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Selection and Acquisition of Electronic Resources in University Libraries in Southeast Nigeria: Challenges

Flora Ifeoma Okogwu
Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State Nigeria, floraokogwu@gmail.com

Nancy E. Achebe
Department of Library and Information Science University of Nigeria Nsukka

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Okogwu, F. I[1] and Achebe, N.E[2]

[1]Ebonyi State University Library, P.M.B 53 Ebonyi State, Nigeria
[2]Department of Library and Information Science, University of Nigeria Nsukka
Corresponding Author's Email: floraokogwu@gmail.com

Abstract

This study surveyed the challenges faced by the university libraries in South East Nigeria in selecting and acquiring electronic resources. The descriptive survey research method was adopted for the study. The population consisted of 86. Questionnaire and interview were used for data collection. Data collected from the questionnaire were analyzed using simple statistics (mean). The findings revealed that the university libraries under study had considered all the thirteen criteria when selecting electronic resources in the library which had mean values ranging from 2.70 to 3.41 and are all above the cut-off point of 2.50 on a 4-point rating scale. The findings also showed that the university libraries use multiple tools to select the e-resources, and the overall mean showed that the use of trial offers by mounting a link to their resources without cost (mean = 3.12) is ranked highest and used mostly by the libraries, while the use of reviews provided through electronic resources (mean =2 .57) is ranked lowest as tools used in sound electronic resources selection in libraries; that the libraries use different methods to acquire the e-resources which include, through subscription, purchase and open internet source. None of the libraries under study was into a consortium with one another. However, the study revealed twelve challenges with cost as a major challenge of selection and acquisition of electronic resources. The study recommended that the university libraries in South East Nigeria should improve on the libraries budget in order to attain to the cost of electronic resources and for the training of staff that will handle the electronic collection development. That the libraries should take a drastic initiative of acquiring electronic resources through a consortium in order to enjoy the discount associated with consortium subscription.

Keywords: Selection of E-resources, Acquisition of E-resources, University Libraries, Challenges of E-resources

Introduction

A library that is well established is essential for any academic institution. The emergence of information and communication technology has positively influenced the general operations, and services as well as the expectations of library users in an academic library. University libraries are established to continuously support the university towards the achievement of its goals and mission in the areas of teaching, learning, research and community service (Olanlokun & Salisu, 1993, and Aina, 2004). University library is defined by Reitz (2004) as a library or library system established, administered, and funded by a university to meet the information, research, and curriculum needs of its users (students, faculty, and staff). The users prefer to browse and use the internet facilities for their information needs rather than visiting the traditional library for any information needs. The traditional university library cannot compete favorably well with the modern information technology especially with their outdated and obsolete traditional resources of prints. In order to attract the library users and for effective information delivery, the university libraries should develop electronic resources. Electronic resources according to International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) (2012) are those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or handheld mobile devices. They may be accessed remotely via the internet or locally.

Similarly, Mansur (2012) described electronic resources as electronic products that deliver a collection of data, be it text referring to full text databases, e-journals, e-books, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time based, as commercially available title that has been published with a sole aim of being marketed and for information dissemination. The selection and acquisition of electronic resources are similar when compare to

that of print materials, but there exist slight differences in various aspects. In the course of building the electronic resources, university libraries are faced with numerous challenges especially in selecting and acquiring electronic resources. The study sets to ascertain the challenges faced by university libraries in South East Nigeria while selecting and acquiring electronic resources.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to examine the challenges faced by University libraries in South East Nigeria while selecting and acquiring electronic resources in their university libraries. The specific objectives of the study include to:

1. find out the criteria for selection of e-resources in university libraries in South East Nigeria

2. find out the tools used for selection of electronic resources in university libraries in South East Nigeria

3. identify the methods of acquisition of e-resources in university libraries in South East Nigeria

4. identify the challenges of selecting and acquiring electronic resources in university libraries in South East Nigeria

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the criteria considered for selection of electronic resources by the university libraries in South East Nigeria?

2. What are the tools used for selection of electronic resources by university libraries in South East Nigeria?

3. What are the methods of acquisition of electronic resources in University libraries in South East Nigeria?

4. What are the challenges of selecting and acquiring electronic resources in University libraries in South East Nigeria?

