

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Winter 3-2021

AWARENESS AND USE OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS BY ACADEMIC STAFF OF SELECTED PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA

Adesina Samson
samsonadesina592@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Samson, Adesina, "AWARENESS AND USE OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS BY ACADEMIC STAFF OF SELECTED PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 5378. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5378>

AWARENESS AND USE OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS BY ACADEMIC STAFF OF SELECTED PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA

Samson A. Akinola
University Library, Cataloguing Section
Joseph Ayo Babalola University
Ikeji Arakeji, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The developments in Information Communication Technology (ICT) have altered the methods through which information for academic enquiry are processed, stored, distributed, retrieved and circulated. This study expounds the outcomes of an investigation on the awareness and use of electronic journal (e-journals) among the teaching staff of 5 selected private universities in South West zone of Nigeria, The study employed a descriptive analysis and the use of questionnaires as the key instruments to obtain information from the respondents. The prime finding of the study discovered that there is a clear-cut correlation linking awareness and use of e-journal among the academic staff of the selected universities, but not statistically important ($p>0.05$). The study advocates for increase in the awareness of e- journals among the academic members via regular workshops, use of bulletins, newssheets, flyers and brochures. The study additionally recommends that the university authorities should expand and maintain subscription to print journal as well.

Keywords: Awareness, Electronic Journals, Private University, Academic Staff

INTRODUCTION

In the time past, the universities mandates of teaching, learning and research were occupied by the use of hard print resources like textbooks among others as the primary sources of information which were housed and administered in the library. According to the view of Ndinoshisho (2010) advances in information communication and technology has transformed the mode by which information for academic research is obtained and distributed. Kling (2003) in a survey posits that academics extremely value journals and majority of them preferred electronic journals over print. In acceptance to this, Msagati (2014) recapitulated concisely that in the field of higher education, electronic journals have turned into essential tools for research, teaching and learning as they offer access to timely, high quality and scientific information to academics and researchers which enable them to keep abreast with new discoveries and developments. It is in this observation that this current study assesses the awareness and use of e – journals, sketching on the substantiation from academic staff in 5 privately owned universities in Nigeria.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The development of e- journal according to Lancaster (1995) started in the 1960s and at present it has been identified and used as significant academic tools available on the internet. The subsequently problem however is, to what level has this technological development of electronic journal been adapted, incorporated and used among academic staff in universities. It is this background that obliged this research to assess the awareness and use of e- journals among the academic teaching staff in Nigeria universities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In the main, the study seeks out to investigate the degree to which the academic staff in Nigerian universities are aware and use electronic journals for their teaching and research assignments.

The explicit objectives are to:

- a. To ascertain the level of the awareness of e – journal among the academic staff members of the selected universities under study.
- b. To assess the effects of the use of e- journal on their teaching and research work
- c. To unearth the relationship between awareness and use of e-journals among the selected group

- d. To establish the connotation between awareness and perceived use of electronic journals among the selected population of the study.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- a. What is the degree of awareness of e – journals among the academic staff of the 5 selected universities?
- b. What are the effects of e- journal on teaching and research among the academic staff of the universities?
- c. What are the relationships between awareness and perceived use of e-journals among the academic staff of the universities?
- d. What is the connotation between awareness and perceived use of e- journals among the academic staff of the selected universities?

HYPOTHESIS

H₁ there is no effect of e- journal on teaching and research among academic staff of the selected university

H₂ there is no relationship between awareness and use of e-journals among the academic staff of the selected universities

H₃ there is no connotation between awareness and perceived use of electronic journals among academic staff of the selected universities

