

Availability, Accessibility and Utilization of E-Resources by Senior Academics in Mautech, Yola

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Abstract

Senior academics in universities need various kinds of information resources for teaching and undertaking high profile research. The aim of this study was to examine availability, accessibility and utilization of e-resources by senior academics in MAUTech, Yola. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The study was guided by 5 research objectives. The population of the study consists of all the 172 Professors, Associate Professors and Senior Lecturers in Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola. The entire population was used for the study. Questionnaires were used to solicit data for the study. A total of 144 questionnaires were filled and duly returned, this indicates 84% response rate. The collected data in this research was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Findings of the study include unavailability, poor accessibility of some major E-Resources and unavailability of internet infrastructure among others. Recommendations were also made.

Keywords: Availability; Accessibility; Utilization; Electronic Resources; Senior Academics; MAUTech.

Introduction

The electronic resources available in a library play a prominent role in facilitating access to the required information to users in an expedient manner. Electronic resources are one of the emerging environments in libraries and information communication in the competitive service. E-resources usually consist of e-books, e-journals, e-articles, e-newspapers, e-thesis, e-dissertation, databases, CD-ROMs, e-map, e-mail, e-magazines etc., which are likely to be the alternative to the print media. In academia, electronic resources are dominating the research activities of researchers; researchers have realized the importance of

such resources (Hadagali, Kumbar, Nelogal and Bachalapur, 2012). Electronic resources provide accurate and timely information, especially for students who depend greatly on the electronic resources for information to advance research and collaboration with other researchers around the world for intellectual growth (Ukpebor, 2012)³.

The term electronic resources is seen by Sharma (2009)⁴ as library's information materials that are in electronic form which include electronic books (e-books); electronic newspapers (e-newspapers); electronic journals (ejournals) as well as Internet resources. E-resources also consist of databases, magazines, archives, theses, conference papers, government papers, scripts and monographs in an



electronic form (Deng, 2010)⁶. MEDLINE, Science Direct, AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture), HINARI, OARE (Online Access to Research in the Environment), LexisNexis, Ebscohost were mentioned as examples of databases (Ani and Edem, 2012)⁵.

The importance of electronic resources to students and academic libraries cannot be over emphasized. They offer postgraduate students the chance to access relevant and current information from different subject areas. The emergence of electronic resources, according to Ani and Edem (2012)⁵, has tremendously transformed the handling and management of information in Nigerian academic environments and university libraries in particular.

Availability at any time of the day; hyperlinks to other resources; huge information reservoirs; quick information; various search options; easy citations; ease in uploading and updating; ease in storage and dissemination; flexibility; time, space and cost are not major hurdles; ease of archiving are also importance of information resources as noted by Tekale and Dalve (2012)⁷. Also, electronic resources reduce pressure on academic libraries for physical storage space for books and journals and provide unlimited access to users.

The National Universities Commission (NUC), a government agency in Nigeria, subscribed to a number of international and local journals and made them accessible in Nigerian Universities through its URL link (www.nigerianvirtuallibrary.com) on the internet. Also, NUC, NULIB (Nigerian University Libraries Consortium) and eifl.net (Electronic Information for Libraries Network) are partnering to provide electronic resources towards teaching, learning and research in Nigerian Universities (Okiki, 2012)⁹. National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), according to Egbe (2014)¹, is developing ICT in Nigerian tertiary institutions through the National Virtual Library Project by setting up virtual libraries and donation of computers and/or internet facilities.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Determine the types of electronic resources available for Senior Academics in ModibboAdama University of technology, Yola.
2. Determine the level of accessibility of electronic resources for Senior Academics in ModibboAdama University of technology, Yola.

3. Find out the challenges in accessing the Electronic Resources by Senior Academics in ModibboAdama University of technology, Yola.
4. Determine the extent of use of the electronic resources by Senior Academics in ModibboAdama University of technology, Yola.
5. Determine the challenges faced by Senior Academics in using the electronic resource in ModibboAdama University of Technology, Yola.

Methodology

Survey research design was used in this study. The population of the study is 172 consisting of all Professors, Associate Professors and Senior Lecturers in ModibboAdama University of Technology, Yola. Questionnaire was used as tool for data collection. The collected data in this research was analyzed using descriptive statistics (Percentage, score, frequencies and tables).

Data Presentation, Analysis And Discussion

Response Rate

A total of 144 questionnaires were filled and duly returned. Thereby, representing 84% response rate, this was considered acceptable.

