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Academic Staff Use of Electronic Resources (ER) in Nigerian University Libraries During the COVID-19 Lockdown Period

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By

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ABSTARCT

Purpose: This study investigated the Academic staff Use of Electronic Resources (ER) in the Nigerian University of Nigeria Libraries during the Corona Virus (Covid 19) lockdown

Design/ Methodology/Approach: The study adopted a Descriptive survey research design. The total population of study was 3130. A sample size of 313 was selected for the study using the simple random sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire. The data collected for the study were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The benchmark score for decision on the analysis was the real limits of numbers

Findings: The finding from the study revealed that the Academic staff and the Librarians in the University Library obeyed the Government Lock down and stay at home order. The University Library that used to be a beehive of activities was on lock and key. Result revealed that while on lockdown, the library made provision for online use of its information resources for users. The result also showed good use of Electronic resources (ER) by Academic staff during this Covid 19 period. The academic staff mostly used the Electronic Resources (ER) for writing research

papers. Some academic staff were unaware of these resources while other non users accepted to learn how to use it at the least opportunity.

Practical Implication: Based on the finding it has been established that library users including Academic staff had the opportunity of using library resources irrespective of distance during the period of the lock down. This implies that Academic staff does not necessarily need to be at the library building to make use of library resources.

Originality/Value: The findings and recommendations of this study are expected to be beneficial to academic staff, Librarians and administrations, in the Universities in Nigeria specifically in knowing the needs of Academic staff and what they prefer and the challenges they face when searching electronic resources without assistance from specialists .

Keywords: Academic Staff, Use, Electronic Resources, Nigerian Universities, Libraries, Covid 19

Paper Type: Empirical Research

Introduction

The University according to Mole (2017) is an institution of higher education, usually comprising a liberal arts and science, colleges, graduate and professional schools that award degrees in various fields. It is an institution of higher learning of the highest level authorised to confer both undergraduate and graduate degrees (Collins, 2006). It is important to note that the most component of a university is the Staff and students (Mole).

It is important to note that one cannot talk about university education without a functional library to back up its teaching, learning and scholarship activities. It is their function to ensure that the use of its e-resources and services are fully maximized within a short possible period to benefit library users including academic staff, students and other patrons. The univerity library is an integral and indispensable part of any university establishment university library support the teaching, learning and research needs of the university they serve.

Coronavirus diseas is a disease otherwise known as Covid-19. It is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus that affects people in different ways (World Health Organization 2020) According to Webstar dictionary, (2016) Covid19 is a mild to severe

respiratory illness that is caused by a coronavirus (Severe acute respiratory syndome). Its spread is like a burning fire. The virus spread by contact with infected person, materials, like the respiratory droplets or with objects /surfaces contaminated by infested person. Its symtoms are :fever. Cough shotness ofbreath, pneumonia andfinaly to respiratory falure.Other syntoms include: headach, fatigue, loss of smell and test, chills, running nose, diairhea/vomitting etc, depending on one's body system. World Health Organztion (2020), available evidence indicates that the virus is transmited during contact via respiratory droplets (like coughing) and by formites. Thousands of people all over the world lost their loved ones as a result of the pandemic.

In Africa the first reported case of the pandemic was on February 14th 2020 and moved down to Sub saharan Africa. Nigeria recorded the first confirmed case of the virus on February 27th 2020 when an Italian business man visited Nigeria from Milan, and tested positive in Lagos. The second case of the virus was on March 9th 2020 in Ogun state. The rapid spread of the virus all over the world created need for urgent attention to quickly take all the preventive measures to fight, control and stop its spread. This can be achieved through total observance of social distancing, aviodance of hand shaking, use of hand sanitizer, use of face covering as well as abiding by the stay at home order of the government.

