CHALLENGES TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DATABASES BY LECTURERS IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

This study identified the challenges to the use of electronic databases by Lecturers in Government-owned University libraries in Anambra State Nigeria. Two research questions and two null hypotheses guided the study. Using a descriptive survey design, a sample of 749 respondents (570 for NAU and 179 for COOU) out of the 2,495 lecturers (1,900 in NAU, while that of COOU is 595) in the 2 government-owned universities in Anambra State. was selected through Proportionate sampling technique. A 21-itemed adopted questionnaire which was validated by three experts, and having a reliability coefficient of 0.78 for parts 2, and 0.82 for part 1, was used to collect information from these lecturers. Descriptive statistics of percentage was used to answer research question 1, while arithmetic mean and standard deviation were used to answer research question 2. The 2 null hypotheses were tested at 0.5 level of significance; with the aid of chi-square (χ^2) for hypothesis 1, while z-test for hypothesis 2. The findings of the study indicated that 7 out of the 10 identified items were rated above 50% which means that the lecturers accepted these items as the electronic databases they use. These databases include; EBSCO Host, AJOL, JSTOR, HINARI, AGORA, OARE, DOAJ, DATAD, EBRARY and Web of Science. Although there were few disagreements on three items which suggests that there are some challenges encountered in the use of these databases. The 2 most top challenges are; Lack of user education and guidance on use of databases and slow internet connectivity. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others, that Greater publicity should be provided for lecturers and that improvement in the internet connectivity be guaranteed.

KEYWORDS: Electronic Databases, Lecturers, University Libraries.

Introduction

In Nigeria, online database is one source of electronic resources that access and usage is being encouraged by university librarians across the country through NULIB (Nigerian University Libraries Consortium) in partnership with elFL.Net (Electronic Information for Libraries Network) and NUC (National Universities Commission) (Okiki 2018). The aim basically is to promote wider access to electronic resources in order to encourage excellence in teaching/research in Nigerian universities. Since the cost of subscriptions of relevant online databases by individual university is relatively high, the cost is drastically reduced by the collaboration among NULIB, elLF.Net and NUC. The studies of Otokunefor and Kari (2016) and Nok (2016) showed that libraries in Nigeria are gradually developing their electronic resource database collections. Some of the major databases are; Access to Global On-line Research in Agriculture (AGORA), Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), The Health Internet-work Access to Research Initiative (HINARI), EBSCOhost (**E**lton**B** **S**tephens **CO** (company), Journal Storage (AJOL), Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI), Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) etc. According to Kofi (2019), he observed that in developing countries, the commonly used resources are; ELSEVIER, EBSCO Host, AGORA etc.

It is no more news but rather a common knowledge that virtually all scholarly and academic journals, electronic databases, online library catalogues, and other relevant scholarly materials in all fields of knowledge are now accessible on the internet. Several university libraries are subscribed to several databases online which are made available and accessible to lecturers and students of the university. In a study conducted by Ani and Ahiauzu (2008) it was observed that there are available databases in some Nigerian university libraries either through free based access or fees based subscription. It must be noted here that it is what the library subscribed to that they get. Akinseye (2014) observed that many university libraries have subscribed 2-3 years' online databases for lecturers and students in order to have access to information and to update their knowledge for the purposes of teaching, learning and research work.

The FUTO Library currently subscribes to about eight databases which included some open sources and some fee-based sources. Some of the databases currently available include: Agora, Hinari, EBSCOhost, Nigerian Virtual Library, OARE etc. all of which can be accessed through computer systems in the library and on the library website. The service here is provided free for all lecturers and students. The Digital Library of Nnamdi Azikiwe University (Festus Aghagbo Nwako Library) databases available include; Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE), Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), Health Internet Network Access to Research Initiative (HINARI), Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ), British Library of Developmental Studies (BLDS), **Elton**B **S**tephens **CO**mpany **(**EBSCOhost) and Journal Storage (JSTOR).

Apart from teaching and community services, academic staff members are expected to publish quality research output, communicate ideas within their profession, thereby contributing to the available knowledge base. Databases in an academic library is used by lecturers, to up-date their knowledge in their fields of specialization and become more effective in the discharge of their duties. Information is an essential commodity that is needed for improved teaching and research productivity of academic staff and researchers. Popoola (2008) found out that there are main and interaction effects of the use of information sources and services on research output of academic staff. He concluded that the use of information sources or services will improve the research output of the researchers. He further stated that if the information sources and services available in the institutional information systems or elsewhere are used by academic staff, their research output will be more significantly enhanced. Despite the fact that database resources have a lot of benefits, there are some hindrances and challenges to its effective use.

