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Summer 6-4-2022

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Adenariwo, Fausat Kehinde, "Awareness And Usage Of E-Resources Among Undergraduate In Fountain University, Osun State, Nigeria" (2022). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 7210.  
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**Awareness And Usage Of E-Resources Among Undergraduate In Fountain University,  
Osun State, Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

*The study aims at investigating the awareness and usage of electronic resources among undergraduates of Fountain University, Osun State, Nigeria. Three research questions were answered and three null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study and systematic sampling technique was used to select 1000 undergraduates. Simple percentage and frequency table was used to analyse the research questions, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) was used for testing the hypotheses. The results obtained revealed that undergraduates of Fountain University are quite aware and highly use electronic information resources. The study also reported that undergraduates in Fountain University are skilled in the use of electronic information resources. Based on the findings, the study concluded that electronic information resources are essential tools for empowering undergraduate in Fountain University, Osun State, Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** Awareness of electronic resources, Usage of electronic resources, Undergraduate, Fountain University.

## **Introduction**

Libraries have transformed into digital and virtual libraries where books, journals and magazines have changed into e-books, e-journals, and e-magazines. This has increased the global dissemination of information (Abinew & Vuda, 2013).

Electronic resources can be defined as the electronic representation of information which can be accessed via electronic system and computer network (Johnson et al, 2012). They further buttress that electronic information sources can be seen as the most recent development in information technology and that they are available in various forms like e-books, digital libraries, online journal magazine, e-learning tutors and online test. Because of the effective presentation with multimedia tools, these e-resources have become the source of information. Electronic information sources are becoming so important for the academic community (Egberongbe, 2011). Therefore, awareness of these information resources is of great importance to the development of library in the 21st century.

Awareness is knowledge about something that exists or understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on information or experience (Ani & Ahiauzu, 2008). It can also be seen as knowledge or perception of a situation, fact, consciousness, recognition, realization, grasp and acknowledgement concern about and well-informed interest or familiarity in a particular situation or development. Ajuwon (2003) was of the opinion that students could not use a computer, and that the use of the database was poor, due to lack of awareness, lack of access to computers, insufficient training and high cost of provision of electronic information resources subscription.

Awareness and use of electronic information resources is very important so as to keep students alert of the available media through which they can access needed information. It is apparent that the use of these electronic information resources require special skills in information and communication technologies (ICTs) that will help students navigate the maze of resources at their disposal via telecommunications channels (Balogun, 2008). It is also imperative to understand the purpose of using electronic resources by students of Fountain University.

Prangya and Rabindra (2013) opined that awareness is core to usage of electronic information resources. Where materials are in closed access, users' ease of access to such e-resources is by far reduced. But where they are in open access (not subscription-based), postgraduate students' find them, and make do with them for whatever reasons they need them for. The usage of electronic resources in recent years has yielded positive results in the area of teaching and research and that through the use of electronic resources, researchers, academic and students now have access to global information resources, particularly the Internet for their scholarly intercourse (Egberongbe, 2011).

It is on this premise that this study sets out to investigate awareness and usage of e-resources among undergraduate in Fountain University Osun State, Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Information is generated in an exponential rate and the need to make them readily available, accessible to all became an issue and in a bid to overcome this problem, brought about the quest for an alternative media for holding and propagating information resources. Several attempts were made until the emergence of information and communication technology (ICT). According to researchers manual system of searching for information resources does not permit multiple accessibility and usage of the same information resources by different users unlike online services. It is worthy of note that, electronic resources are of great importance to the academic and research needs of undergraduate, since they are available in various formats in libraries.

However, observations as shown that undergraduate seem not to be utilizing these e-resources available to them, could it be that they are not aware of these electronic resources and if they are aware why is it that usage is hindered. Evidence also revealed that it might be due to lack of or inadequate awareness of eelectronic resources. Also, studies have indicated that factors such as awareness are the determining factors that may influence users' decision to use electronic resources

Therefore, the crux of this study is to investigate the awareness and usage of electronic resources among undergraduate students' of Fountain University, Osun State, Nigeria.

## **Objective of the Study**

This study sought to:

1. Assess the level of awareness of undergraduate towards electronic resources in Fountain University Osun State, Nigeria;
2. Determine the level of usage of electronic resources by undergraduate of Fountain University Osun State, Nigeria; and
3. Ascertain the types of electronic resources being used by undergraduate of Fountain University Osun State, Nigeria.