Before the advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) the production of paper, print materials have been the major avaliable source of information resources for research, teaching and learning in university education. With the dvelopment of ICT, most academic libraries in Nigeria have adopted the digitization of informaion resources as well as the e-publishing proesses. For example publications by academic staff in the university.. The only information that was present was only in print collections or hard copies . For example abstrcts, theses/dissertations, and books have duplicats in electronic formats. As a result of this development, most of the university libaries are hibrid. In the height of this however, Sharma explained that print base materials are progressively making way for e-resources. According to Ani, (2008) as cited in Tsakonas and Papatheodorou (2006) explained that the prolification of electronic information, is perving way from print to electronic media and it has provided new tools and applications for users in information seeking and retrieval.

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, all academic activities the world over including library services were on total lockdown. This posed a serious challenege to users of University of Nigeria Libraries including the academic staff. According to Simmonds, (2001) university or academic libraries are facing so many challenges in providing staff and students varried services to adress their numererous information needs, interest, charcteristics and inspirations.

This work therefore, focuses on academic staff use of Electronic Resources (ER) of University of Nigeria libraries during the covid -19 pandemic lockdown period when staff and students could not reach the library physically. Markets, churches, schools, libraries and other information centers as well as universities in Nigeria were closed down just like in other countries of the world. Similarlly, all the libraries were closed before the lockdown. However, the academic staff and other library patrons were provided opportunity for access to e-resorces of the University of Nigeria libraries such as databases, OPAC, e-books, e-journls etc that are available in Namdi Azikiwe Library and th Enugu Campus library of the university.

An overview of University of Nigeria Libraries

The University of Nigeria, Nsukka, usually called and known as UNN, is one of the two oldest federal universities in Nigeria, located in Nsukka, Enugu state, Nigeria. It was founded in 1955 and formally opened on 7th October 1960 (Okoroma, 2010). The University of Nigeria has three campuses – Nsukka, Enugu and Ituku-Ozalla – located in Enugu state. The University of Nigeria was the first full-fledged indigenous and first autonomous university in Nigeria, modelled to suit the American educational system. It is the first land-grant university in Africa and one of the five elite universities in Nigeria. The university has 17 faculties at Nsukka and 7 faculties at Enugu campus. Additinally, the university has 112 academic departments to its credit. It offers 90 undergraduate programs and 213 postgraduate programs. The university celebrated its 60th anniversary in October, 7th 2020.

Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria Nsukka is the second oldest university library in Nigeria. It was esterblished in 1960 since that time, it has been saving the university community with its reach collections of both print and digital resources and services to support all educational, recreational, social, physical, and research activities in the institution. The library has web OPAC (databases), institutonal repositories, e-journals, e- books/ etc provides

remote access to the universities digital resources/collections to its user community. Its sitting capacity is more than 2000. it has a unique collections that would be of immence interest to academic taff, students, and other patrons. It has largest holdings in sub-saharan African libraries and portals all over the world. It has 4 floors with basement. The basement is a wonderfull home to communication giants in Africa- the MTN e-library housing thousands of journls, e-books, e-journals etc in all the subject areas. Its holdings is about 4000 books and about 550 serial titles/publications. The library has performed very well in the quest to embrace ICT for better service delivery through e-resources and services. The library is one of the 3 leading libraries in Nigeria where TINLIB software was introduceed in the early 90s. Other 2 libraries include:University of Ibadan Libary as well as Amedu Bello University Library Zaria.

Objectives of the study

 The general purpose of this study is to determine academic staff use of Electronic resources (ER) of University of Nigeria libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown

The study will be guided by the following specific objectives to:

1. Determine the purpose of use of ER by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown

2. determine the extent of use of e-resources by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period.

3. Identify the challeneges associated with use of e-resources by academic staff duringthis period

Research Question

The study is guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the purposes of use of ER by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown?
2. What is the extent of use of e-resources by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period?

3. What are the challeneges associated with use of e-resources by academic staff during this period?

Statement of the problem

Electronic resources (e- resource) are critical tools for efective scholarship in university education. Academic Staff having access to the Internet can find huge amounts of information, and also quite a lot of free software for their work. ERs also give great opportunities for distance education. Limited access to e- resources in this pandemic will greatly affect the Academic staff in different ways: finding it difficult to do their research work, like preparation for conferences, finding support course materils etc. It is therefore, a great concern that no study has been carried out into this with a view to determining the academic staff use of electronic resources in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka with view to determining ways of enhancing their use. This motivated the researcher to embark on this research work.