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 large amounts of money on these resources to satisfy the teaching, learning and research needs of its staff and students. As universities spend substantial amount of money on subscription to these databases, it is only appropriate and economical that these databases are optimally utilized to contribute to the academic achievement of students and staff. Non-usage of

database information resources by Lecturers in tertiary institution has great adverse effect not only to the lecturers but also to the educational system as a whole.

However, observations have shown that lecturers in Nigerian universities seem not to be utilizing these database resources available to them. Could it be that they are not aware of these database resources and if they are aware why is it that usage is hindered. Based on this premise, Ekenna and Ukpebor (2016) stressed that database resources have received high patronage with functional acceptance in other countries globally as against the situation in Nigeria. It is also observed that there is introduction of CD ROM literature search into the university library system in Nigeria. The number of users of CD ROM facility is still very small as against the number of registered library users. These might be due to lack of or inadequate awareness of database resources (Ekenna & Ukpebor 2016).

According to Aina (2014), who carried out a survey on awareness, accessibility and use of electronic databases among academic staff of Babcock University nine out of thirteen databases under consideration were rated averagely aware by respondents. This implies that there is need to increase awareness to cover all electronic resources the library subscribed to. Aina (2014) also revealed that the highest usage point of any database among academic staff of Babcock University was less than 17%. Salaam, Ajiboye and Bankole (2015) studied the use of library electronic information resources (EIR) by academic staff at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. The study shows that most used e-resources in decreasing order were the CAB Abstract, TEEAL, AGORA, e-granary and HINARI. A study conducted by Bashurun, Isah and Adisa (2017) showed that the use of databases by academic staff in Unilorin, was not at the expected level that would effectively enhance the learning and resource process as stated in the mission statement of the university, low usage was reported for e-books, bibliographic databases and e-journals in their study.

The preliminary observation according to Olarongbe and Ibrahim (2017) revealed that various factors were responsible for ineffective use of electronic databases by lecturers in federal university libraries in Nigeria. Some of them include; lack of constant power

supply, lack of online access, lack of technical know-how, dislike of reading from a screen, lack of awareness, etc.,

There are many problems militating against the use of database resources. Olarongbe and Ibrahim (2017) found the following, lack of constant power supply, lack of online access, lack of technical know-how, dislike of reading from a screen and lack of awareness, preference for other sources like general search engines such as Google, lack of search skill, lack of adequate ICT infrastructure, bad downloading time, and at times sheer attitude of users are also often affecting the use of databases. Bakare, Owolabi, Bamigboye and Bankole (2013) found that limited time and lack of effective information retrieval skills are the main barriers to using e-sources. Prangya and Rabindra (2015) found that lack of training; poor infrastructure and high cost of usage are the obstacles to proper and full utilization of database resources. In line with the above, Gupta Raza (2011) & Kumar (2006) found that lack of training, slow internet speed and its connectivity are challenges affecting users of online databases.

There are a lot of arguments concerning the use of databases by lecturers in federal universities as against their counterpart in state universities. While some authors have favoured lecturers in federal universities on the use of databases, others have countered the idea saying that ownership does not matter. Also, some studies tend to favour lecturers in science as against those in arts with respect to the use of databases. Other studies have indicated that factors such as awareness and skill are the determining factors that may influence users' decision to use database resources (Obuh, 2010; Omotayo, 2010; Prangya & Rabindra, 2015). Therefore, the success of users, especially the lecturers of institutions generally depends on several factors such as; availability of these databases, awareness of the use of these databases, skills of each user to locate knowledge elements, power supply and others.

Challenges to the use of databases by lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State Nigeria is not yet determined because no study has been undertaken in this area, to the best of the researchers' knowledge. Thus, the study is an

attempt to identify the challenges of electronic databases usage by lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State Nigeria.

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Significance

In this period of declining budgetary allocation to libraries, the findings of the study will be useful in guiding university management and other academic library management in embarking on strategies that will meet the research and information needs of Lecturers through relevant acquisitions. The findings will also provide the justifications for demand for more funds by library managers from their institutional managements and other funding agencies like TETFUND in order to meet both the present and expected future increase in the use of certain database resources by Lecturers for their information needs.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to identify challenges to the use of electronic databases by Lecturers in Government-owned University libraries in Anambra State Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To determine the different electronic databases used by lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State.
2. To determine the constraints encountered by lecturers on the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State.

