to online databases. While just 26.9% of respondents expressed ignorance about any of them. The findings revealed that more than 70% of

respondents were aware of the university library's subscription to online databases. This study supplemented Alkali and Gama's (2017) results about the availability and knowledge of online subscription databases among academics at Kastina State university libraries. The study discovered that 82.4 % of libraries' online subscription databases had a high level of awareness.

Table 7 Awareness of Online Subscribed Databases

S/N	Online Databases	Frequency	%age
1	AGORA	41	19.3
2	PROQUEST	5	2.3
3	HINARI	20	9.4
4	OARE	4	1.9
5	AJOR	7	3.3
6	EBSCOHOST	40	18.9
7	SCIENCEDIRECT	10	4.7
8	SAGE	30	14.1
9	DOAJ	40	18.9
10	BIOLINE	7	3.3
11	E-GRANARY	23	10.8
12	JSTOR	15	7.8
13	LISA	13	6.1
14	DOAB	24	11.3
15	UBLR	13	6.1
16	PUBMED	10	4.7
17	MEDLINE	15	7.1
18	POLS	11	5.9
19	TFR	10	4.7
20	MN	9	4.2
21	CRDSC	5	2.3
22	ISP	16	7.5
23	EIES	18	8.5
24	ERRM	17	8.1
25	WWS	16	7.5
26	DAT	2	0.9
27	AJ	3	1.4

Table 7 above shows that respondents were highly aware of AGORA which has the highest rate of 41 (19.3%), followed by EBSCOHOST and DOAJ with a response rate of 40(18.9%) each respectively. However, the database with lower rates was DAT 2 (0.9%) and AJ 3(1.4%) respectively.

Table 8 Sources of Awareness of Online Subscribed Databases

S/N	Sources	Frequency	%age
1	User Education Programme	49	23.1
2	University Bulletin	10	4.7
3	Displayed list of Online Subscribed databases	54	25.5
4	Public Relation	59	27.9
5	Annual brochure/report	0	0
6	Social contact and gathering	35	16.5
7	None of the Above	5	2.3
	Total	212	100

The majority of respondents (27.9%) were made aware via public relations, followed by a displayed list of online subscription databases (25.5%) and a user education program (23.1%). The university newsletter was the least frequent source of awareness, accounting for only 4.7%. While 2.3% of respondents indicated that they were unaware of any of the sources listed above.

The findings suggest that libraries should promote and educate their users about accessible online subscription databases through the university's official bulletin.

Table 9 Purpose of Using Online Subscribed Database

S/N	Purpose	Frequency	%age
1	for the purpose of document authoring	59	27.8%
2	In connection with research	87	41%
3	For the sake of contemporary consciousness	77	36.3%
4	To Keep Knowledge Up to Date	55	25.9%
5	For the purpose of composing a note for a lecture	67	31.6%
6	To be used in presentations at conferences and seminars	45	21.2%
7	Any other Purpose	30	14.1%

According to Table 9, the majority of respondents (41%, 36.3%, and 31.6%, respectively) utilize online subscription databases for research, for modern consciousness, and to compose lesson notes. This is followed by document creation at 27.8%, to keep knowledge up to date at 25.9%, and to be used for presentation at conferences and seminars at 21.2 %.

Table 10 Frequency of Use of Online Subscribed Database

Response Type	Number of Response	%age (%)
Daily	78	36.8%
Weekly	71	33.5%
Monthly	50	23.6%
Annually	13	6.1%
Certainly not.	-	--
Total	212	100

According to the analysis of the data given in Table 10 above, 36.8% of respondents use online subscription databases every day, while 33.5% use them weekly, and 23.6% use them daily.