LITERATURE REVIEW

Electronic journal is one of the largely and often exploited electronic resources. Users of the e-resources have varied views as well as feelings of what electronic journals are. According to Chan (1999) the term is often referred to as electronic publishing, electronic serials, online journals or electronic periodicals. Electronic journals play a significant part in any academician's scholarly work and are the most preferential tools of scholarship apart from books. Tenopir et al (2003) described the trend of electronic journals as ‘ evolutionary process’ as there has been a

gradual increase in the use of electronic journals. He further posited that e – journals have become an important information format as they are published, distributed and accessed electronically. In a study undertaken by Tenopir (2003), he analysed the results of over 200 studies of the use of electronic resources in libraries published between 1995 and 2000. The findings of the study revealed that electronic journals have been rapidly adopted in academic spheres, though the behaviour varies according to the discipline. In a similar research conducted by Naughan (2003) at the Duke University Chemistry library between 1991 and 2001 showed the use of print journals by academic researchers was very low as compared to electronic journals. Faizul and Naushed (2013) in their research revealed that most of the users are aware of electronic journals and are not only using them for building and updating their knowledge but also for collecting relevant materials for their study and research purpose. Other studies conducted by Gardner et al (2008) and Olle and Borrego (2010) revealed that the quality of circulation and the ability to support teaching and research have been improved tremendously as a result of the use of electronic journal as well as an appreciation of 75% of survey respondents stating they consult and read more journal articles than they did in the past. It is of no doubt that the rise in the popularity of use of electronic journals among academics can be attributed to the perceived advantages in its usage. Stressing on the essential benefit of electronic journals, Linda (1999) and Wiles (1998) posits that “It will no longer be necessary for users to browse through the paper journal contents page hoping to find an article of interest. Instead users will be able to register their areas of interest and the electronic publishing system will deliver articles which match those requirements to the readers desktop”. However, a research conducted by Baro et al (2011) at the Delta State University, revealed that electronic scholarly journal databases were underutilized. The users in the study cited the lack of awareness of the existing resources as the primary constraint they had. Similarly, Ajegbomogun (2007) posits that, while electronic journals have become essential tools for learning, teaching and research, most of the scholars and researchers are not fully utilising them. Okolo and Magara (2008) posit that the major obstacle to the under utilisation in the use of electronic journals in higher learning institutions was the lack of awareness about the resources. In the study by Oyedapo and Ojo (2013) on the use of electronic resources in Obafemi Awolowo University. They observed very low usage of electronic resources. They outlined that the major reason that contributed to low use of electronic resources was limited searching skills. Other factors according to Manda (2015) included lack of

accessibility to computers connected to internet, low internet bandwidth and epileptic power supply.

Journals play a key share in scholarship work and one of the most preferential academic instrument aside books. A survey carried out by Kling (2003) showed that 85% of academicians fancied e-journal over print and also shows how this fondness is transformed into reading patterns. Ansari and Zuberi (2010) studied the use of electronic resources among academics at the University of Karachi, Pakistan. Approximately one-third of 70 respondents use electronic resources for research. One-quarter to one third use it to prepare lectures and gain subject knowledge. The 90% of academic staff believe electronic resources are reliable, however many of the respondents think that only those electronic resources produced by authentic organization and publisher are reliable. In the survey done by Kling (2003), scholars highly value electronic journals and most scholars preferred electronic journals to print mostly for the following reasons: e-journals saves time, makes work easier, result in better quality research, and enables the scholar to find more materials. One of the main key point in Kling's study (2003) is that the ease of accessibility and the wide range of e-journal on the internet; literally being able to access a plethora range of journals from as many field as possible, highly promotes the usage of e-journal amongst scholars.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive survey with the use of questionnaire as the core instrument to draw data and information. The convenience sampling method was employed to sample the responses of the participants in the study. This consisted of 502 participants drawn from 5 selected private universities in the South West zone of Nigeria; Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Adeleke University, Redeemer University, Elizade University and Bowen University. A 10 –point questionnaire consisting of open and closed ended questions were administered to gather information from the partakers. Out of 502 questionnaires distributed, 402 were completed and retrieved. This represented 80% of the sample size and valid for analysis. The study was carried out during the second semester of 2018/2019. The use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16.0 was utilized to analyze the data obtained

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Biographical Data

Table 1: Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	342	85.1%
Female	60	14.9%
Total	402	100%

Source: Survey Data, September, 2019

From Table1, out of total respondents of 402 obtained for the study, 342 (85.1%) were male while 60(14.9%) were female. This indicates that most of the respondents were male.