Data analysis

Types of E-resources Available for Senior Academics in ModibboAdama University of Technology, Yola

In order to determine the types of e-resources available for the senior academics in MAUTech, Yola, 22 different types of the e-resources were provided for them to indicate their availability. Their responses are presented in Table 1 below:

From the findings above, it is apparently clear that more than 50% of the senior academics in MAUTech testified to the availability of Encyclopedia Britannica (online), Webster's Encyclopedia (online), Newspaper directory, Data/GIS, Subject Guides, E-Journals, E-Books, E-News, E-Maps, E-Magazine and E-Research Reports while less than 10% indicated the availability of Roget's International Thesaurus (online), Academic

Commons and Information Gateway.

Accessibility of E-resources by Senior Academics in Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola

In order to determine the accessibility of e-resources by senior academics in MAUTECH, Yola, 22 different types of the e-resources were provided for them to indicate their accessibility. Their responses are presented in Table 2 below:

Table 1: Types of E-Resources Available for senior academics in MAUTECH, Yola

| S/n | E-Resources | Available | | Not Available | | Rmk |
|-----|--|-----------|------|---------------|------|-----|
| | | F | % | F | % | |
| 1 | Encyclopedia Britannica (online) | 89 | 61.8 | 55 | 38.2 | A |
| 2 | Roget's International Thesaurus (online) | 05 | 3.5 | 139 | 96.6 | NA |
| 3 | Webster's Encyclopedia (online) | 75 | 52.1 | 69 | 47.9 | NA |
| 4 | Online Almanacs | 56 | 38.9 | 88 | 61.1 | NA |
| 5 | Newspaper directory | 105 | 72.9 | 39 | 27.1 | A |
| 6 | Data/GIS | 92 | 63.9 | 52 | 36.1 | A |
| 7 | Academic Commons | 10 | 6.9 | 134 | 93.1 | NA |
| 8 | Subject Guides | 77 | 53.5 | 67 | 46.6 | A |
| 9 | Information Gateway | 12 | 8.3 | 132 | 91.7 | NA |
| 10 | E-Journal | 122 | 84.8 | 22 | 15.3 | A |
| 11 | E-Books | 111 | 77.0 | 33 | 22.9 | A |
| 12 | E-News | 140 | 97.2 | 04 | 2.8 | A |
| 13 | E-Image | 30 | 20.8 | 114 | 79.2 | NA |
| 14 | E-Music & Sound Collection | 15 | 10.4 | 129 | 89.6 | NA |
| 15 | E-Commerce | 42 | 29.2 | 102 | 70.9 | NA |
| 16 | E-Data Archives | 57 | 39.5 | 87 | 60.4 | NA |
| 17 | E-Manuscripts | 18 | 12.5 | 126 | 87.5 | NA |
| 18 | E-Maps | 92 | 63.9 | 52 | 36.1 | A |
| 19 | E-Magazine | 80 | 55.6 | 64 | 44.4 | A |
| 20 | E-Thesis | 65 | 45.1 | 79 | 54.8 | NA |
| 21 | E-Research Reports | 83 | 57.7 | 61 | 42.3 | A |
| 22 | E-Bibliographic Database | 46 | 31.9 | 98 | 68.0 | NA |

Key: A - Available, NA - Not Available, Rmk - Remark

Table 2: Accessibility of E-Resources by Senior Academics in MAUTECH, Yola

| S/n | E-resource | Accessible | | Not Accessible | | Rmk |
|-----|--|------------|------|----------------|------|-----|
| | | Fx | % | Fx | % | |
| 1. | Encyclopedia Britannica (online) | 80 | 55.5 | 64 | 44.4 | A |
| 2. | Roget's International Thesaurus (online) | 00 | 0.0 | 144 | 100 | NA |
| 3. | Webster's Encyclopedia (online) | 79 | 54.8 | 65 | 45.1 | A |
| 4. | Online Almanacs | 49 | 34.0 | 95 | 65.9 | NA |
| 5. | Newspaper directory | 120 | 83.3 | 24 | 16.7 | A |
| 6. | Data/GIS | 87 | 60.4 | 57 | 39.6 | A |
| 7. | Academic Commons | 03 | 2.0 | 141 | 97.9 | NA |
| 8. | Subject Guides | 74 | 51.3 | 70 | 48.7 | A |
| 9. | Information Gateway | 08 | 5.5 | 136 | 94.4 | NA |
| 10. | E-Journal | 137 | 95.1 | 07 | 4.9 | A |
| 11. | E-Books | 104 | 72.2 | 43 | 29.9 | A |
| 12. | E-News | 125 | 86.8 | 19 | 13.2 | A |
| 13. | E-Image | 07 | 4.8 | 137 | 95.1 | NA |
| 14. | E-music & Sound Collection | 10 | 6.9 | 134 | 93.0 | NA |
| 15. | E-Commerce | 11 | 7.6 | 133 | 92.3 | NA |
| 16. | E-Data Archives | 30 | 20.8 | 114 | 79.2 | NA |
| 17. | E-Manuscripts | 09 | 6.2 | 135 | 93.8 | NA |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|------|-----|------|----|
| 18. | E-Maps | 85 | 59.0 | 59 | 40.9 | A |
| 19. | E-Magazine | 69 | 47.9 | 75 | 52.1 | NA |
| 20. | E-Thesis | 37 | 25.6 | 107 | 74.3 | NA |
| 21. | E-Research Reports | 89 | 61.8 | 55 | 38.2 | A |
| 22. | E-Bibliographic Database | 38 | 26.3 | 106 | 73.6 | NA |