Literature Review

Conceptual Framework

According to Ani and Ahiauzu, (2008) as cited in mole (2017) The intoduction of e-resources is expected to transform information- handling and management in the university library. The Anglo American Catalogue Rule Two (AACR2) sees e-resources as materials that consists of data and/or computer programme(s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer by the use of a periferal device directly or indirectly connected to the computer or via a network (Reitz, 2005). This definition confimed that Electronic Resources are materials in digital format which is accessible electronically. E-resources is an important source of information in university/academic libraries today. It has broadened the information base of university libraries and ensuring ready availability of e-resources. Shuling, (2007) averse that e- resources have steadily become a vital information resource and it has come to stay in university libraries and users take pride on that. The development of e-resources has immensly transformed information access, retrieval and management procedures in the university environment particularlly as it concerns university libraries in this era of covid 19 pandemic.

With the use of e-resource, academic staff, students researchers and other library patrons are now exposed to serveral accesses to e-resources Globally in this pandemic. Deng as cited in Sivakami and Rajendran (2019) gave examples of e-resouces as: electonic journals (e-journals)

e-databases, electronic books (e-books) electronic news papers and archive, others include; e-theses, e-government papers, monogragh, research reports in electronic form as well as conference papers. All these concepts depicts that all these can be used in place of printed information rsources in university libraries in order to give infomation seekers the opportunity to have acces to more convenient, up to date and more reliable information sources to met their varied information needs in this period of covid 19 pandemic.

Academic library is seen as the nerve centre for teaching learning and scholarship. In support of this view, Abubakar (2011) avers that academic or university libraries are the heart or nerve centres of institutions of higher learning where all academic activities revolves. Librarians, libraries and other stakeholders are faced with immense challenges in providing students academic staff and other library users varied information resources to address their diverse information needs , interest, inspirations, characteristics and attitudes as stated by summonds as in (Batot 2020) in the era of covid 19 pandemic.

This work therefore focuses on the Academic staff use of e resources in the University library collections in the era of covid 19 pandemic in Nnamdi Azikiwe library, University of Nigeria Nsukka. It is at a time when it becomes very difficult to make use of the University Library Physically as a result of the covid 19 pandemic. The Emphasis here is on the academic staff use of e-resources at Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the era of covid 19 pandemc. As a result of the present pandemic tertiary institutions, primary and secondary were all closed before the lock down just like in many other countries of the world. Additionally during this era, all libraries and other information centres were asked to close before the lockdown and Nigerian Government declared a curfew between March and April 2020 in all the states. At this juncture, researchers and academic staff has no alternative other than to fall back on the libraries e resources to satisfy their varied information needs. They also access electronic resources (ER) for example the OPAC, databases, e journals, e-books etc that are available in the University library.

Theoritical Framework of the Study

Theoritical phramwork is based on Quadratic Usage. Quadratic usage framework (QUF) is usually recommended in explaining factors that influence the acceptance and usage of a technology (Mardis Hoffman and Marshal, 2008); Mtega, Bernard and Dettu, 2014) In the words of Mardis, Hoffman and Marshall (2008) the usage of any technology is affected by both technical and philosophical factors technical factors includes the existence of the technology and competencies of individual like each faculty member in using the technology. Furthermore, philosophical factors comprises of individuals, cultural and personal values. In this work the usage of online information resources is based on the application of the (internets Technology). Based on this model and the context of the work the technology is the internet and accompanied facilities such as: smart phones, laptops, electricity and computers that make it possible to access online information resources by academic staff, students and other library users. In this work, Competence includes , the factors which affect the individuals skills, (Information Literacy skills) education knowledge and experiences which informs their ability to use the technology to access electronic infromation. In addition, awareness on the existing of e-resources and information literacy on the part of the academics and students is seen to shape their ability to access and use e-resources effectivelly and effciently to solve their information needs at the appropriate time.