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The focus of this research is on the challenges university libraries in South East Nigeria faced while selecting and acquiring electronic resources. This study is limited to nine government-owned university libraries in South East Nigeria established before the year 2010. The respondents for this study were all the professional librarians in collection development, serials and e-library (digital libraries) in university libraries in South East, Nigeria.

Literature Review

Electronic Resources

Electronic resources are seen by Graham (2003) as the mines of information that are explored through modern Information and Communication Technology (ICT) devices, refined and redesigned and more often stored in the cyberspace in the most concrete and compact form and can be accessed simultaneously from infinite points by a great number of audience. The phrase electronic resources has broadly been defined as, information accessed by a computer, may be used as bibliographic guides to potential sources but, as of yet, they infrequently appear as cited references in their own right. E-resources, therefore, refer to that kind of documents in digital formats which are made available to library users through a computer-based information retrieval system.

In describing the concept of electronic resources, Bavakenthy, Veeran and Salih (2003) viewed electronic resources as resources in which information are stored electronically and are

accessible through electronic systems and networks. 'E-resource' is a broad term that includes a variety of publishing models, including Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), CD-ROMs, online databases, e-journals, e-books, internet resources, Print-on-demand (POD), e-mail publishing, wireless publishing, electronic link and web publishing, etc. In this context, the term primarily denotes "any electronic product that delivers a collection of data be it in text, numerical, graphical, or time based, as a commercially available resource". According to Tsakonas and Papatheodorou (2006), electronic information resources are information resources provided in electronic form, and these include resources available on the Internet such as e-books, e-journals, online database, Compact Disk Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) databases and other computer-based electronic networks, among others.

In addition, Reitz (2004) defined electronic resource as "material consisting of data and/or computer program (s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer, by the use of a peripheral device directly connect ed to the computer, such as a Compact Disk Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) drive, or remotely via a network, such as the Internet." According to her, the category includes software applications, electronic texts, bibliographic databases, institutional repositories, websites, e-books, collections of e-journals, etc. Electronic resources not publicly available free of charge usually require licensing and authentication.

According to California State University (CSU), (2005) electronic resources encompasses both full text and abstract/citation; e-journals, both individual and collections; e-books; e-article delivery services etc. It can be accessed remotely via the World Wide Web or delivered locally. In a related development, Ekwelem, Okafor and Ukwoma (2009) defined electronic resources as information resources that are available and can be accessed electronically through such computer networked facilities as online library catalogues, the Internet and the World Wide

Web, digital libraries and archives, government portals and websites, CD-ROM databases, online academic databases, such as Medline or Commercial databases such as LexisNexis

Selection of electronic resources

Selection and acquisition of electronic resources in libraries have been a new phenomenon in the area of research among libraries. Researchers have widely written on the use of electronic resources and not actually the electronic resources selection and acquisition and possibly the challenges libraries face while selecting and acquiring electronic resources which are the core of this research.

Selection of information resources is the core collection development function, and the primary objective of the selection decision for any format is fundamentally the same: satisfying users needs. Cabonero and Mayrena (2012) see selection as the heart of collection development. Selection is a necessary first step in the acquisition process. Information materials are selected on the basis of their perceived usefulness to a group of readers. This is because "the amount of satisfaction a reader finds in the library depends directly upon the materials the library has available for his use, observed Carter in Nwosu and Udo-Anyanwu (2015). With the advent of e-resources, job responsibilities of selectors have changed drastically. Selection of e-resources outside the guidance of a collection development policy leads to haphazard unfocused groupings of resources that may not support the mission of the library. In the past, selectors recommended new titles on an individual basis using traditional selection criteria such as quality, relevance, use, and cost observed, Welch (2002).

Similarly, Davis (1997) highlighted that in the traditional selection, the most fundamental criteria are designed to evaluate the reputation of the authors and publishers, ascertain the level

and depth of the content, and consider any special format or features that add value to the title. For electronic resources, these criteria quickly evolve into an evaluation of other parties participating in the creation of the product, assurance that the correct content is available, and confirmation that the product performs as expected. Edgar (2003) viewed that intellectual content has characteristics and that these characteristics can be used to guide selection. The more characteristics it has – such as topic, sub-topic, date of publication, or format – the more specific a unit of content can be said to have been selected, and vice versa. The implication is that greater specificity is needed to ensure that ideas contained within a body of knowledge are included in the selected content. Yu and Breivold (2008) affirm the ideas of Edger that selectors must now address new issues as part of the selection and management processes, issues such as easy and quick accessibility for users, continuous content evaluation and technological and legal concerns. For traditional library materials, the selector makes the decision to acquire an item with only limited consultation with other departments following established policies and guidelines.