Key: A – Available, NA – Not Available, Rmk – Remark

Table 3: Challenges in Accessing E-Resources by Professors in MAUTECH, Yola

| S/n | Accessibility | Yes | | No | | Rmk |
|-----|--|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| | | Fx | % | Fx | % | |
| 1. | Unavailable/poor internet facilities at offices | 29 | 20.1 | 115 | 79.9 | DA |
| 2. | Unavailable/poor internet facilities at home | 80 | 55.6 | 64 | 44.4 | A |
| 3. | Generally unavailable/poor internet network services | 89 | 61.9 | 55 | 38.2 | A |
| 4. | Unstable power supply | 76 | 52.8 | 68 | 47.2 | A |
| 5. | Lack of Time | 70 | 48.7 | 74 | 51.4 | DA |

Key: A – Agree, DA – Disagree, Rmk – Remark

Based on the analysis presented in table 2 above, out of the 22 E-Resources, only 10 are relatively accessible with a frequency count of above 50%, these 10 E-Resources include; Encyclopedia Britannica (online), Webster's Encyclopedia (online), Newspaper directory, Data/GIS, Subject Guides, E-Journals, E-Books, E-News, E-Maps and E-Research Reports. While, Roget's International Thesaurus (online), Academic Commons, Information Gateway, E-Image, E-music & Sound Collection, E-Data Archives and E-Manuscripts were the poorly accessible E-Resources with frequency count of less than 10%. Though, the some E-Resources are available for use by senior academics in MAUTEch, poor available of some vital E-Resources is a source of concern considering their impotence.

Challenges in Accessing E-resources Available for Senior Academics in ModibboAdama University of Technology, Yola

In order to determine the challenges in accessing e-resources by senior academics in MAUTECH, Yola, 5 different challenges were provided. Their responses are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 above have shown that there is severe problem of Generally unavailable/poor internet network services in MAUTEch, other problems posing serious challenge to E-Resources in the university are Unavailable/poor internet facilities at home, Unstable power supply and Lack of Time. This has revealed the numerous challenges faced by African academics while getting access to E-Resources for global competitiveness.

Utilization of E-Resources by Senior Academics in ModibboAdama University of Technology, Yola

In order to determine the utilization of e-resources by senior academics in MAUTECH, Yola, 22 different types of the e-resources were provided for them to indicate their utilization for each of the listed e-resources. Their responses are presented in Table 4 below:

Examination of the table 4 above have shown that Newspaper directory, E-Journal, E-Books and E-News are the most used utilized E-Resources by the senior academics in MAUTEch because more 50% of the respondents have shown that they used these resources. Furthermore, more than 50% of the respondents indicated that that they never used

Table 4: Utilization of E-Resources by Senior Academics in MAUTECH, Yola

| S/N | E-Resources | Level of Utilization | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| | | High Fx (%) | Moderate Fx (%) | Low Fx (%) | Never Fx (%) |
| 1. | E-Encyclopedia Britannica | 50 (34.7) | 30 (20.9) | 14 (9.8) | 50 (34.7) |
| 2. | E- Roget's Int. Thesaurus | 00 (0) | 00 (0) | 00 (0) | 144 (100) |
| 3. | E-Webster's Encyclopedia | 37 (25.7) | 42 (29.2) | 14 (9.8) | 51 (35.4) |
| 4. | Online Almanacs | 29 (20.1) | 20 (13.9) | 32 (22.2) | 63 (43.8) |
| 5. | Newspaper directory | 96 (66.6) | 24 (16.7) | 24 (16.6) | 00 (0) |