## **Hypotheses**

The study tested the following hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant relationship between awareness and electronic resources among undergraduate in Fountain University Osun State, Nigeria.
2. There is no significant relationship between usage and electronic resources among undergraduate in Fountain University Osun State, Nigeria.
3. Awareness and usage have no joint significant influence on electronic resources among undergraduate in Fountain University Osun State, Nigeria.

## **Literature Review**

### **Awareness and Use of E-Resources**

Awareness is paramount if undergraduate are to effectively and efficiently use electronic resources. Electronic resources are referred to as information resources and are essentially products of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). They are resources used in academics for teaching, learning and research activities (Okunoye, 2021). Electronic resources use in recent years has generated good effects in the area of teaching and research and they also mentioned that, through the use of electronic resources, researchers, academic and students now have access to global information resources, particularly the Internet for their scholarly intercourse (Egberongbe, 2011). To further buttress this, Prangya and Rabindra (2013) conclude that lack of training; poor infrastructure and high cost of accessing some e-resources are the obstacles to proper and full utilization of electronic resources. Empirically, Bashorun, Isah and Adisa (2011) research on the use of electronic information

services (EIS) among the users of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) library in Delhi, India and revealed that 95 percent of users have awareness about EIS provided by the library.

Dafioghor (2012) survey on problems and prospects of electronic resources usage in Nigerian academic libraries found that 57% of students sampled could not use a computer, that the use of database was poor, due to lack of awareness. Egberongbe (2011) survey on use and impact of electronic resources at the University of Lagos revealed that 80 (71.4%) postgraduate students and 55(78.6%) research scholars were reported in the survey as being aware of e-resources.

Awareness of e-resources indicated user knowledge of the availability of the resources, their services and the extent they made use of them. Whereas 32 (28.6%) lecturers and 15 (21.4%) scholars were not aware of electronic information resources, there is no doubt that a larger percentage of the postgraduate students are aware of the availability of electronic information resources. From observation, majority of the postgraduate students visit internet websites to gain access to electronic information resources.

Abinew and Vuda (2013) survey on acceptance and use of electronic library services in universities respondents were asked about their awareness of the available e-library services to indicate their answers by way of saying “Yes”, “No” and “To some extent”. Majority of the respondents (57.97%) responded “To some extent” to indicate that they have only limited awareness about the existence of e-libraries resources and didn’t know well and in detail. 20.65% of respondents do not know anything about the existence of the e-library services at all. Only 21.38% of the respondents were well aware of the existence of the e-library services. They also found in the same study that there is no significant difference in awareness of e-library services that existed between universities, academic staffs and postgraduate students, and among streams (faculties/colleges/institutions).

## **Methodology**

The study adopted descriptive survey design whose purpose is to describe the relevant aspects of the phenomena of interest. The study population consisted of (1000) undergraduate of Fountain University as at December, 2020/2021 The use of systematic sampling technique assisted in arriving at one hundred (100) Students. A structured questionnaire with four sub-scales was used to gather data from the target respondents.

## Results and Discussion

The results of the analysis is as presented in the tables 1-6

**Research Question One:** What are the types of electronic resources available in your library?

Answers to research question one is summarized in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 A: Types of electronic resources available in the Library**

S/N	The following electronic resources are available in my College library:	Yes		No		Mean	STD
		N	%	N	%		
i.	Research for life	94	94.0	6	6.0	0.94	0.271
ii.	Science Direct	91	91	9	9	0.91	0.288
iii.	SciFinder Scholar	88	88.0	12	12.0	0.88	0.362
iv.	Med Scape	82	82.0	18	18.0	0.82	0.386
v.	Semantics Scholar	69	69.0	31	31.0	0.69	0.487
vi.	Proquest	48	48.0	52	52.0	0.79	0.409
vii.	Science Tech Connect	78	78.0	22	22.0	0.78	0.416
viii.	Science by McGraw Hill	18	18.0	82	82.0	0.81	0.394
ix.	GALE SCIENCE Astrophysics Data Sys	40	40.0	60	60.0	0.91	0.288
x.	EbscoHost	79	79.0	21	21.0	0.79	0.409
xi.	OER	31	31.0	69	69.0	0.82	0.386
xii.	Others	91	91.0	9	9.0	0.91	0.288

The result revealed that majority of the undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria indicated that several types of electronic resources were available in their libraries as indicated in table table 4.2. The respondents claimed that the following electronic resources were available: Research for life (Yes 94%), Science Direct (Yes 91%), Med Scape (Yes 82%), EbscoHost (Yes 79%), Semantics Scholar (Yes 69%) and SciFinder Scholar (Yes 88%). On the other hand, electronic resources which were not available to the undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria were Science by McGraw Hill (No 82%), GALE SCIENCE Astrophysics Data Sys (No 60%), Proquest (No 52%) and OER (No 69%). The result of the findings on the types of electronic resources suggests that some types of electronic resources such as Research for life, Science Direct, Semantics Scholar and SciFinder Scholar were available in Fountain University Library while other electronic resources such as Science by McGraw Hill, EbscoHost, OER, among others were not available.