Cultural values- Involves institutional policies and organizational settings. For instance an institution that has a policy on information literacy programme is most likely going to enhance r improve the usage of e-resource among faculties and students. Additionally, personal values means the individuals preferences trust, believe, traditions that shapes the once ability attitude and aptitude on whether to use or not to use e-resources. Behavioral changes from using print to versions of scholarly context for e-resources. For example, it requires changes in personal value except those who see e-resources, as a credible infortion whie those without prior knowledge, that are less likely to prefer context from the internet (Thelwall and Harries, 2004; Metzger 2007).
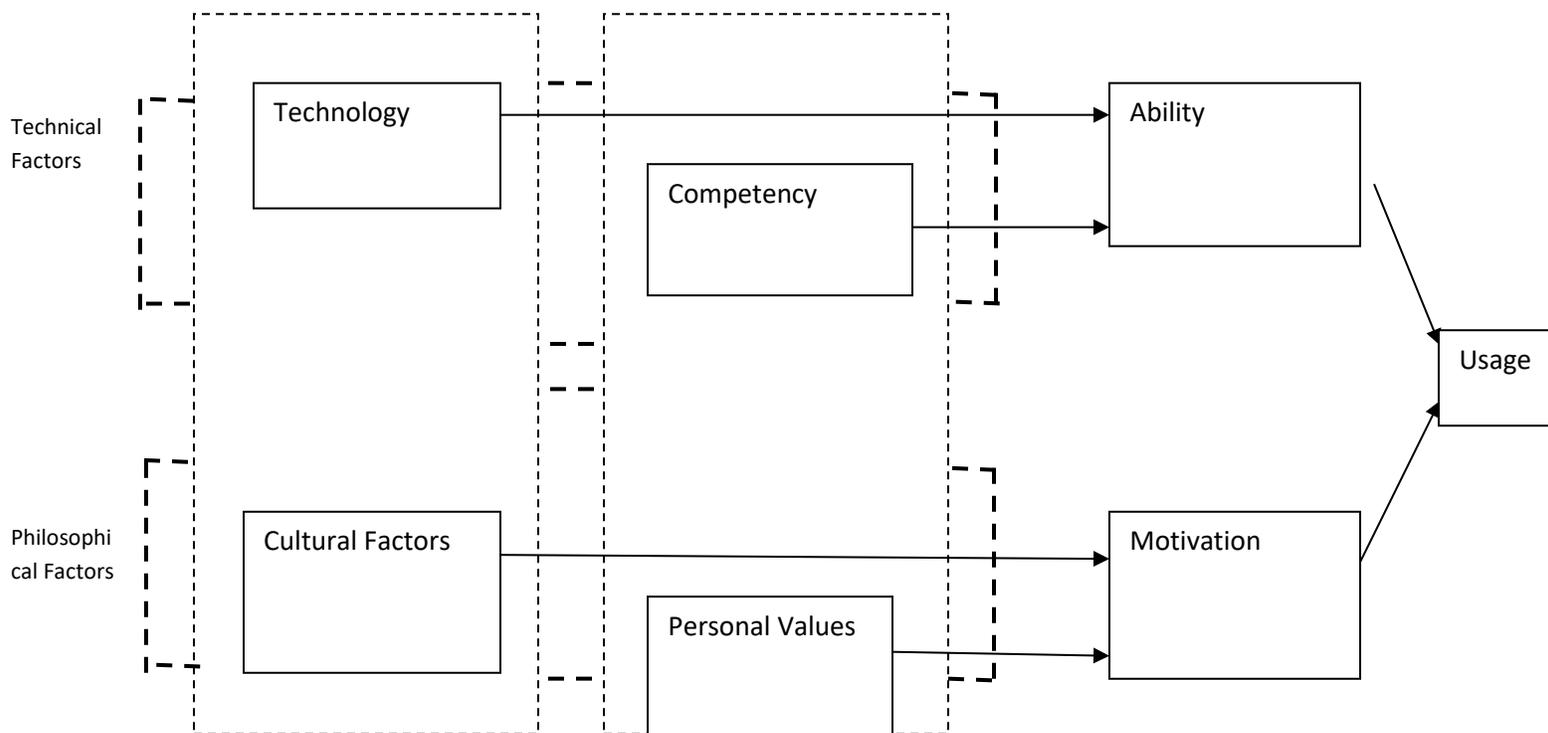
Figure 1: Quadratic Usage Framework (QUF)