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 6. | Data/GIS | 50 (34.8) | 37 (52.7) | 40 (27.8) | 17 (11.9) |
| 7. | Academic Commons | 00 (0) | 03 (2.1) | 41 (28.5) | 100 (69.4) |
| 8. | Subject Guides | 54 (37.5) | 20 (13.9) | 67 (46.5) | 03 (2.1) |
| 9. | Information Gateway | 00 (0) | 08 (5.6) | 136 (94.4) | 37 (25.7) |
| 10. | E-Journal | 117 (81.3) | 20 (13.9) | 07 (1.9) | 00 (0) |
| 11. | E-Books | 90 (62.5) | 14 (9.8) | 40 (27.8) | 03 (2.1) |
| 12. | E-News | 120 (34.8) | 05 (3.5) | 17 (11.8) | 02 (1.4) |
| 13. | E-Images | 00 (0) | 07 (4.9) | 37 (25.7) | 100 (69.5) |
| 14. | E-Music & Sound Collection | 00 (0) | 08 (5.6) | 34 (23.7) | 102 (70.9) |
| 15. | E-Commerce | 02 (1.4) | 09 (6.3) | 13 (9.0) | 120 (83.3) |
| 16. | E-Data Archives | 00 (0) | 30 (20.9) | 62 (43.1) | 52 (36.1) |
| 17. | E-Manuscripts | 01(0.7) | 08 (5.6) | 35 (24.3) | 100 (69.4) |
| 18. | E-Maps | 10 (6.9) | 75 (52.1) | 39 (27.1) | 20 (13.9) |
| 19. | E-Magazines | 09 (34.8) | 60 (41.7) | 15 (10.4) | 60 (41.7) |
| 20. | E-Thesis | 10 (6.9) | 27 (18.8) | 07 (4.9) | 100 (69.4) |
| 21. | E-Research Reports | 49 (34.0) | 40 (27.8) | 50 (34.7) | 05 (3.5) |
| 22. | E-Bibliographic Database | 02 (1.4) | 36 (25.0) | 19 (13.2) | 87 (60.4) |

Key: H -High, M - Medium, L - Low, N - Never

Table 5: Challenges Facing Senior Academics in Utilizing E-Resources in MAUTECH, Yola

| S/n | Factors | Yes | | No | | Rmk |
|-----|---|-----|------|----|------|-----|
| | | Fx | % | Fx | % | |
| 1. | Non-subscription | 120 | 83.3 | 24 | 16.7 | A |
| 2. | Lack of awareness of available e-resources in the library | 101 | 70.1 | 43 | 29.9 | A |
| 3. | Lack of university self-designed e-library application | 130 | 90.3 | 14 | 9.8 | A |
| 4. | Volatility of coverage of the e-resources | 69 | 47.9 | 75 | 52.1 | DA |
| 5. | Unreliable nature of e-resources | 70 | 48.7 | 74 | 51.4 | DA |

Key: A - Agree, DA - Disagree, Rmk - Remark

E- Roget's Int. Thesaurus, Academic Commons, E-Images, E-Music & Sound Collection, E-Thesis, E-Manuscripts and E-Commerce.

Challenges Facing Senior Academics in Utilizing E-resources in Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola

In order to determine the challenges facing senior academics in utilizing e-resources in in MAUTECH, Yola, 5 different challenges were provided for the professors. Their responses are presented in Table 5.

Table 5 is aimed at ascertaining the challenges faced by the academics in accessing and utilizing E-Resources by senior academics in MAUTEch. From the analysis, it is clear that Non-subscription, Lack of awareness of available e-resources in the library and Lack of university self-designed e-library application are the major challenges faced by the senior academics in MAUTEch.

Conclusion

Availability, Access and utilization of information is vital for successful and efficient research at universities. Electronic resources are providing new platforms for information to aid in research conducted by academic staff. Apparently, the university libraries in developing countries such as Nigeria are working hard to overcome the challenges of availability, access and utilization of information resources. The study concluded that there is unavailability, poor access and inadequate utilization of many vital E-Resources by senior academic in MAUTEch, these challenges incapacitate the quality of their research productivity compared to the counterparts across globe.

Recommendations

In view of the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made to improve on the availability access and utilization of electronic resources by senior academics in MAUTEch:

1. Adequate budgetary allocation should be given to the University Library for subscription to major E-Databases and acquisition of relevant electronic information resources in MAUTech.
2. Internet infrastructures on campus should be improved; this should include access to uninterrupted internet service in office and the university library to facilitate access to E-Resources.
3. Train/retrain librarians on frequent basis to equip them ability to enlighten and educate users on the technicalities of E- Resources and appropriate user education should be organise for senior academics in MAUTech for better use of electronic resources in the University Library and beyond.

Lastly, based on the findings of the study, effective development of digital libraries in MAUTech would ameliorate the problems of availability, accessibility and utilization of electronic resources by the senior academics in the university.

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