**Research Question Two:** What is the level of awareness of electronic resources among undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State, Nigeria?

**Table 4.3: Level of Awareness of Electronic Resources among undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria**

S/N	Level of Awareness: I have unhindered access to:	VH (4)		H (3)		M (2)		L (1)		Mean	STD
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
<b>Sensitization</b>											
i.	I became aware of e-resources through the library	52	52.0	30	30.0	18	18.0	-	-	3.34	0.768
ii.	I am aware of e-resources through seminars	32	32.0	9	9.0	50	50.0	9	9.0	2.64	1.030
iii.	I became aware of e-	10	10.0	60	60.0	9	9.0	21	21.0	2.59	0.933



	resources through my class mate										
iv.	I developed awareness of e-resources through discussions with friends	19	19.0	72	72.0	9	9.0	-	-	3.10	0.522
<b>Personal Interaction</b>											
v.	I got to know about e-resources through the help of my college librarian	19	19.0	39	39.0	42	42.0	-	-	2.77	0.750
vi	I was informed by my course mate of the existence of e-resources.	19	19.0	51	51.0	30	30.0	-	-	2.89	0.695

Table 4.3 revealed that the awareness of electronic information resources undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria was determined by two indicators namely sensitization and personal interaction. The result shows that majority of the students affirmed the level of awareness through sensitization: 82% of the respondents affirmed of awareness through the library, 91% moderately affirmed awareness through seminars, 70% through classmates and 91% though discussions with friends.

Also, the result on level of awareness of electronic resources among undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria through personal interaction indicated that majority of the respondents had high level of awareness through the help of the college librarian (Very High 19%, High: 39%) and through the course mates (Very High 19%, High: 52%).

The findings revealed that the level of awareness of electronic resources by undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria through personal interaction indicated that majority of the respondents had a high level of awareness through the use of the library. It was an indication that there was a high level of awareness of electronic resources among undergraduates of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria. This finding indicated that awareness raises consciousness and knowledge about a certain technology and its personal

and social benefits. The present finding also revealed that the users were greatly aware of electronic resources and they make use of it. The respondents largely depend on e-resources to search, retrieve and communicate research making e-resources an essential party to finding reliable, timely and relevant information.

On the other hand, the present finding shows that some students awareness level of electronic resources was very low as majority of the students interviewed indicated they were unaware of the existence of electronic library resources in the school because they did not have prior knowledge of its existence. As a result, many of the students still resorted to the traditional library system for their research. Added to this, the small proportion of students who were aware of the existence of the electronic library resources in the school hardly utilise it for their academic purposes.

**Research Question Three:** What is the level of usage to electronic resources among undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria?

The results used in determining the purpose of use of electronic resources among undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria is presented in Tables 4.4

**Table 4.4: Purpose of Electronic Resources Use**

S/N	I use electronic resources for:	D (5)		W (4)		M (3)		O (2)		N(1)		Mean	STD
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
i.	Course work/study material	51	51.0	28	28.0	9	9.0	-	-	12	12.0	4.06	1.301
ii.	Complete assignments	61	61.0	30	30.0	9	9.0	-	-	-	-	4.52	0.659
iii.	Research work	-	-	22	22.0	18	18.0	51	51.0	9	9.0	2.53	0.937
iv.	To get current information	60	60.0	9	9.0	19	19.0	12	12.0	-	-	4.17	1.120
v.	Online application/registration	22	22.0	9	9.0	9	9.0	60	60.0	-	-	2.93	1.257

vi.	Prepare assignment/notes	10	10.0	69	69.0	9	9.0	12	12.0	-	-	3.77	0.790
vii.	Others	-	-	21	21.0	79	79.0	-	-	-	-	3.21	0.409

**Key: D = Daily, W = Weekly, M = Monthly, O = Ocassionally, N= Nevet, STD = Standard Deviation**

The result in Table 4.4 revealed that undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria used electronic resources for various purposes. Specifically, the result showed that undergraduate of Fountain University used electronic resources for course work/study material (51% DAILY, 28% WEEKLY, 9% MONTHLY), To get current information (60%DAILY, 9%WEEKLY, 19% MONTHLY and 12% Ocassionally), Complete assignments (61% DAILY, 30% WEEKLY, 9% MONTHLY) and to Prepare assignment/notes (10% DAILY, 69%WEEKLY, 9% MONTHLY and 12% claim they used electronic resources to prepare assignments Ocassionally. It was the consensus of the majority of students of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria, that they used electronic resources for various purposes including for course work and study materials, to complete assignments, to prepare assignments/notes, to get current information among other purposes.

