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AWARENESS AND RELEVANCE OF INFOPRENEURSHIP AMONG LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES (LIS) PRINCE ABUBAKAR AUDU UNIVERSITY, ANYIGBA, KOGI STATE NIGERIA

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**AWARENESS AND RELEVANCE OF INFOPRENEURSHIP AMONG LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SCIENCES (LIS) PRINCE ABUBAKAR AUDU UNIVERSITY,
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Abstract

The paper investigated the awareness and relevance of infopreneuership among Library and information students, at Prince Abubakar Audu University. The population of the study consists of 160 LIS students in the year three. Total enumeration was used for the study in which 84 students returned in the questionnaire which represented 52%. The finding revealed that book vending is the well-known types of infopreneuership to the students. The students go into infopreneuership to make extra income and they have necessary ICT skills that can make to performance very well in infopreneuership. Based on the findings of the study the study recommends the need to include the teaching and learning of infopreneurship in the LIS curriculum. In addition, student should be encouraged to do their industrial trainings in various infopreneurship organisations where they can get practical knowledge.

Keywords: awareness, relevance, infopreneurship, library and information sciences, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The educational system in Nigeria relies mainly on paper qualification other than skill entrepreneur skill acquisition. Hence, library and information science are seeing a tremendous change and has effect on the background of library and information science. In this new era, where information is the foundation of any economic growth revolving information science cannot be overlook. This programmed was majorly established to trained student of library and information science, how to select, process and organized information based on their types and format in the library set up. It also equipped them for job opportunity in their profession as well as other sectors. For that, one need to be relevance in this information age and one cannot achieved this without acquiring entrepreneurial skills with which to apply in his profession(Anyanwu, Oduagwu, Ossionah, 2013).

Infopreneurship was derived from two words that is information and entrepreneur, Robert& Charles (2010) confirmed that, before the introduction of ICT , Infopreneurship was in practices by some group of people who uses different method to carry the information they arranged in to

product such as, printed reports usually delivered through mail, however, at that time, infopreneurship has no identity.

A couple of decades ago, chasing after self-employment particularly in information field was a strenuous task as it may endanger in risk. As sharing the professional knowledge with others was a pipe dream, the increase in usage of information technology has brought a new concept called Infopreneurship. The wide range of web and emerging technologies, everyone and anyone can attain information which is value-added (Igbeka, 2018). Information which is essential constituent of this changing world and knowledge-based economy. Information has become an utmost resource for every aspect like labour, land, funds and entrepreneur. This element is very important to each individual, social and this collection is very significant in national development Waweru, (2014).stated that Infopreneurs are those who provide these kinds of information for sustainability and productive results. An infopreneur will make a blue print by creating new products and services for the benefit of the organization. For each individual infopreneurial skills are been developed and supplemented at different parts of life. Being a mind of creativity and innovation in ideas these Infopreneurship will make a greater impact in national Economy (Osakede, Lawanson and Sobowale, 2017).

The term is new to many people. Infopreneur is an entrepreneur who set up a business based on product or a service which needs more information. In simple terms the entrepreneur will sell information which already recognized by him to the needy who are ready to buy online. Trend has changed from entrepreneurship to Infopreneurship. As they have given a new meaning where there is no requirement of more staff/more investment which involves more technology with less financial risks for a tech savvy person. With each page review, comments of the visitors will make infopreneur stronger to penetrate the business world.

Infopreneurship has become critical resources that provide rational development. The epidemic increase and accessibility of information resources and services in all aspects of human attempt which has unfold new opportunities and disput for information specialist. These evolution continue to provide comfortable opportunities for Library and Information Sciences students to review and re-examine their roles in an interchangeably ways in order to fully enlarge the job that has been produced. (Ayegba, et al. 2016). Library and Information Sciences students are now being challenged to think beyond their field to think of different method through which the

management of information resources can be revolve into money making progress at a time when unemployment and underemployment arise from economic crisis has made it impossible for government to provide employment opportunities for all graduates in the country including library and Information science (Adeyi, et al., 2016).