Research Questions

This study is guided by the following questions.

1. What are the electronic databases used by lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State?
2. What are the constraints encountered by lecturers on the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers, in federal and their counterparts in state university, on their use of the different electronic databases available in government-own university libraries in Anambra State.

2. Lecturers in federal and their counterparts in state university do not differ significantly in their mean ratings, on their constraints to the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State.

METHOD

The design of this study is a descriptive survey research. Descriptive survey according to Nworgu (2015) are studies which aim at collecting data on and describing in a systematic manner, the characteristics, features or facts about a given population. The study was carried out in Anambra State, which is an Igbo speaking state in South-East Nigeria. There are a total of 21 local government area in the Anambra state. There are 2 government-owned universities, namely, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) (State University) and Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU) (Federal University). The population of the study centred on all the 2,495 lecturers in the 2 government-owned universities in Anambra State. There are 1,900 academic staff in NAU, while that of COOU is 595 in 2018/2019 academic session as at July, 2019 (Retrieved from Registrars' Offices of both Universities). The sample of the study consists of 749 respondents (570 for NAU and 179 for COOU). Proportionate sampling technique based on 30% as recommended by Aina cited in Omeje (2010), for a few thousand populations was adopted for the study. The instrument for data collection for this study was a researcher developed questionnaire entitled "Challenges to the use of Electronic Databases by lecturers Questionnaire (CUEDLQ)", as adopted from Adetomiwa and Oshiotse (2018). The instrument having 2 parts was validated by three experts, and was later administered to 30 lecturers in University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) that subscribe to these databases which is outside the study area but have similar features to the area of study. Except for part 1 that employed Kuder

Richardson, Data collected for parts 2 was analyzed using Cronbach alpha method. A reliability coefficient value of 0.78 was obtained for parts 2, while that of part 1 was 0.82. These values were considered high enough for the instrument because according to Akuezuilo and Agu (2003), the higher the value of reliability of coefficient, greater than 0.69, the more reliable the test is. The research questionnaire was administered to the respondents by the researcher and two other research assistants. Data was analysed using the descriptive statistics of percentages to answer research question 1, while arithmetic mean and standard deviation were used to answer research question 2. The 2 null hypotheses were tested at 0.5 level of significance; with the aid of chi-square (χ^2) for hypothesis 1, while z-test for hypothesis 2.

RESULTS

The presentation of result was done sequentially, starting from answering of the research questions to testing of the null hypotheses.

Research Question One
What are the electronic databases used by lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State?

Table 1
Percentage ratings of Lecturers on their use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State.

S/N	Types of Electronic Databases	Percentage	Decision
1	EBSCO Host	85%	Use
2	AJOL	66%	Use
3	GOALI	38%	Poorly Use
4	JSTOR	73%	Use
5	HINARI	65%	Use
6	AGORA	91%	Use
7	ELSEVIER	18%	Poorly Use
8	OARE	76%	Use
9	ARDI	27%	Poorly Use
10	Others; DOAJ, DATAD, EBRARY & Web of Science	90%	Use
	Grand Percentage	**63%**	**Use**

The result in the Table 1 indicated that 7 out of the 10 identified items were rated above 50% which means that the lecturers accepted these items as the electronic databases they

use. These databases include; EBSCO Host, AJOL, JSTOR, HINARI, AGORA, OARE, DOAJ, DATAD, EBRARY and Web of Science. Only 3 items were rated below 50% as databases poorly used by lecturers. They are items 3, 7 and 9 namely; GOALI, ELSEVIER and ARDI respectively.

Research Question Two

What are the constraints encountered by lecturers on the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State?

Table 2

Mean ratings of Lecturers on the constraints they encountered in the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State.

S/N	Constraints to the use of electronic databases	X	SD	Decision
11	Lack of user education and guidance on use of databases	3.065	0.793	Agree
12	Slow downloading of resources	1.803	0.653	Disagree
13	Lack of knowledge of search techniques	1.768	0.412	Disagree
14	Lack of materials relevant to your field	1.918	0.936	Disagree
15	Erratic power supply	2.754	0.809	Agree
16	Slow internet connectivity	3.085	0.775	Agree
17	Lack of access to full text of citation/abstracts	1.800	0.879	Disagree
18	Difficulty in locating relevant e-resources in the databases	2.842	0.926	Agree
19	Inaccessibility to username and password to some databases	2.966	0.862	Agree
20	Non-subscription of relevant electronic databases by the University Library	2.671	0.846	Agree
21	Others (please specify)	2.842	0.972	Agree
	Grand Mean	**2.784**	**0.801**	**Agree**

Table 2 shows that 7 items out of the 11 identified items were rated above 2.5 mean score while the remaining 4 items were rated below 2.5 mean score. The items that were rated above 2.5 mean score indicating agree are items; 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 & 21. Generally, a grand mean score of 2.784 was obtained which shows that the identified items are constraints, to the use of electronic databases, encountered by lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State.