**Table 4.5: Frequency of usage of Electronic Resources by undergraduates of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria**

I use the following electronic resources in my College library:	D		W		M		O		N		Mean	STD
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Research for life	42	42.0	18	18.0	21	21.0	10	10.0	9	9.0	3.74	1.338
Science Direct	51	51.0	31	31.0	9	9.0	-	-	9	9.0	4.15	1.184
SciFinder	-	-	73	73.0	9	9.0	18	18.0	-	-	3.55	0.783

Scholar												
Med Scape	-	-	-	-	21	21.0	79	79.0	-	-	2.21	0.409
Sematics Scholar	-	-	-	-	79	79.0	21	21.0	-	-	2.79	0.409
Proquest	50	50.0	20	20.0	16	16.0	-	-	14	14.0	3.70	0.461
Science Tech Connect	12	12.0	61	61.0	18	18.0	9	9.0	-	-	3.76	0.780
Science by McGraw Hill	12	12.0	24	24.0	14	14.0	34	34.0	16	16.0	2.22	1.235
GALE SCIENCE Astrophysics Data Sys.	19	19.0	56	56.0	20	20.0	5	5.0	-	-	2.04	1.151
EbscoHost	13	13.0	31	31.0	18	18.0	18	18.0	20	20.0	3.59	0.933
OER	-	-	22	22.0	9	9.0	9	9.0	60	60.0	3.73	0.617
Others	12	12.0	70	70.0	9	9.0	9	9.0	-	-	3.85	0.744

**Key D=Daily, W= Weekly, M= Monthly, O= Occasionally, N= Never**

Table 4.5 presents the result on frequency of use of electronic resources by undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria. The result revealed that 42% of the respondents used the Research for life DAILY, 18% used Research for life WEEKLY, 21% used Research for life once a Month, 10% used Research for life OCCASIONALLY while 9% of the respondents claimed that they NEVER used Research for life. This means that the frequency of use of research for life as an electronic resource by undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria was high. Similarly, the frequency of use of Science Direct was rated high by majority of respondents. Specifically, the result revealed that 51% of the

respondents used the Science Direct DAILY, 31% used Science Direct WEEKLY, 9% used Science Direct once a Month while 9% of the respondents also claimed that they never used Science Direct. SciFinder Scholar is another type of electronic resources frequently used by students in undergraduate of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria. For instance, 73% of the respondents used SciFinder Scholar WEEKLY, 9% used these MONTHLY, while 18% used SciFinder Scholar occasionally. Proquest is also another frequently used electronic resources: 50% used it on DAILY basis, 20% WEEKLY, 16% MONTHLY and 14% claimed they never used it. On the other hand, electronic resources less frequently used by Science students in Federal Colleges of Education in South-west, Nigeria were Med Scape, Semantic Scholar, Science by McGraw Hill, Ebscolist, GALE SCIENCE Astrophysics Data Sys., OER. It is therefore concluded that the frequency of use of electronic resources by undergraduate students of Fountain University, Osun State Nigeria was moderate although they used certain electronic resources such as Research for life, Science Direct and SciFinder Scholar more frequently than the others.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

This study investigated the awareness and usage of electronic resources among Undergraduate In Fountain University, Osun State, Nigeria. The study revealed that e-resources awareness and use is very common among the Undergraduate. The undergraduate largely depend on e-resources to search, retrieve and communicate research making e-resources an essential party to finding reliable, timely and relevant information. The use of electronic resources had also improved their research output. The most used electronic resources were e-databases and e-research reports and e-journals.

However, considering the high investments made in acquiring these resources; perhaps, improvements in the infrastructure would lead to increased use of these resources by research scientists. In addition, continuous training on information literacy skills, emphasizing on electronic information retrieval would go a long way to enhance the effective use of electronic resources and the numerous benefits of electronic resources would be appreciated.

User training is also essential, particularly for library users to enable them search independently unlike in traditional library setting where librarians could retrieve information for users. Training on advanced search strategies controlled vocabulary and general internet use for scholarly and academic purposes should be organised to make electronic search

processes much easier. Finally, computer knowledge and information retrieval skills must be frequently enhanced to keep up with evolving information communication technology.

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