Table 11 Difficulty Encountered in the use of Online Subscribed Databases

Challenges	Number of Response	%age
Power Outages	89	42%
Lack of computer Literacy and training	20	9.4 %
Slow network	78	36.8%
Lack of access to current and accurate information	50	23.9%
Inadequate Computers	57	26.9%
Inadequate search abilities	19	9%
Printing documents at a high cost	10	4.7%
Non-essential information	46	21.7%
Full-text of the citation abstract not available	48	22.6%
Information not suitable for the user	40	18.9%
Librarians' failure to raise awareness and promote users	69	32.5%
Others (Specify)	5	2.3%

As seen in Table 11, several barriers impact the utilization of online subscription databases and information services. The chart demonstrates that power outages, which accounted for 42% of respondents, are a significant barrier to using online subscription database services. Another challenge, as indicated by 36.8 % of respondents, is slow internet service, while 32.5 % indicated librarians' failure to raise awareness and promote users. Other challenges include inadequate computers, as indicated by 26.9%, and the absence of the full-text of the citation abstract, as indicated by 21.7%.

Bozimo (2008) submitted that inadequate funding and support to procure and maintain equipment, retrospective conversion of library documents in digital formats, training of skilled manpower in computer literacy and internet training, inability to subscribe to relevant online databases or renew existing ones are some of the problems that affect the effective utilization of databases for scholarly research works.

Strategies to Enhance the Use of Online Subscribed Database

Strategies	Number of response	%age
Electronic database training	49	23.1%
Faster internet service	67	31.6%
Reduce the cost of paper printing	34	16.0%
More computer systems should be made available	47	22.2%
Creation of awareness by librarians	70	33.0%
Subscription to pertinent information	50	23%
Access to full-text of citation abstract	59	27.8%
Provision of current and up-to-date information	45	21.2%
There should be a standby power source.	78	36.8%
Others (please specify)	15	8%

Table 12 above suggests that the academic staff agrees with most suggestions on how to increase the use of Delta State University library online subscription databases. The implication is that, if these strategies are put in place it will help to maximize the use of online subscribe databases. The findings are in line with the view of Etim (2006) that since the power supply is the basis for effective exploration of electronic databases, the federal government of Nigeria should do everything within its power to stabilize the electricity supply in the country. The alternative power supply should be provided by the institution of the library and maintained at all times.

Literature Review

A searchable electronic database is a collection of materials that can be accessed electronically. Databases are classified into two broad categories: indexes or bibliographic databases and Databases with the whole text.

Indexes or bibliographic databases, alternatively referred to as indexing and abstracting services, provide the following: Indexing data to facilitate topical searching across resources in a variety of forms (including multidisciplinary searches), abstracts (summaries) of the contents (for example, papers), to assist you in determining if they are relevant to your research.

Full-text databases offer the same features as above but additionally include the complete text of articles, which you may read online or download for offline reading. These databases enable the University Library to give access to hundreds of journals, as well as ebooks, newspaper articles, and reports; as well as images and streaming video material (The University Of Notre Dame Australia, 2021).

According to Urhiewhu and Omah (2016), an electronic database is a searchable electronic collection of materials that is available locally or over the internet. Electronic databases are updated regularly to reflect current literature and research trends, serving as a catalyst for research, development, teaching, study, and learning, as well as for overall academic excellence advancement. According to Pathshala (2010), electronic databases hold virtually millions of entries and continue to grow every day, allowing for faster information retrieval. They contain not just written data, but also pictures, audio, and video (multimedia).

According to Aina, Mutula, and Tiamiyu (2008), electronic resources are information resources that are machine-processable. The Babcock University library subscribes to

the following electronic resource databases: Academic Journal, AJOL, BOOKBOON, Dissertation and Theses, HINARI, EBISOHOST, and SAGE.

Awareness of electronic resources implies that library customers have information and knowledge about the e-resources to which they have subscribed. When library patrons are adequately informed about the resources available in the library, they are encouraged to utilize them as needed. Angello (2010) discovered that livestock researchers in Tanzania had a relatively poor understanding of internet resources. Only 11 researchers (24.4%) were aware of the AGORA database, whereas 5 researchers (11.1%) were aware of the HINARI database. INFORM and OARE was known to three researchers each (6.7 %), whereas the remaining databases were known to two researchers each (4.4 %). Velmurugan's (2016) findings indicated a favorable reaction in terms of faculty members' awareness of online resources, with almost 66 respondents (62.8 %) aware of them, while just 39 respondents (37.2 %) unaware.