In confirmation of the challenges posed by electronic resources as observed by other authors, IFLA (2012) revealed that electronic resources present a number of hurdles not encountered with traditional library materials. In addition to the criteria that apply to analog materials, electronic publications raise complex issues around licensing, access, networking, pricing, ownership, and rapidly changing technology and standards. Yu and Brevoid (2008) revealed that with electronic resources the selector cannot make a decision to acquire an electronic resource in isolation and must liaise closely with other departments in the library to evaluate the suitability of a resource prior to the decision to acquire. Typically, this will involve consultation with staff responsible for technical systems and services, acquisitions, resource discovery (cataloging and access), contracts and licensing, and service delivery. To ensure

consistency of approach it is a good practice to establish clear guidelines and processes for the selection of electronic resources. These might include the development of a checklist for selection and evaluation; establishing clear roles and lines of responsibility and consultation and the establishment of an electronic resource evaluation panel which could be composed of a group of electronic resource stakeholders from various departments within the institution. To involve users in collection development, the library may consider ways in which to receive feedback from its user on electronic resources. This could include feedback on potential new resources as well as feedback on existing resources. The library should also inform users about new content and services as well as potential temporary problems accessing electronic resources. To establish if an electronic resource is appropriate for the library's collection and to help determine the true and hidden cost implications of acquisition, storage, maintenance, preservation and other issues, detailed information regarding the item is required. Flatley and Prock (2009) offer a five-step process for collecting electronic (or "digital") material which includes a gathering of information contents, evaluation of information contents organization of information contents, construction of digital collections and maintenance of digital collections.

Acquisition of electronic resources

An acquisition is viewed by Adewuyi (2005) as cited in Nwosu and Udo-Anyanwu (2015) as the bedrock upon which stock development is based. An acquisition is a prime activity for collection development of electronically generated resources. It is the process of obtaining and receiving physical library materials or access to online resources. Yu and Breivold (2008) are of the opinion that the acquisition process for an e-resource resembles the process for a print resource, but with a slight difference from the traditional acquisition of prints, such that pre-order investigation and ordering, specific tasks vary between the two formats. E-resources acquisition

refs to the purchasing of access rights; no single resource is owned by or housed at the library rather these are accessed through a remote database. Once the individual selector or selection committee has chosen a resource for the library's collection, the standard acquisition process of locating and acquiring the resource takes place. The most effective way to provide access to electronic books/journals in university libraries is through subscription to online databases which can be accessed through the internet.

In an acquisition of e-resources, some libraries are only able to purchase through consortia or purchase most of their electronic resources through consortia because of the discounts that are available. Some libraries request that consortia look at resources they are interested in, and others use consortia to save on items they would buy anyway. Consortia are also a way for libraries to learn about what electronic resources are available, observed Flatley and Prock (2009).

Challenges of Electronic Resources Collection Development in Libraries

Electronic resources present a number of challenges not encountered with the selection and acquisition of traditional analog materials and it is advisable for the library to develop clear policies and processes for the selection and management of such resources. Yu and Breivold (2008) revealed that with the various types of e-resources such as electronic books, electronic journals, reference sources, and full-text databases, each one is unique and is considered separately during a selection process. Selection criteria for e-resource pose challenge to the librarians. In case of print material, they have to evaluate the price, contents, layout etc. But in the case of e-resources, the librarian has to assess its subject relevance, the authenticity of

information, its usage and accessibility, pricing, vendor reputation, and many more technical factors, reiterated Benny (2015).

Similarly, Yu and Breivold (2008) observed that the discovery of e-resources is challenging due to a rapid increase in the availability of e-resources. Selection of an e-resource requires more interaction between various library departmental staff, such as technical services for legal and access issues, technology for compatibility, and reference/public services for training and ease of use, hence waste a lot of time. Also, the negotiations between library purchaser and licensor vendor can be time- consuming and complex.

The challenges of electronic resources collection and management in libraries are the problem of user training, technological up-grading, financial constraint, IT skill manpower, perishable citation: online if website changes, Universal Resource Locators (URLs) citations disappear, authentication, etc. (Behera & Singh 2011, Balangue 2012). Similarly, Dhanavandra & Tamizhchelvan (2012), observed insufficient bandwidth which usually leads to network fluctuation and sometimes slow speed in the process of downloading resources. Also, Chisenga (2004) reported that lack of funds, lack of qualified ICT personnel, erratic power supply led to the non-availability and under-use of ICT facilities resulting in low electronic collection development (ECD) standard.