(Mardis, Hoffman, and Marshall, 2008: 24

Review of Related Empirical Literature

Korobili et al (2005) carried out a research on the faculty of higher educatonal instittute in Thssalonikito. The work is on the effective use of resources for academic purpose. Most of the faculty used printed sources more than electronic sources, however, the study revealed that they used e-resources (ER) frequently. Particularly in school of Business Administration and Economics among PhD holders and young faculty members.

In the same vein, Boukerzazh (2010) conducted a research on the use of electronic scincentific journals by the faculty at Mantoury University. The work revealed that almost half of the paricipants used electronic journals, 44% of faculty members use journals for writing theses and dissertations while 24.8% use them for research papers. Another reason for using them was related to the university's regulations on faculty publishing research within a particular time frame.The challenges they encountered was lack of required skills, low internet connectivity, suden disconnection of the internet and language problems.

In Uganda, Agada, (2010) investigated the utilization of Makerere University Library resources in a study titled, 'Assessment of the utilization of Makerere university electronic information resources by academic staff: Challenges and prospects''.The study adopted a qualitative and quantitatve research design. The population of the study was 1024 academic staff of Makerere University drawn from the 17 faculties, institutes and schools. Stratified sampling technique was used to select 300 respondents used in the study. Instruments for data collection were questionnaire, interview and document analyses. Data collected were analysed using Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Out of the 300 copies of the questionnaire distributed 157 were dully filled and used for the study. On the availability of computers, 77.7% of the respondents in the affirmative and 97.5% claimed that there was full internet connectivity.The study found that the majority of the respondents were aware of the e-resources available in the library. It also revealed that majority of them utilized these resources for Publication purposes, preparing for conferences and teaching are the major reasons for using the resources. .The study identified the following problems as hindrances to effective utilization of e-resources in Makerere University; inadequacy of existing resources, slow speed of the internet or poor bandwidth, lack of publicity of the available facilities, limited subscription to databases, irrelevant databases and poor user skill. The study recommended increase in the ICT network, provision of adeqate e-resources, increased awareness on the available facilities and intensive user education. The study is a successful one because it achieved its objectives.

The issue of gender attracted the attention of Bassi and Camble (2011) in a study entitled "Gender differences in the use of electronic resources in university libraries of adamawa state Nigeria." A survey approach was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 5269 students in Federal University of Technology Yola, American University of Nigeria, Yola and Adamawa State University, Mubi. A proportionate stratified sampling technique was employed to determine the appropriate sample size of 1053 students. Questionnaire was the only instrument for data collection while the data collected were analysed using frequency count and percentages. A t-test statistics was also used to test the only null hypothesis for the sudy. The results of the test shows that there is a significance difference in the attitude of male and female students towards the use of electronic information resources.

A study of the use of internet by faculty and research scholars at India Gulbarga University was conducted by Parameshwar and Patil (2009). They employed a survey approach

in the study. Simple random sampling technique was also used in the selection of 305 respondents made up of 112 faculty members and 193 research scholars. Questionneire was the instrument for data collection. A total of 214 valid copies of the questionnaire were used for the study while data collected were analyzed using percentages, frequencies and tables. The study revealed that 45.3% used the internet for research purposes while 43% used it for other educational purposes. It also showed that the use of e-journals was very high with 60.8% responses while Google was by far the most preferred search engine with an 80.4% response rate. The study further showed that 44.8% of the respondents were satisfied with the level of internet facilities in the library and their use had also contributed significantly to their publication output. The major problems affecting the respondents use of internet identified by the study were downloading of irrelevant information with response rates of 58.8% and 51.8% respectively as well as lack of user skills. The study suggested recommended improvement that should be in the facilities and extensive user education by the librarians in order to increase the awareness and the immence use of e-resouces .