Ibegwam, Ogunyade, and Ajuwon (2013) discovered that 80 % of academic staff at two medical schools in Nigeria, namely the University of Ibadan and University of Lagos, are aware of the availability of electronic information resources. While discussing their findings from a study conducted to determine the level of awareness, motivation, and use of agricultural information resources in the library of the Federal University of Technology, Akure in Nigeria, the author stated that there was a lack of awareness of electronic resources, particularly TEEAL and AGORA, the library's two agricultural databases. According to the author, this indicates that the library has not raised adequate awareness regarding electronic resources. Eke (2006) conducted a survey of academic staff at tertiary institutions in Imo State, Nigeria, to determine their level of understanding and usage of it. The study included one polytechnic, one college of education, and two universities. While 50% of respondents reported using computers and the Internet, access to ICTs was seen as the primary barrier to use. Emojorho and Adomi (2006) conducted a study on the usage of information technology facilities by all types of employees at Delta State University, Nigeria (academic staff, senior non-academic staff, and junior non-academic staff) for academic and research purposes. Academic staff was found to be heavy users of ICTs, with 92.2 % of respondents utilizing computers, 13.7 % using local area networks (LANs), and a great majority using the Internet in their academic and research activities.

The ability to utilize electronic databases is enabled by the use of online subscription databases. Numerous studies have been conducted to ascertain the extent to which academic staff in university libraries utilize electronic databases. For example, Kaur and Verma (2009) discovered that there are a high number of users of electronic databases and services available at the Indian Institute of Technology's central library in Delhi. This is due to increased awareness among library users of electronic resources. In a similar vein, Dilek-kayaoglu (2008) conducted a study at the University of Istanbul on the use of electronic databases. The study's findings indicated that nearly a third of respondents were very frequent users of electronic journal databases.

Bhukuvhani, Chiparausha, and Zuvalinyenga (2012) discovered that 86.7 % of respondents indicated that they used at least one or more electronic information resources to locate information for teaching and/or research purposes. Only 13.3% of lecturers indicated that they did not use electronic information sources. 66.67 % of

lecturers who participated in this study indicated that they attended EIRST workshops hosted by the University library, while 33.33 % did not.

Aina (2009) also discovered that less than 17% of academic staff at Babcock University used any databases.

Despite the numerous benefits of electronic resources, there are some impediments and challenges to their effective use. Velmurugan (2016) discovered that one of the most common problems encountered by users of electronic resources is that a greater proportion of respondents complained about slow internet access. The slow speed results in time being wasted retrieving pertinent information. Other factors could include a lack of reliable electricity and access to electronic resources.

Madukoma, Onuoha, and Ikonne (2014) examined faculty members of law at Babcock University in Ogun state's use of electronic resources for information. The study established, among other things, that faculty members utilize library-provided electronic resources. They encountered difficulties, however, such as power outages, insufficient orientation/training, and a lack of awareness of the library's electronic resources. They concluded by recommending that the library administration provide modern technologies; raise faculty awareness of the electronic resources acquired by the library; provide orientation/training to faculty members; and alleviate faculty members' difficulties navigating and searching databases.

Discussion of Findings

Table 5 above shows the lists of databases available at the Delta State University Library. While the majority of databases are accessible to the general public, the University Library subscribes to just seven (7) internet databases: Agora, Proquest, Hinari, Oare, Ajour, Sciencedirect, and Ebscohost. This indicates that the university library did not subscribe to a significant number of online databases, notably in the sciences, even though some were interdisciplinary. This finding contradicts Sandra and Janet's (2005), that Utah State University (USU) subscribed to over 75 online databases to support the various courses offered, as well as Alkali and Gama's (2017) findings that Umar Musa Yar'adua University Kastina Library (UMYUKL) subscribed to twelve (12) online databases. In the same vein, the result of findings of Aina, Mutula, and Tihamiyu (2008) indicated that Babcock University library subscribes to the following electronic resource databases: Academic Journal, AJOL, BOOKBOON, Dissertation and Theses, HINARI, EBISOHOST, and SAGE