Hypothesis One
There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers, in federal and their counterparts in state university, on their use of the different electronic databases available in government-own university libraries in Anambra State.

Table 3
Chi-square Comparison of the mean ratings of Federal and State University Lecturers

Variable	University Ownership	N	Cal. (χ^2) Value	Crit. (χ^2) Value	df	Sig.	Decision
Use of electronic databases	Federal	558	1,460.626	16.92	9	.05	Significant
	State	169					

S-Significant @ cal. value (1,460.626) > crit. value (16.92)

The result in the Table 3 shows that at .05 level of significance and 9 degree of freedom, a calculated (χ^2) value of 1,460.626 and a critical (χ^2) value of 16.92 were obtained. Since the calculated (χ^2) value is greater than the critical (χ^2) value, the null hypothesis was thus rejected. Then, it was concluded that there is significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers, in federal and their counterparts in state university, on their use of the different electronic databases available in government-own university libraries in Anambra State.

Hypothesis Two
Lecturers in federal and their counterparts in state university do not differ significantly in their mean ratings, on their constraints to the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State.

Table 4
t-test Comparison of the mean ratings of Federal and State University Lecturers

Variable	University Ownership	N	Mean	SD	z-cal.	z-crit.	df	Sig	Decision
Constraints of use of electronic databases	Federal	558	2.742	.701	1.821	1.96	725	.05	NS
	State	169	2.998	.699					

NS-Not Significant @ t-cal (1.821) < t-crit (1.96)

The result of Table 4 shows that at .05 level of significance and 725 degree of freedom, a calculated z-value of 1.821 and a critical z-value of 1.96 were obtained. Since the calculated z-value is less than the critical z-value, the null hypothesis was thus accepted. This means that lecturers in federal and their counterparts in state university do not differ significantly in their mean ratings, on their constraints to the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State.

Summary of Findings

The major findings that emerged from this study are presented as follows:

1. The electronic databases used by lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State are; EBSCO Host, AJOL, JSTOR, HINARI, AGORA, OARE and Others (DOAJ, DATAD, EBRARY and Web of Science).

2. The challenges encountered by lecturers on the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State include; lack of user education and guidance on the use of databases, erratic power supply, slow internet connection, difficulty in locating relevant e-resources, inaccessibility to username and password to some databases, non-subscription of relevant databases by university libraries etc.

3. Null hypothesis 2 on; constraints to use of electronic databases, for federal and state university lecturers was accepted (not rejected), which means that "Lecturers in federal and their counterparts in state university do not differ significantly in their mean ratings, on their constraints to the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State". Although, null hypothesis 1 on use of electronic databases was not accepted (rejected) which means that there is significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers, in federal and their counterparts in state university, in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State on the use of electronic databases.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

In this chapter, the findings emanating from the analysis are discussed. It also presents the conclusions of the study, recommendations, implications and limitations of the study as well as suggestion for further studies.

Discussion of Results.

The results were discussed under the following sub-themes:

✓ Electronic Databases used by Lecturers in Government-owned University Libraries in Anambra State.

- ✓ Constraints to the use of Electronic Databases by Lecturers in Government-owned University Libraries in Anambra State.

- ✓ Results of the Two (2) null hypotheses.

Electronic Databases used by Lecturers in Government-owned University Libraries in Anambra State.

Result of the analysis shows that, out of the 10 identified items, the lecturers rated 7 items above 50%, indicating that they make use of those electronic databases. The electronic databases rated above 50% are; EBSCO Host, AJOL, JSTOR, HINARI, AGORA, OARE and Others (DOAJ, DATAD, EBRARY and Web of Science). It was also recorded that they rated item 6 (AGORA) the highest (91%) which shows that AGORA is the best/highest electronic database they make use of. Meanwhile, item 7 (ELSEVIER) was rated the lowest (17%) which shows that ELSEVIER is the least electronic database the make use of. Although, there were 3 items that were rated low by the lecturers which are not part of the electronic databases use. The items include; 3, 7 & 9 which are; GOALI, ELSEVIER and ARDI respectively.