There is lack of perpetual access to e-resources. A majority of e-resources is licensed for a limited time reiterated Yu and Breivold (2008). Thus, at the end of the license period, if the selector decides to cancel the subscription, it results in a loss of access to the content. It is critical to check access to the resource on regular basis and follow up with the provider in the case of loss of access, which requires special staff having technical skills and knowledge.

In a related development, the content of the resources may change over time and require periodic review by the selectors. This requires a continuous evaluation process by the selectors, which is a time-consuming job. Duplication and availability of content from various sources add confusion to users as well as to the selectors.

Furthermore, Agim (2015) disclosed that inadequate budget adds challenges for selectors in making decisions for renewal of e-resources. Budgetary allocation to the educational sector in Nigeria has always fallen far short of expectation. This affects the ability of Nigerian tertiary institutions to cope with the fast-growing trends in electronic resources acquisition. Most libraries do not systematically receive additional funding to maintain and develop electronic collections; it becomes difficult to add new resources to limited budgets. Goehner (1992) compares the costs involved in the acquisition of printed document and their counterpart in electronic format. He says that it costs heavily in the initial stages to install the hardware and software to make full advantage of electronic resources. As more and more of a library's acquisitions budget is devoted to e-resources, selectors often have to curtail the purchase of monographs or cancel some print subscriptions. Due to an increase in the demand of users for e-resources, selection becomes more user-driven.

In addition, Abbey (2001) reiterated that the greatest problem in acquiring proprietary electronic resources is that libraries seldom if ever acquire them outright. Rather, they enter into licensing agreements that grant term-limited access to them. He further revealed that given the high prices of many of these sources, librarians must spend increasing amounts of time on the economics of acquisition and licensing rather than on content issues. Another problem observed by Abbey (2001) is difficulty involved in the track of the use of e-resources to determine their value for current patrons. Because libraries do not archive electronic resources, only current

users can be considered. One does not consider the future research value of e-journals in the same manner as one considers that of print serials.

According to Vashishth (2011), the main problems in building a collection in e environment are quotation system, cost factor, a rate of library discount, unorganized book trade and remainder books. He also pointed out that lack of ICT infrastructure, inadequate collection, and lack of a mechanism for training library personnel are other major problems being faced by librarians. Johnson (2009), reiterated that selection and acquisition of e-resources add complexity to the interactions of collection librarians and acquisitions staff for many reasons. Many e-resources are expensive and may require special approval processes.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used all the 86 librarians from the collection development, serials and digital library units of the University libraries in South East Nigeria. A well-structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed among the 86 librarians in the university libraries under study. In addition, the researchers interviewed the collection development librarians of the libraries under study. All the questionnaires were duly completed and used for the study. The data received from the respondents were tabulated and analyzed using a simple statistic (mean). And the responses from the interview were analyzed qualitatively.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Criteria for selection of electronic resources

Table 1: Responses on the criteria university libraries consider when selecting electronic resources.

		Name of institution									Overall
		MOUA	NAU	FUTO	UNN	ABSU	ASU	EBSU	ESUT	IMSU	$\bar{x}$
		$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	N=86
		N=6	N=8	N=23	N=16	N=8	N=6	N=8	N=8	N=3	
1	Frequency of updates, archiving availability, and content embargoes	3.17	3.75	3.65	3.38	3.88	3.00	3.13	3.00	2.67	3.41
2	Provision of licensing agreements	3.50	3.00	3.48	3.63	3.50	3.17	3.00	3.50	3.67	3.40
3	The reputation of the provider	3.83	2.88	3.48	3.44	3.25	2.83	3.25	3.00	3.33	3.30
4	Easy access to the content by the users	3.67	3.25	3.70	3.31	2.63	2.33	3.25	2.75	2.67	3.22
5	Search capability and functionality of the interface	3.50	3.13	3.48	3.25	3.00	2.33	2.75	3.13	3.33	3.17
6	Quality of technical support	3.67	3.00	3.26	3.44	3.38	2.83	2.88	2.63	3.00	3.17
7	Dates of coverage	3.50	3.50	3.35	3.25	2.25	2.50	2.63	2.63	3.67	3.07
8	the current size of the resource	3.67	3.13	3.30	3.50	1.63	1.83	2.38	2.63	3.33	2.94
9	Electronic resource well indexed	3.17	2.75	3.17	3.00	1.63	2.17	2.88	3.00	3.67	2.86
10	Compatibility with existing hardware and software	3.00	2.88	3.17	3.38	2.38	1.50	2.38	2.50	3.00	2.84
11	The likely users of the resources	3.17	3.13	2.96	3.06	2.00	1.67	2.88	2.50	1.67	2.73
12	the content of the electronic resource	3.50	2.75	2.70	3.06	1.75	2.50	2.88	2.50	3.00	2.73
13	Cost	3.17	2.75	3.00	3.25	1.88	2.00	2.38	2.13	2.33	2.70
	Grand mean	3.42	3.07	3.28	3.30	2.55	2.36	2.82	2.76	3.03	3.04