Wisdom, (2016) has made a study on awareness level about Infopreneurship among LIS practitioners. List of areas to make money using information were web designing, online selling of e books, hosting online events, consultancy services, online publishing services and other e services. The study has identified the challenges towards Infopreneurship as it requires high literacy, internet connectivity issues, escalate in cost of maintenance, information management skills, poor awareness among the people. The research has torches the importance of Infopreneurship among the graduates which will improve country's performance, need to develop a curriculum which may equip the information management related skills. Mudia, (2015)Has made a study about creating awareness about Infopreneurship among the library and information science students, the necessary skills required for an infopreneur(previous experience, training) as it provides employability skills and removes poverty. The innovation in technology threatens the graduates to choose Infopreneurship as their career choice as they have to face many challenges. The research has listed the areas of Infopreneurship such as e publishing, database management services, mass broadcasting, information services etc. The various challenges in digital era were technological innovations, inflation in economy, poor power supply, high maintenance costs, lack of financial resources, unfavorable working space and environment etc.

Statement of the Problem

The pitfall faced by library and information science students today and in the nearest future have to do with how the remarkable outburst in the information industry can be exploited to provide wealth creation and job opportunities (Dewah and Dube, 2014).

Students, organizations, or private agencies are investing hug funds on entrepreneurial activities and also man power has been introduced in order to satisfy the increased need of information for the effective planning. (Issa, et al., 2014). The utilization of information and communication

technology [ICT] in the collection, acquisition, organization, processing, retrieval and to dispense information when needed and it also gives vital opportunities for Library and Information Sciences students to become infopreneurs (Gbaje and Kotso, 2011). However, with the promising opportunities, many Library and Information Sciences students does not have enough funds, self-esteem and equipment to venture into infopreneurship with its possibilities.

The study emphasize on the awareness of Infopreneurship among Library and Information Sciences students in Prince Abubakar University, we were able to identify the elements of infopreneurship services provided by Library and Information Sciences students, factors that motivate Library and Information Sciences students into infopreneurship and the types of tools employed by Library and Information Sciences students to carry out infopreneurship in Kogi State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

1. To find out the students awareness of infopreneurial service among Library and Information Science students
2. To outline the types of infopreneurial services provided by Library and Information Sciences students
3. To identify the factors that encouraged Library and Information Sciences students to go into infopreneurship
4. To investigate the types of entrepreneurial skills possessed by Library and Information Sciences students
5. To examine the factors hindering Library and Information Sciences students from venturing into infopreneurship

Review of Related Literature

Onah, Adebayo and Igwe (2014) affirmed that information and communication technologies (ICT) have created various business opportunities for individuals especially those that possess the skills, such as graduates of tertiary institutions from different fields of study like library and information science (LIS). For the librarian, Online publishing, Records management, information brokerage, Translation services, Abstracting and Indexing services etc. are viable areas that can be engaged in as infopreneurship.

According to Igbeka, (2018), information generation is continuous, so also is the management/organization of information, and knowledge enterprise is a lifelong process. The gap that exist between the increasing 'information need' and 'information provision' can be filled when information professionals go the extra miles to creatively package and deliver information resources and services to individuals and organizations even at commercial rates. In the opinion of Igbeka (2018), Library and Information Sciences students do not have to work only in established institution, for they can establish their own libraries or information centers and become information brokers or business Library and Information Sciences students searching and finding information for clients. This means that by using cutting edge technologies, databases, websites etc. Library and Information Sciences students can search for and disseminate information to clients for a fee.

Gloria and Patrick, (2020) have made an attempt to study the values and implications on employment sustainability of SMEs in Nigeria with Infopreneurship. Parameters analysed was knowledge creation, increasing value of the product, credibility of the information, availability of necessary information, profits expected, independence of business and technology involved. Study was made with owners of SMEs. The study suggested that unemployment problems can be reduced to an large extent by involving students in Infopreneurship related businesses such as knowledge enhancement, value creation ,freelance writing cum teaching, management consultancies , content development, blogging services etc. by using tested models as it may increase sustainability. Aregbesola et al., (2019) has made a study on Infopreneurship in a developing country exploring its opportunities and challenges in Nigeria. Developed countries were able to curb unemployment, disruptiveness, theft & robbery, terrorism activities etc. by implementing Infopreneurship activities through government bodies and organizations. It is a strategic outcome to reduce unemployment which will develop the nation in the meanwhile.