Similarlly, Khan and Domnic (2009) investigated internet use by faculty members of Engeneering College of Moradabad, India, Using all the 50 faculty members of the college. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. The aim of the study was to find out the frequency of use of the internet by the respondents, location of the services (inside or outside the library), purpose of use, influence on academics research output and problems encountered. The result revealed that 75% of the respondents made frequent use of the internet for research purposes while 20% used it for other reasons other than research while 5% used it frequently for entertainment. It also revealed that 70% used the internet in the college library while 30% use it in their offices and at home. On the influence on their publication output, 50 % of the respondents claimed it has great influence. The following problems were also identified, slow speed, downloading problems, difficulty in finding relevant information, overload of information and privacy.

In the same vein, Hanawi (2018) carried out a study on the faculty of the educational Sciences College at AlQuds Open University to reveal the role ER play in educational publications. The study revealed that most of the participants have the believe that ER has an important role to play in research out put. The study also revealed that faculty members occationally make use of the e- resources that are availabe in the university library.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The total population of the study was 3130 academic staff members in the University payroll before the Lockdown. A sample size of 10% of the population which is 313 was selected for the study using the simple random sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire. The data collected for the study were analyzed using descriptive statististics.The benchmark score for decision on the analysis was the real Limits of numbers. In the words of Nworgu (2015) descriptive survey design is aimed at collecting data on and describing it in a systematic manner, the charateristics, features or facts about a given or an existing condition or event in relation to a population. This also include: conditions or relationships that exists, practices that prevail, belief or point of view or attitudes that are held, processess that are going on, influences that are developing in a descriptive survey, a group of people or items is studied by collecting and analysing data from a few people considered as representative sample of the entire population (Emaikwu 2012). This type of research design is very suitable for this study because the study is aimed at ascertaining the views of the sampled respondents (Which is the academic staff in the University) about the effective use of e-resources in the University Library during Covid 19 Lockdown. The study was conducted between March and June 2020. The academic staff from all the 17 faculties in the Universitywere used. These faculties were chosen bacause their academic staff have been using library e-resources and services for their academic work. The instrument used for the study was questionnaire.

The questionnaire was designed by the use of google form and were sent to the e-mail boxes of academic staff (respondents). The e-mail account were collected from Universities academic staff listing 2020: The secretaries in the various faculties and departments were contacted via their e-mail addressess and they assisted in sending copies of the questionnaire to the academic staff in their departments and Faculties that participated in the study through e-mail. The participants were made to freely participate in completing the questionnaire by clicking on the link in the e-mail which takes them to the survey. This was followed by a reminder. Staff from all the 17 faculties in the University used responded to the questionnaire.

The questionnaire's names were not disclosed and the participants was free to provide their responses. The demographic or personal information were required to identify the staff that completed the form and it will give the picture of category of academic staff that completed the

questionnaire. The secretaries used served as research assistants as they assisted in sending e-mails to the academic staff. Real limits of numbers was used to take decisions on the research questions as follows:

0.50 – 1.49=Strongly Disagree (SD), Not at all (NA);

1.50 – 2.49=Disagree (D), Less Extent (LE);

2.50 – 3.49=Agree (A), High Extent (HE);

3.50 – 4.00= Strongly Agree (SA), Very High Extent (VHE).

RESULTS

Research Question One

What are the purposes of use of ER by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the purposes of use of ER by Academic Staff During the COVID-19 Lockdown.