Keys: SA-Strongly Agree A- Agree D-Disagree SD- Strongly Disagree

The respondents were asked to mention different criteria used for selection of e-resources. Thirteen options were given to them to choose from on criteria library consider when selecting electronic resources in the library had mean values ranging from 2.70 to 3.41 which are all above the cut-off point of 2.50 on a 4-point rating scale. The above table (1) shows the selection criteria followed by the librarians in university libraries in South East Nigeria. It is found that all the respondents were using multiple criteria for selection of e-resources. From the table, it is observed that the respondents agreed that all the thirteen (13) items in the table are criteria the university libraries in South East Nigeria consider when selecting electronic resources in the library.

Also, the overall mean showed that frequency of updates, archiving availability, and content embargoes (mean = 3.41) has the highest ranking, while cost (mean = 2.70) is ranked lowest as criteria libraries consider when selecting electronic resources in the library.

The interview responses from the nine studied university libraries also revealed that the university library management considers the coverage of the subjects, frequency of publication and the originality of the titles when selecting any e-resources. Selection criteria for e-resource also pose a challenge to the university libraries. In case of print material, the university libraries evaluate the price, contents, layout etc. But in the case of e-resources, the librarians assess its subject relevance, the authenticity of information, its usage and accessibility, pricing, vendor reputation, and many more technical factors. The university librarians are using different criteria for selecting e-resources so that the best one can be selected and procured for their libraries.

Tools used for selection of electronic resources

Table 2: Responses on tools used to make electronic resources selection in university libraries under study

		Name of institution									Overall	R
		MOUA	NAU	FUTO	UNN	ABSU	ASU	EBSU	ESUT	IMSU	$\bar{x}$	
		$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	N=86	
		N=6	N=8	N=23	N=16	N=8	N=6	N=8	N=8	N=3		
1	The use of trial offers by mounting a link to their resources without cost	3.17	3.00	3.26	2.75	3.25	3.33	3.13	3.25	3.00	3.12	1ST
-2	Visits to similar libraries that already have the product and see it in action there.	3.67	3.13	3.13	3.00	3.25	3.00	2.63	3.25	3.33	3.12	2nd
3	The use of vendor exhibits at conferences.	3.67	3.13	2.87	2.69	3.75	2.50	3.38	3.38	4.00	3.10	3rd
4	The use of demonstrations from publisher /vendor in the library and demonstrate their resource	2.83	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.25	2.83	2.88	2.88	2.67	2.97	4th
5	The use of reviews provided through electronic resources	2.67	2.00	2.61	2.25	2.88	2.83	2.75	2.88	2.67	2.57	5th
	Grand Mean	**3.20**	**2.75**	**2.97**	**2.78**	**3.27**	**2.89**	**2.95**	**3.12**	**3.13**	**2.97**	

Keys: SA-Strongly Agree A- Agree D-Disagree SD-Strongly Disagree

The respondents were asked to select the different tools they used while selecting an electronic resource. Five options were given to them on the tools used to make sound e-resources selection in university libraries in South East Nigeria had mean values ranging from 2.57 to 3.12 which are all above the cut-off point of 2.50 on a 4 point rating scale. It is found that all the respondents were using multiple tools to select the e-resources. The above table (2) shows their response in mean value.

Also, the overall mean showed that the use of trial offers by mounting a link to their resources without cost (mean = 3.12) is ranked highest, while the use of reviews provided through electronic resources (mean =2 .57) is ranked lowest as tools used in sound electronic resources selection in libraries.