Above all, since 7 items out of the 10 identified items were rated above 50%, and with a grand percentage of 63%, it shows that lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State make use of the electronic databases as identified. In support of the above findings, Otokunefor and Kari (2016) and NOK (2016) revealed that some major databases used in universities include; AGORA, DOAJ, HINARY, EBSCO Host, AJOL, ARDI, OARE etc.

It is surprising to notice that ELSEVIER is among the electronic databases that were rated low. This is contrary with the findings of Kofi (2019) who observed that in developing countries, the commonly used resources are; ELSEVIER, EBSCO Host, AGORA etc. The fact that ELSEVIER is rated low may be as a result of its non-subscription by some university Libraries as contained in item 40 of the questionnaire (Constraints to the use of electronic databases).

Constraints to the use of Electronic Databases by Lecturers in Government-owned University Libraries in Anambra State.

From the result of the analysis, it is observed that of the 11 identified items, 7 were rated high above 2.5 mean score, which shows that the items are the constraints to the use of electronic databases by lecturers. The constraints that were rated above 2.5 mean score are; lack of user education and guidance on the use of databases, erratic power supply, slow internet connection, difficulty in locating relevant e-resources, inaccessibility to username and password to some databases, non-subscription of relevant databases by university libraries etc. it was also observed that item 16 recorded the highest mean score of 3.085 which indicates that "slow internet connectivity" is the major constraints to the use of electronic databases by lecturers. This is evident in the study of Gupta Raza (2011) & Kumar (2006) who found that lack of training, slow internet speed and its connectivity are challenges affecting users of online databases. Meanwhile, item 13 recorded the lowest mean score of 1.786 which means that "lack of knowledge of search techniques" is a minor constraint to the use of electronic databases by lecturers. Although there are 4 items that were rated below 2.5 mean score. These items are; slow downloading of resources, lack of knowledge of search techniques, lack of material relevant to your field, and lack of access to full text of citation/abstract respectively.

Above all, since 7 out of the 11 identified items were rated above 2.5 mean score, and with a grand mean score of 2.784, it shows that the identified are the constraints to the use of electronic databases by lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State. In support of this, Malla (2011) observed that the major problem in the use of e-resources are; lack of subscription in particular field of study, lack of user's orientation or training, low bandwidth, lack of printing facilities, terminals and training.

Results of the Two (2) null hypotheses.

Based on the results of the two (2) null hypotheses, hypotheses 2 was not rejected (accepted) haven obtained calculated z-value (1.821) less than the critical z-value (1.961). This indicates that; "Lecturers in Federal and their counterparts in State University do not differ

significantly, in their mean ratings, on their constraints to the use of electronic databases in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State".

Although, hypothesis 1 was rejected (not accepted) haven obtained calculated (χ^2) value (1,460.62) greater than the critical (χ^2) value (16.92). This shows that; "There is significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers, in Federal and their counterparts in State University, on their use of different electronic databases available in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State",

Conclusion.

The findings of the study have made possible the following conclusions:

1. Lecturers in government-owned university libraries in Anambra State make use of the following electronic databases; EBSCO Host, AJOL, JSTOR, HINARI, AGORA, OARE, DOAJ, DATAD, EBRARY and Web of Science.

2. Major challenges to the use of electronic databases include; Lack of user education and guidance on use of databases, Inaccessibility to username and password, Non-subscription to relevant databases and Slow internet connections. Meanwhile, GOALI, ELSEVIER & ARDI are not used by majority (over 83%) of the respondents.

Recommendation.

1. Greater publicity should be provided for lecturers and other users on the type of databases available in the library's homepage and other metadata search option.

2. Reducing overload effect like increasing the bandwidth size, will definitely increase database usage, thus enhancing a user's positive attitude to internet use.

3. Database training for lecturers, instituted by the library, should be regularized and more participants be encouraged to attend.

4. In order to maximize the database usage, and also increase its access speed, the university should make all efforts to get a broadband connection.

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5. University library management should find an alternative way to generate power supply such as a standby generator, inverter or solar energy system with automatic change-over to avoid loss of information already gathered. Even when these alternatives are provided, they should be utilized for its purpose not mere provision.

6. University management should improve the internet connectivity with the campus and environs to enable users (lecturers) have access to internet whenever and wherever they deem it fit or they want to make use of it.

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