N = 280

S/N	Purpose of use of ER by Academic Staff during Covid 19 Lockdown	$\bar{X}$	SD	Dec.
1	For publication purposes	2.83	0.53	A
2	For preparation of conferences	2.76	0.57	A
3	For teaching purposes	2.39	0.76	D
4	To update knowledge	2.90	0.89	A
5	For university' regulations on faculty publishing research within a particular time frame	1.90	0.91	D
6	To find support course materials	2.39	1.04	D
7	For writing theses and desertations	2.95	0.77	A
8	For research purposes/writing research papers	2.65	0.93	A
9	For reviewing of other research reports	2.90	0.80	A
10	Search of materials on government policies	2.38	0.81	D
11	Use of Online public access catalogue (OPAC)	2.31	0.75	D
	Cluster Mean	**2.57**	**0.36**	A

The result of the study as presented in Table 1 shows the purposes of use of ER by Academic Staff During the COVID-19 Lockdown. Result shows that majority of the academic staff during the COVID-19 lockdown use ER for: publication purposes ($\bar{x}$ = 2.83, SD = 0.53), preparation of conferences ($\bar{x}$ = 2.76, SD = 0.57), update knowledge ($\bar{x}$ = 2.90, SD = 0.89),

writing theses and desertations ($\bar{x}$ = 2.95, SD = 0.77), research purposes/writing research papers ($\bar{x}$ = 2.65, SD = 0.93) and for reviewing of other research reports ($\bar{x}$ = 2.90, SD = 0.80). However, result also shows that during the lockdown, ER was not used for teaching purposes or for university' regulations on faculty publishing research within a particular time frame or to find support course materials or to search for materials on government policies, this is because the mean ratings were less than 2.50. Since the cluster mean ratings is above 2.50 criterion level, this implies that during the COVID-19 lockdown, most of the academic staff use ER for purely academic purposes.

Research Question Two

What is the extent of use of e-resources by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the extent of use of e-resources by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period

S/N	Extent of use of E-resources during Covid 19 Lockdown	$\bar{X}$	SD	Dec.
1	e journal	2.78	0.61	HE
2	e books	3.17	0.54	HE
3	e databases	2.60	0.49	HE
4	e news paper and Archives	2.55	0.59	HE
5	e theses and desertations	3.10	0.76	HE
6	e magazines	3.15	0.76	HE
7	e -Conference papers	3.13	0.67	HE
8	e - Government papers	2.11	0.79	LE
9	e - Monographs and research reports.	3.05	0.59	HE
10	Use of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)	3.31	0.65	HE
	Cluster Mean	**2.89**	**0.26**	**HE**

The result of the study as presented in Table 2 shows the extent of use of e-resources by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period. Result shows that to a high extent (HE), majority of the academic staff during the COVID-19 lockdown use ER for: e-journal, e books, e databases, e news paper and Archives, e theses and desertations, e magazines, e -Conference papers, e - Monographs and research reports and for Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). This is because the mean ratings are within the range of 2.50 – 3.49 set as criterion for high extent. The cluster mean of 2.89 shows that e-resources were used by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period to a high extent.

Research Question Three

What are the challeneges associated with use of e-resources by academic staff during COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown?

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the challeneges associated with use of e-resources by academic staff during COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown.

S/N	Items	$\bar{X}$	SD	Dec.
1	Low internet connectivity	3.16	0.72	A
2	Lack of Information Literacy skill by Academic staff	3.31	0.63	A
3	Inability to use electronic facilities	2.46	1.00	D
4	Website problem in terms of access and use	2.82	0.57	A
5	Lack of search skills	2.41	1.01	D
6	Absence of Resources that meet ones need	2.10	0.53	D
7	Lack of specialists for assisstance	2.92	0.51	A
8	Frequent power outage	3.10	0.70	A
9	Lack of publicity on the available facilities/E resources	2.51	0.87	A
10	Low bandwidth	3.20	0.75	A
11	Difficulty to find Research Articles/Materials	3.04	0.58	A
12	Difficulty in accessing e-resources	3.12	0.59	A
13	Difficulty in using e-resources	3.08	0.61	A
14	Difficulty in Accessing e-resources off-campus	3.04	0.70	A
15	Unaware of the existence of E–resources in the University Library	2.01	0.68	D
	Cluster Mean	**2.82**	**0.23**	A

The result of the study as presented in Table 3 shows the challeneges associated with use of e-resources by academic staff during COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown. Result shows that during the lockdown, academic staff experience the following challenges, these among others include: Low internet connectivity ($\bar{x}$ = 3.16, SD = 0.72), lack of Information Literacy skill by Academic staff ($\bar{x}$ = 3.31, SD = 0.63), website problem in terms of access and use ($\bar{x}$ = 2.82, SD = 0.57), lack of specialists for assisstance ($\bar{x}$ = 2.92, SD = 0.51) and frequent power outage ($\bar{x}$ = 3.10, SD = 0.70). However, result shows that: inability to use electronic facilities, lack of search skills and absence of resources that meet one's need were not among the challenges encountered by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The cluster mean of 2.82 shows that academic staff experience some challenges during the lockdown.