In table 6 above, academic staff in delta State University asked if they are aware of online subscription databases by the university library, which shows that, 73.1% of respondents were aware of the university library's subscription to online databases. While just 26.9% of respondents expressed ignorance about any of them. The findings revealed that more than 70% of respondents were aware of the university library's subscription to online databases. This study supplemented Alkali and Gama's (2017) results about the availability and knowledge of online subscription databases among academics at Kastina State university libraries. The study discovered that 82.4 % of libraries' online subscription databases had a high level of awareness. In the same vein, Velmurugan's (2016) findings indicated a favorable reaction in terms of faculty

members' awareness of online resources, with almost 66 respondents (62.8 %) aware of them, while just 39 respondents (37.2 %) unaware.

Ibegwam, Ogunyade, and Ajuwon (2013) also discovered that 80 % of academic staff at two medical schools in Nigeria, namely the University of Ibadan and University of Lagos, are aware of the availability of electronic information resources.

Table 7 above also shows that respondents were highly aware of AGORA which has the highest rate of 41 (19.3%), followed by EBSCOHOST and DOAJ with a response rate of 40(18.9%) each respectively. However, the database with a lower rate was Dissertation and Theses (DAT) 2 (0.9%) and Academic Journal(AJ) 3(1.4%) respectively. The findings of this study contradict the finding of Angello (2010) who discovered that livestock researchers in Tanzania had a relatively poor understanding of internet resources. Only 11 researchers (24.4%) were aware of the AGORA database, whereas 5 researchers (11.1%) were aware of the HINARI database. INFORM and OARE was known to three researchers each (6.7 %), whereas the remaining databases were known to two researchers each (4.4 %).

Finding out the sources through which academics become aware of the online subscribed databases in the university libraries, table 8 indicated that the majority of respondents (27.9%) were made aware via public relations, followed by a displayed list of online subscription databases (25.5%) and a user education program (23.1%). The university newsletter was the least frequent source of awareness, accounting for only 4.7%. While 2.3% of respondents indicated that they were unaware of any of the sources listed above. The findings suggest that libraries should promote and educate their users about accessible online subscription databases through the university's official bulletin.

In response to research question 4, what is the objective for which academics utilize library databases? According to Table 9, the majority of respondents (41%, 36.3 %, and 31.6 %, respectively) use online subscription resources for research, modern consciousness, and lesson note composition. This is followed by document development, which accounts for 27.8 %, knowledge maintenance, which accounts for 25.9 %, and presentation at conferences and seminars, which accounts for 21.2 %. This is consistent with Chandran's (2013) findings that patrons use electronic resources to acquire general information and prepare for seminars or conference presentations. Additionally, Yusuf's (2019) study found that the majority of academic staff at Bayero University, Kano, utilize electronic resources for research, upgrading information, and maintaining current awareness in their respective fields.

The figures in Table 10 reveal how frequently academics at Delta State University utilize the university library's online subscribed databases. As the figure indicates, 36.8 % of respondents utilize online subscription databases daily, 33.5 % weekly, and 23.6 % monthly. This is consistent with Olowu, Suliman, and Adedokun's (2019) finding that the majority of academic staff at Ahmadu Bello University's faculty of Agriculture utilize electronic databases monthly. 6.6 %, 56%, and 5.3 %, respectively, use electronic databases weekly. Similarly, the findings corroborate Jagboro's (2003) study on internet use in Nigerian universities. The study discovered a convergence in the number of people who utilize electronic databases weekly.