Table 2: Title/ Rank of Respondents

Title	Frequency	Percentage
Professor	-	-
Associate Professor	2	0.5%
Senior lecturer	30	7.5%
Lecturer Grade I & II	370	92.0%
Total	402	100%

Source: Survey Data, September, 2019

From Table 2, out of the total respondents of 402, obtained for the study, 2(0.5%) were associate professor,30 (7.5%) were senior lecturers and 370 (92.0%) were lecturers I & II. This shows that, most of the respondents are lecturers Grade I & II.

Table 3: Status of Employment of Respondents

Types of employment	Frequency	Percentage
Permanent	390	97%
Part time	10	2.5%
Sabbatical	2	0.5%
Total	402	100%

Source: Survey Data, September, 2019

From Table 3, out of the total respondents of 402 obtained for the study, 390 (97%) were permanent staff, 10 (2.5%) were part time staff, while only 2 (0.5%) were on sabbatical employment. This denotes that, most of the respondents are permanent staff of their respective universities.

Table 4: Length of Employment of Respondents

Length of Employment	Frequency	Percentage
Between 1-4years	130	32.3%
5-9years	180	44.8%
10-14years	82	20.4%
15-18years	10	2.5%
Total	402	100%

Source: Survey Data, September, 2019

From Table 4, out of the total respondents of 402 obtained for the study, 130 (32.3%) have worked in their respective university between 1-4years, 180 (44.8%) have worked for between 6-9years, 82 (20.4%) have been on the job for between 10 -14years while 10 (2.5%) have worked for between 15-18years. This implies that, most of the respondents have served for a substantial number of years in their separate universities.

Table 5: Awareness level of e- journals of Respondents

Awareness Level	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	330	82%
No	72	18%
Total	402	100%

Source: Survey Data, September, 2019

From Table 5, out of the total respondents of 402 obtained for the study, 330 (82%) were aware of e-journals in their universities, whereas 72 (18%) were not aware of the existence of e-journals in their institutions. This implied that, majority of the respondents were aware of the existence of e-journal in their respective universities. This study therefore agrees with that of Ali (2005) whose research in Indian Institute of Technology on the use of electronic information services (EIS) revealed that 95% of the users are aware of EIS provided by the library.

Testing of hypothesis

Relationship between awareness and use of e-journals

Table 6: Relationship between awareness and use of e-journals

	Chi – Square	Correlation	Df	Sig.
Pearson	1.02	0.89	6	.065

Source: Field Work (September 2019)

Although, a strong positive correlation (.89) was found between awareness and use, it was not statistically significant ($P > 0.05$).

Effects of e- journal on teaching and research

Table 7: Effects of e- journal on teaching and research

	Chi – Square	Correlation	Df	Sig.
Pearson	1.08	0.91	3	0.00

Source: Field Work (September 2019)

A strong positive correlation (.91) was found between e- journal on teaching and research, it was statistically significant ($P > 0.05$). The findings on the effects of e – journal on teaching and research reflect the results of Rowland’s (2007) and Eason et al (2000) whose works showed that electronic journals have significant effects on researches and academics

Relationship between awareness and perceived use of e-journals

Table 8: Relationship between awareness and perceived use of e-journals

		Awareness	Perceived use
Awareness	Pearson Correlation	1	0.13(**).
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	0.001
	402	402	402
Perceived use	Pearson Correlation	0.13(**).	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001	.
	402	402	402

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

(Source: Survey Data, September 2019)

In Table 8, the correlation coefficient between awareness and perceived use is 0.013 which is significant at 1%. The results indicate significant positive relationship between awareness and perceived use therefore the null hypothesis is rejected.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results of the research outcome it is evidence that majority of the academic staff are aware of the existence of e-journal in the university. However, the hypothesis test on the relationship between awareness and use of e-journals, discloses a strong positive correlation (.89) but statistically insignificant ($P>0.05$). This predestined that, being aware of the availability of e-journals in the institution does not mean that the academic staff members make use of them. Again, testing the hypothesis on effect of e- journal on teaching and research established a strong affirmative correlation (.91) was found between e- journal on teaching and research, which was statistically significant ($P>0.05$). This destined that the use of the e-journal by the academic staff contributes 91% to research and teaching in the university. Besides, there was a correlation between awareness and perceived use at 0.013 which is significant at 1%. Grounded on the findings, the study recommends the following as a way of increasing the awareness and use of e – journals among teaching staff in universities