SaifulFarik Mat Yatin, (2019) has highlighted Infopreneurship education as a tool for economic growth. The research has explored the employment opportunities for an infopreneur, listed the skills required for an information management business, adding Infopreneurship course in the curriculum. Results shows that specialized people are not working in their related jobs, they feel low in initiating an information related business. They were not exploring much about the importance of Infopreneurship. There is a high need for Infopreneurship education among the graduates which will definitely solve issues related to Infopreneurship. Kamaluddeen, (2016) has explored a study that Infopreneurship will result in economic development and sustainability especially for a developing economy with special reference to Nigeria. The study has highlighted the Infopreneurship practices and its impact in economy and its sustainability. The study has recommended refocusing and updating the information related courses to meet out the current demand in digital services. Governments at all levels should give importance to capacity up gradation for technological innovations; Usage of ICT with good infrastructure may provide a conducive environment for sustainable economic growth in the country.

Furthermore, research reports in the area of infopreneurship and its awareness in Nigeria are still scanty because the field is at its infancy. This study intends to fill this gap by exploring the awareness and relevance of infopreneurship among Library and Information Science students in Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba, Nigeria.

Methodology

The descriptive research of the survey type was adopted for the study. The survey research was used because of the characteristics of the respondents. The population of the study consisted of one hundred and sixty three in level three. Total enumeration was used for the study in which 84 LIS students returned the questionnaire. Questionnaire was used as the data collection instrument.

RESULT

Presentation of data and analysis

Research Question One: What are students' awareness of infopreneurial service among Library and Information Science students?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	Students are fully aware of infopreneurial service	59	25
2	Students lack the experience of infopreneurial services	47	37
3	Students make use of infopreneurial resources for project work	59	25
4	Students make use of infopreneurial resources in school for their assignment	47	37
5	Students make use of infopreneurial resources for seminar research	77	7

Table one above indicates that majority of the respondents said yes (59%) said students are fully aware of infopreneurial services, also 59% of the respondents admitted that students make use of infopreneurial resources for project work.

Research Question Two: outline the element of infopreneurial resources and service provided by Library and Information Science student in PAUU?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	Information brokerage	59	25
2	Digital Publishing	56	28
3	Book Vending	77	7
4	Abstracting Services	52	32
5	Indexing Services	58	26
6	Library Consultancy	56	30
7	Contract Cataloguing	38	46
8	Document Delivery	47	37
9	Translation Services	34	50
10	Training	71	15

Table 2 reveals that the major finding is Book vending which is 77 (92), library and information science students choose to engage in infopreneurial business which is book vending.

Research Question Three: To identify factors that encouraged Library and Information Science student to go into infopreneurship?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	To gain profit	80	4
2	To give employment to others graduates	45	39
3	To contribute to national development	33	51
4	In response to demand	54	30
5	To meet identified need	48	42
6	To provide for post-retirement	67	17

Table 3 confirmed that the reason why Library and Information Science students go into infopreneurship are the desire to earn extra income 80 (95.2%). The table shows that the reason why library and information science students go into infopreneurship is for the purpose of self satisfaction.

Research Question Four:What are the forms of Entrepreneurial skills possessed by Library and Information Science student in PAUU?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	Interpersonal skill	64	20
2	ComWmunication skill	68	16
3	Selling skill	58	26
4	Analytical skill	46	38
5	Information literacy skill	78	6
6	Decision making skill	54	30
7	Online marking skill	66	18
8	Forecasting skill	58	26
9	Record keeping skill	66	18
10	Information technology skill	44	40

Table 4 has shown the types of skills Library and Information Sciences acquires for effective participation on infopreneurship. Most of the respondents testify that they posses information literacy skill 78(93%).

Research Question Five: are student of Library and Information Science aware of infopreneurship?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	Defective LIS curriculum	62	22
2	Lack of interest in business	65	19
3	Unwillingness to take risk	91	1
4	Low public image of Library and Information Sciences students	54	30
5	Inability to see opportunities	74	10
6	Low marketing skills	34	16
7	Poor attitude towards business	72	12
8	Lack of incentives	64	20
9	Lack of business ideas	68	16

Table 5 show that majority of the respondents identified lack of funds to setup the business 76 (91%), The table shows that library and information science students are not prepared to face the risks of the business.

Discussion of Finding

One of the findings of the study revealed that book vending is the most common type of infopreneur that students are aware this confirmed the finding of Amindu, Mohammed and Ayodele (2019) in a similar study in a Nigeria university that LIS students are aware of vending as the basic types of infopreneur.. The major reason why students engaged in the infopreneur activities is basically to earn income. This corroborated the findings of Fasua (2017) that LIS students engaged in infopreneur activities in order to make extra income to support themselves.