DISCUSSION

The result of the study with respect to research question 1 which sought to find the purposes of use of ER by Academic Staff During the COVID-19 Lockdown shows that majority of the academic staff during the COVID-19 lockdown use ER for: publication purposes, preparation of conferences, update knowledge, writing theses and desertations among others. Result also shows that during the lockdown, ER was not used for teaching purposes or for university' regulations on faculty publishing research within a particular time frame or to find support course materials or to search for materials on government policies. This implies that during the COVID-19 lockdown, most of the academic staff use ER for purely academic purposes. The researcher also observed that the Academic staff and the Librarians in the University Library obeyed the Government Lock down and stay at home order, therefore using the ER for most of their academic purposes. The finding of this study agrees with the result of Korobili et al (2005) who carried out a research on the effective use of e-resources for academic purpose in faculty of higher educatonal instittute in Thssalonikito and found among others that most of the faculty members used e-resources (ER) more frequently than the printed resources for academic purposes. This is an indication that using e-resources especially during pandemic is more preferable by academic staff than using printed materials.

The result of research question two which is on the extent of use of e-resources by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period shows that to a high extent, majority of the academic staff during the COVID-19 lockdown use ER for various academic and other purpose such as: e-journal, e books, e databases, e news paper and Archives, e theses and desertations, e magazines, e -Conference papers, e - Monographs and research reports and for Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The result of this study is not surprising because while on lockdown, the library made provision for online use of its information resources by all users and the academic staff in particular accessed and made good use of the Electronic resources (ER) during the period of Covid 19 lockdown. The result of the study is in agreement with Agada, (2010) who investigated the utilization of Makerere university electronic information resources by academic staff: Challenges and prospects'' and found among others that majority of the respondents were aware of the e-resources available in the library and therefore use them to a high extent. It also revealed that majority of them utilized these resources for Publication purposes, preparing for conferences and teaching to a high extent. The finding of this study

therefore shows that e-resources were used by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period to a high extent.

The result of research question 3 on the challeneges associated with the use of e-resources by academic staff during COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown shows that during the lockdown, academic staff encountered the following challenges, these among others include: low internet connectivity, lack of information literacy skill by academic staff, website problem in terms of access and use, lack of specialists for assisstance and frequent power outage. However, result shows that: inability to use electronic facilities, lack of search skills and absence of resources that meet one's need were not among the challenges encountered by academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The finding of the study is in line with the result of Agada (2010) who investigated the utilization of Makerere university electronic information resources by academic staff and found among others that the challenges encountered by staff in the course of using ER were; inadequacy of existing resources, slow speed of the internet or poor bandwidth, lack of publicity of the available facilities, limited subscription to databases, irrelevant databases and poor user skill. This implies that the academic staff encounter some challenges as they e-resources for research and other purposes.

IMPLICATION OF THE FINDINGS

1. The result of the study shows that academic staff use ER during the lockdown to a high extent, It implies therefore that library users including Academic staff had the opportunity of using library resources irrespective of distance during the period of the lock down.
2. The finding also shows that majority of the academic staff use ER for purely academic purposes, this implies that Academic staff does not necessarily need to be at the library building to make use of library e-resources

CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the study, it is therefore concluded that the academic staff of universities use ER during the lockdown for academic purpose. It is also concluded that ER was used by academic staff to a high extent. The findings of this study denotes the need for updating the ER in University Libraries based on the information need of the staff. However developing the collection would be insufficient without increasing the awareness of the services and resources that the library offers.

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