In response to the research question What are the difficulties that academics confront when accessing the library's online subscribed databases? As seen in Table 11, several

barriers impact the utilization of online subscription databases and information services. The chart demonstrates that power outages, which accounted for 42% of respondents, are a significant barrier to using online subscription database services. Another challenge, as indicated by 36.8 % of respondents, is slow internet service, while 32.5 % indicated librarians' failure to raise awareness and promote users. Other challenges include inadequate computers, as indicated by 26.9%, and the absence of the full-text of the citation abstract, as indicated by 21.7%. This is in line with Bozimo (2008) who submitted that inadequate funding and support to procure and maintain equipment, retrospective conversion of library documents in digital formats, training of skilled manpower in computer literacy and internet training, inability to subscribe to relevant online databases, or renew existing ones are some of the problems that affect the effective utilization of databases for scholarly research works.

Similarly, the data corroborate Olowu, Suliman, and Adedokun's (2019) conclusion that the majority of academic staff at Ahmadu Bello University's faculty of Agriculture had numerous difficulties when utilizing electronic information services. They include power outages (89.0 %), slow internet connectivity (69.3 %), and insufficient computers (69.3 %). The result is also consistent with Lee and Isa's (2001) findings from a related study on accessing and sharing research information that the primary factors impeding maximum utilization of these facilities include a lack of adequate internet access and the use of passwords to access certain journals. The result is that these difficulties have hampered researchers and lecturers at the University from making optimal use of online subscribe databases.

On resolving the issues encountered by academic staff at Delta State University when utilizing an online subscribe database. They overwhelmingly agreed on all of the strategies outlined in Table 12 above. The consequence is that implementing these tactics will aid in maximizing the utilization of online subscriber datasets. The findings corroborate Etim's (2006) assertion that, because energy is required for effective investigation of electronic databases, Nigeria's federal government should do all possible to stabilize the country's electrical supply. The institution or library should offer and maintain a backup power supply at all times.

Summary of Findings

A. The inquiry established which databases were accessible via the Delta State University Library. While the majority of databases are freely accessible to the public, the University Library subscribes to only seven (7) online databases: Agora, Proquest, Hinari, Oare, Ajour, Sciencedirect, and Ebscohost. This reveals that the university library did not subscribe to a significant number of online databases, especially in the sciences, even though several were interdisciplinary.

B. According to the findings of the study, the vast majority of respondents were extremely familiar with AGORA, EBSCOHOST, DOAJ, E-GRANARY, SAGE, and DOAB.

C. The university library's online subscribe databases were made known to the vast majority of responders through public relations efforts.

D. The vast majority of academic staff members use online subscription services for research, modern consciousness, and lesson note creation, among other things.

E. The study discovered that 36.8 percent of respondents use online subscription databases daily, 33.5 percent use them weekly, and 23.6 percent use them monthly.

F. Power outages, sluggish internet access, librarians' reluctance to educate and promote users, insufficient computers, and the unavailability of the complete text of the citation abstract are some of the issues encountered by academic staff when using online subscribed databases.

G. The study concluded that the government should stabilize the energy supply in light of initiatives to increase maximum awareness and exploitation of online subscriber databases. At all times, the institution or library should provide and maintain a backup power supply.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In light of the study's findings, it can be concluded that increasing the availability of online subscribed databases will continue to have a significant impact on research and teaching at Delta State University. Delta State University's academic staff is aware of and utilizes online subscribe databases because they are more current and frequently updated. The university's academic staff was above average in terms of awareness and use of online subscribed databases.

The researcher recommends the following based on the findings of this study:

The university administration, through the university library, should be fully committed to subscribing to additional and up-to-date online databases that cover all subjects offered at the university.

Additionally, more publicity should be given to the numerous and diverse sources of online databases available, particularly those that are available for free, so that more academic staff and researchers become aware of and utilize them.

The government should ensure energy supply stability in light of initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness and utilization of online subscriber databases. At all times, the institution or library should ensure that a backup power supply is available and maintained.

The university library should do a better job of educating the public about the online subscription database that is accessible through the university bulletin.

The university library should host workshops on capacity-building topics such as information search, retrieval, awareness, accessibility, and database utilization.

Finally, the University Library should ensure that there are enough networked computers with high-speed Internet access, printers, scanners, and photocopiers, as well as a dependable power supply. This will increase the utilization of online databases, the distribution of full-text resources, and the delivery of electronic documents.

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