In addition, the students admitted that they have necessary information literacy skills that can assist them to be more effective in their infopreneur activities. This may be due to the fact that students are offering various computer skills courses in their curriculum. This finding corroborated the finding of Umebali (2014) who observe that ICT skills is necessary for LIS students to be successful in various infopreneurship programme.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Book vending is the most common type of inoprwnuwe. The students are aware of inforeprenuer .The students have necessary information literacy skills that will assit them in inforenupre activities. Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made

- The desire for success and the desire to participate in national development should influence library and information science students to go into infopreneurship. library and information science students should try and engage them selves in the infopreneurship business so as to earn a living after graduation and also for the retired youths.
- Stakeholders that are concerned should continue to review library and information sciences curriculum and put it into practice for the training of library and information science students so as to build their potentials.
- Library and information science students that want to go into infopreneurial business should make use of ICT to promote effective and efficient infopreneurial services available for the clients who need the information at the accurate time.
- . Library and information science students should learn how to be independent, on building up self business and create jobs opportunities to avoid unemploments in the country where there is high rate of economic crisis E.g lack of natural resources, corruptions, and lack of facilities.

However, the study contributes to knowledge in the area of literacture, practice and policy. The study will be useful for researcher conducting research in the field of inforeprenuer, the study will be useful for LIS students on ways that can set up their own businesss and relevant for policy makers on necessary policy that can promote the development of inforepre in the country.

Despite this, the limitation of this study lies on the fact that it uses only one university and only one level was used based on this the finding of the study can not be gernalised to other LIS schools in the country. As a result, there is need for further research that will consist of other students in other schools in the country.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Library and Information Sciences,

Faculty of Education,

Prince AbubakarAudu University,

Anyigba, Kogi State,

5th March, 2022.

We are undergraduate students of the above institution and Department. Currently in 300 level carrying out a research on “awareness and relevance of Infopreneurship among Library and Information and Science Students in Prince AbubakarAudu University, Anyigba.

Please, kindly answer the questions to the best of your knowledge as the information obtained will be used great confidentially and strictly for academic purposes.

Answer by ticking (√) or filling the blank spaces provided. Thank you for the anticipated co-operation.

Yours faithfully

300 level students

Section A; Personal Data

Please tick (√) as many as applicable

1. Level: (a) 100 () (b) 200 () (c) 300 () (d) 400 ()
2. Age: (a) 15-20 years () (b) 21-24 years () (c) 25-30 years () (d) 31 years and above ()
3. Gender: (a) Male () (b) Female ()

Section B: Please tick (√) as many as applicable

Research Question One: What are students' awareness of infopreneurial service among Library and Information Science students?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	Students are fully aware of infopreneurial service		
2	Students lack the experience of infopreneurial services		
3	Students make use of infopreneurial resources for project work		
4	Students make use of infopreneurial resources in school for their assignment		
5	Students make use of infopreneurial resources for seminar research		

Research Question Two: What are the types of infopreneurial resources and service provided by Library and Information Science student in PAUU?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	Information brokerage		
2	Digital Publishing		
3	Book Vending		
4	Abstracting Services		
5	Indexing Services		
6	Library Consultancy		
7	Contract Cataloguing		

8	Document Delivery		
9	Translation Services		
10	Training		

Research Question Three: What are the factors that motivate Library and Information Science student to go into infopreneurship?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	To earn extra income		
2	To provide employment for others		
3	To contribute to national development		
4	In response to demand		
5	To meet identified need		
6	To provide for post-retirement		

Research Question Four: What types of entrepreneurial skills are possessed by Library and Information Science student in PAUU?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	Interpersonal skill		
2	Communication skill		
3	Selling skill		
4	Analytical skill		
5	Information literacy skill		
6	Decision making skill		
7	Online marking skill		
8	Forecasting skill		
9	Record keeping skill		
10	Information technology skill		

Research Question Five: are student of Library and Information Science aware of infopreneurship?

S/N	ITEM	YES	NO
1	Defective LIS curriculum		
2	Lack of interest in business		
3	Unwillingness to take risk		

4	Low public image of Library and Information Sciences students		
5	Inability to see opportunities		
6	Low marketing skills		
7	Poor attitude towards business		
8	Lack of incentives		
9	Lack of business ideas		