The interview responses from the nine university libraries studied also stated that for a sound selection of electronic resources, the service providers are requested to allow the libraries to use the resources without cost. This will enable the libraries to see how the electronic resource works and the general contents of the resource to ensure that the information needs of the users (curriculum needs) can be met if eventually, the libraries subscribe to it.

The tools used to select the e-resources are of paramount importance. Since a lot of tools are available, to select the best one is a challenge faced by the librarians. The present study revealed that the university librarians use multiple tools to select e-resources. This facilitates the librarians to select the right e-resources. At the same time, it is observed that the university librarians give more weight to use of trial offer by the vendors by mounting a link to their resources without a cost.

Methods of acquisition of electronic resources in university libraries under study.

Table 3: Responses on methods of acquisition of electronic resources

		Through Subscription		Through Purchase		Open internet sources		Through Consortia	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
MOUA	No	0	0%			3	50.0%	5	83.3%
	Yes	6	100.0%	6	100.0%	3	50.0%	1	16.7%
NAU	No	3	37.5%	0	0%	3	37.5%	4	50.0%
	Yes	5	62.5%	8	100.0%	5	62.5%	4	50.0%
FUTO	No	2	8.7%	6	26.1%	5	21.7%	21	91.3%
	Yes	21	91.3%	17	73.9%	18	78.3%	2	8.7%
UNN	No	4	25.0%	2	12.5%	5	31.3%	13	81.3%
	Yes	12	75.0%	14	87.5%	11	68.8%	3	18.8%
ABSU	No	4	50.0%	2	25.0%	5	62.5%	6	75.0%
	Yes	4	50.0%	6	75.0%	3	37.5%	2	25.0%
ASU	No	0	0%	1	16.7%	22	33.3%	5	83.3%
	Yes	6	100.0%	5	83.3%	4	66.7%	1	16.7%
EBSU	No	3	37.5%	2	25.0%	1	12.5%	6	75.0%
	Yes	5	62.5%	6	75.0%	7	87.5%	2	25.0%
ESUT	No	5	62.5%	0	0%	1	12.5%	6	75.0%
	Yes	3	37.5%	8	100.0%	7	87.5%	2	25.0%
IMSU	No	2	66.7%	0	0%			1	33.3%
	Yes	1	33.3%	3	100.0%	3	100.0%	2	66.7%
Total	No	23	26.7%	13	15.1%	25	29.1%	67	77.9%
	Yes	63	73.3%	73	84.9%	61	70.9%	19	22.1%

The respondents were asked to mention the methods they use in acquiring e-resources. Multiple options were given to them. Most of the librarians use multiple modes to acquire the e-resources. The above table 3 shows that the majority of the university libraries (84.9%) subscribed to e-resources through purchases, 73% university libraries subscribe the e-resources while 70% of them were using open access method to acquire e-resources. 22% of the university libraries were using e-resources through a consortium. Unlike print materials, e-resources can be purchased or subscribed or can be acquired through consortia. The university libraries use different methods depending upon the type of electronic resources.

The interview responses from the nine university libraries studied also stated that majority of the electronic resources are subscribed on an annual basis. In addition, libraries rely so much on open access resources too.

Thus, it can be deduced from the table above that e-resources in university libraries in South East Nigeria are mainly acquired through purchases, subscription, and open access since they had the greatest overall acceptance and high response. They used multiple methods of acquisition of electronic resources. None of the libraries under study testified being in any consortia agreement with one another.

Challenges of selection and acquisition of electronic resource
Table 4: Responses on the challenges faced by your library in selecting and acquisition of electronic resources