There is a necessity for university libraries to consistently carry out exclusive publicity to the university community of the existence, availability and use of e – journals. Such alertness and backing can be heightened through regular information literacy programme and regular workshops to encourage the use of e – journals. Also, approaches like the use of newsletters, posters, flyers and brochures can be positioned extensively in the university offices and also during exhibitions, conferences and other academic circuses. Frequent capacity building workshops should be organised for users on how to access electronic journals effectively. Apart from the above, the university authorities should expand and maintain subscription to print journal subscription.

REFERENCES

- Ajebomogun, F. (2007). Impediments to harnessing scholarly electronic Journals on the internet in developing countries: A Nigerian case study. *Library hi tech*, 24 (6), 27 -32.
- Ali, N. (2005). The use of electronic resources at IIT Delhi Library: A study of search behaviour. *The electronic library*, 23 (6), 691 – 700.
- Borrego, A. et al. (2007). Use and users of electronic journals at Catalan universities: The results of a survey. *Journal of academic librarianship*, 33 (1), 67 – 75.
- Chan, L. (1999). Electronic journals and academic libraries. *Library hi tech*, 17 (1), 10 – 16.

- Eason, K., Yu, L., and Harker, S. (2000). The use and usefulness of functions in electronic journals: experience of super journal projec. *program*, 34, 1 -28.
- Faizal, N., and Naushad Ali, P.M. (2013). Awareness and use of electronic journals by IIT Delhi and Delhi University library users. *Collection building*, 32 (2), 57 – 64.
- Gardner, S. J. (2008). An analysis of academic libraries web pages for faculty. *Journal of academic librarianship*, 34 (1) , 16- 24.
- Gardner, S.J., Juricek, J.C., and Xu, F.G. (2008). An analysis of academic libraries web pages for faculty. *Journal of academic librarianship.*, 34 (1), 16- 24.
- Kindilchie, A.I., and Samarraie, I.F. (2008). Interaction and impact on electronic information resources on Qatar University faculty. *Libri: International journal of libraries and information services*, 58 (4), 281 – 293.
- Kling, R. and E. Callahan. (2003). Electronic journals, the internet, and scholarly communication. *Annual Review of Information Science and Technolog.*
- Kling, R. and McKim. G. (1999). Scholarly communications and the continuum of electronic publishing. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science.*, 50, No. 10, 890-906.
- Kling, R., Covi, L. (1999). What is Social Informatics and Why does it Matter? *D-Lib Magazine*, Vol. 5, No. 1. Kling, R. and E. Callahan. 2003. *Electronic journals, the internet, and scholarly communication. Annual Review of Information Science and Technolog*, 5, No. 1.
- Lancaster, F. (1995). The evolution of electronic publishing. *Library trends.*, 43 (4).
- Ndinoshiho, H. (2010). The use of electronic information services by undergraduate nursing students at the University of Namibia’s Northern Campus: A descriptive study. *Information development.*, 26 (1), 57 – 65.
- Okello – Obura, C., and Magara, E. (2008). Electronic information access and utilisation by Makerere students in Uganda. *Evidence based library and information practice.*, 3 (3), 39 – 56.
- Olle, C., and Borrego, A. (2010). A qualitative study of the impact of electronic journals on scholarly information behaviour. *Library and information science research.*, 32 (3), 221 – 228.
- Rowlands, I. (2007). Electronic journals and user behaviour: A review of recent research. *Library and information science research*, 29, 369 -396.
- Tahir, M., Mohamood, K., and Shafique, F. (2010). Use of electronic information resources and facilities by humanities scholars. *The electronic library*, 28 (1), 122 – 136.
- Tenopir, C. (2003). *Use and users of electronic library resources: an overview and analysis of recent research studies*. Washington: Council of library and information resources.