		Name of institution									Overall
		MOUA	NAU	FUTO	UNN	ABSU	ASU	EBSU	ESUT	IMSU	$\bar{x}$
		$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	N=86
		N=6	N=8	N=23	N=16	N=8	N=6	N=8	N=8	N=3	
1	Cost of acquisition of E-Resources	3.17	3.25	2.96	3.13	3.50	2.67	3.13	2.63	3.00	3.05
2	Problem of how to apply usage statistics to a cancellation decisions.	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.81	2.38	3.50	3.13	2.75	3.00	2.93
3	There is lack of perpetual access to e-resources.	3.17	2.63	2.83	2.63	3.13	3.67	2.38	3.25	3.33	2.90
4	Poor network access	3.00	2.13	3.04	2.38	3.13	2.67	2.75	3.38	3.33	2.83
5	The discovery of e-resources is challenging due to a rapid increase in the availability of resources.	2.67	2.75	2.87	2.69	3.25	2.50	2.63	2.88	3.33	2.81
6	Duplication and availability of content from various sources add confusion to users as well as to the selectors.	2.50	3.50	3.35	2.50	2.75	2.83	2.38	2.38	1.67	2.81
7	Librarians spend increasing amounts of time on the economics of acquisition and licensing rather than on content issues.	3.00	2.88	2.61	2.44	3.63	3.17	2.00	2.75	2.33	2.71
8	It is difficult to follow up with the provider in the case of loss of access.	3.00	3.00	2.57	2.63	3.00	3.00	2.13	2.25	2.00	2.63
9	It is difficult to check access to the resource on regular basis.	2.83	2.75	2.52	2.56	2.38	2.67	2.25	2.75	3.00	2.58
10	Continuous evaluation process by the selectors is a time consuming job.	2.50	2.88	2.39	2.63	2.63	2.83	2.38	2.63	3.00	2.58
11	Special staff having technical skills are required	3.00	2.75	2.39	2.31	2.88	1.50	2.88	2.88	3.33	2.56
12	Periodic review by selectors is time consuming.	2.83	3.00	2.30	2.63	2.38	2.33	2.75	2.13	2.67	2.51
	Grand Mean	**2.89**	**2.88**	**2.74**	**2.61**	**2.92**	**2.78**	**2.57**	**2.72**	**2.83**	**2.74**

Keys: SA-Strongly Agree A- Agree D-Disagree SD- Strongly Disagree

The data presented in table 4 shows the mean ratings of the responses of the respondents on the twelve (12) items of challenges faced by university libraries in South East Nigeria in collection development of electronic resources had mean values ranging from 2.51 to 3.05 which are all above the cut-off point of 2.50 on a 4-point rating scale. The above findings indicated that the respondents agreed that all the twelve (12) identified items in the table are challenges faced by university libraries in South East Nigeria in e-resources collection development practices.

Also, the overall mean showed that cost of acquisition of e-resources (mean = 3.05) is ranked highest, while a periodic review by selectors is time-consuming (mean = 2.51) is ranked lowest as challenges faced by the library in e-resources collection development practices.

The interview responses from the nine studied university libraries emphasized so much on the cost which are in three forms; equipment and network infrastructure cost, cost of subscription, staffing training, and development as challenges facing electronic resources collection development practices. Also reported is the university libraries inability to meet up with the deadlines in subscription and renewal, hence leads to loss of access to the e-resources, In addition, erratic power supply, low internet bandwidths also are challenges facing electronic resources collection development practices among university libraries in South East Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- In the light of the present study, the following recommendations are made for smooth selection and acquisition of e-resources in university libraries in South East Nigeria.
- The university libraries in South East Nigeria should improve on the libraries budget in order to attain to the cost of electronic resources and for the training of staff that will handle the electronic collection development.

- The upward improvement of the libraries budget on electronic resources will enhance prompt renewal of electronic subscription and forestall the loss of access to electronic resources.

- The university libraries in South East Nigeria should take a drastic initiative of acquiring electronic resources through a consortium in order to enjoy the discount associated with consortium subscription.

- The library should make alternative provision of electricity/ power to support the library in the provision of energy needed for building electronic resources.

- Libraries should train and retrain their staff on the technical skills. This is needed in order to handle any technical problems that may arise when handling electronic resources. Training in the areas of software and hardware troubleshooting in developing electronic resources collection.

- The university libraries should train the librarians on business and negotiation skills that will enable them to understand the integrity of the licensing and negotiation involved in the subscription of electronic resources.

- Challenges of electronic resources collection development such as poor network access should be improved by increasing the internet bandwidth.

CONCLUSION

Selection and acquisition of electronic resources in university libraries is the need of the period especially with the emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). It has been revealed from the study that university libraries in South East Nigeria consider multiple selection criteria and appropriate tools while selecting electronic resources for inclusion in the library. Also, the university libraries used different methods to acquire electronic resources. It has been

observed that the libraries used mainly subscription and individual purchase as methods of acquiring e-resources. None of the libraries under study was into any consortium with any of the libraries.

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