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MANAGEMENT AND USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN SELECTED NIGERIAN LIBRARIES IN IBADAN, OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated the management and use of electronic resources in selected Nigerian libraries. Two academic and two research institute libraries were selected for the study. A descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. The instruments used for data collection were questionnaire and interview. While 450 copies of questionnaire were distributed among the respondents, 417 were retrieved and found usable. Frequency counts and simple percentages were used to analyse the data collected to give a response rate of 92.6 %.Some of the major findings of the study revealed that most library users in IITA (86.4%) make use of e-resources more often compared to users in other institutions (Lead City 44.7%, FRIN 42.4% and U.I. 28.2%). Moreover, availability of e-resources varies across the institutions. In IITA, the e-resources were better organized and readily available to users compared to other institutions that were still restricting users' access to some e-resources either due to inadequate equipment or unskilled personnel. Recommendations were made to promote effective management and use of e-resources such as proper funding and utilization of funds, training and re-training of both managers and users of e-resources, consideration of users' suggestions in acquiring e-resources, and collaboration amongst libraries.

Keywords: Management, Use of electronic resources, Electronic resources, Nigerian Libraries

Introduction

The advent of Internet has made it possible for individuals, researchers, private and corporate organizations, academics and industrialists to rapidly and efficiently share information, results and also to advertise their products and services to millions of potential customers. Libraries and librarians are not left out in this fast growing need for the use of

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modern information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the provision of library services and in the management of its resources. "In Nigeria and indeed the whole Africa and the third world countries, the talk about automation of library services is now commonplace. Also the benefits derivable from the use of computer-based systems in library and information centre are no longer an issue to be debated" (Madu, 2004).

Electronic information resources offer today's users a lot of opportunities and advantages over the traditional systems in print forms. Opeke (2008) noted that "today, the problem of accessing information is lessened and the constraints of time and space are removed.

To realize this mission, libraries must structure their services in accordance with the needs and the dynamics of their users. Whether one refers to the traditional learning or remote education, information dissemination need the electronic components. Consequently, the new emerging technology that is the trend today is the use of online (virtual) library to do research on wider scale (Ramayah, 2006).

Okebukola (2002) defined virtual library or electronic library as" a collection of library resources in electronic form which can be accessed and used with great ease with the aid of computer technologies for the purpose of promoting learning and research". Electronic resources are generally databases, books, journal, images, etc in electronic formats, but also full-text documents which users can access from any location and at any time with the help of such features as Web- OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue).

All the activities in the library such as selection, acquisition, processing, conservation, preservation, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information revolve round human resources. They play a major role in the management and use of library resources whether in the traditional, electronic or hybrid library setting, and all the functions of a library listed above can be better performed with the use of the computer. Apart from better access to information, digitization will encourage cooperation among libraries as it will facilitate resource sharing, improve productivity and collection building.

Literature Review

Library had experienced dramatic changes in the 1990s, but these related to the means by which it provides its services and the additional capability that the information and communication technologies have brought. Library has also been transformed along with many organizations as it became aware of the need to manage information more effectively in

order to gain a competitive advantage. The emergence of the Internet has involved the use of librarian's knowledge of information resources and technology together with their understanding of users needs to provide effective and efficient access to information on paper and some in electronic format. "The evolution of a global information network (Internet) as a result of developments in computer and telecommunications technology made it possible for libraries to network and provide access to remote electronic databases, thereby making in-roads to a wide range of services and products available to information users" (Owoeye, 2005). The virtual library is capable of bringing millions of resources to the desktops of users such as teachers, researchers, professionals, students, etc. "The implementation of a virtual/electronic library also implies that libraries will spend more money on hardware, software, and licensing, training of experts with web technologies skills to support and manage them. Money will also be spent on translating content into digital form and how to access the resources" (Gbaje, 2007).

Management is concerned with acquiring and allocating resources to achieve the library goals. The selection of digital resources for the library is the sole responsibility of the librarian hence the need for skills to identify and evaluate electronic resources. With the growth of electronic resources, the demand for easy local and remote access to these resources from users has increased. The librarian will also have to provide assistance to the clientele in finding and using effectively the volume of information that the digital world provides. The management of a library or information centre is accomplished by combining basic management functions, roles and skills. Library management is an essential ingredient for effective library practices. It helps to harmonize both the human and material resources within the library system. While physical facilities, strong collections, excellent management, and adequate funding are all important to the successful operation of an information or library service, the real key to success is the staff.

Nigerian academic libraries have woken up to the reality of the importance of IT in facilitating services in library and information centres. The integration of information technology systems into libraries have created improved services to clients. IT has enhanced the job performance of librarians especially in the area of document delivery, cataloguing, selective dissemination of information, interlibrary loans, serials control and acquisitions" (Aina, 2004). Oni (2008), stressed that the future of library and information services in Nigeria and all over the world is bound up closely with the development of IT, as many of their activities and services can be enhanced and many new services developed using suitable IT in an appropriate way. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to expand the

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knowledge on the effective management and utilization of digital resources by investigating some selected research and academic libraries in Nigeria.

Brief background information of the institutions studied

Kenneth Dike Library;- The University of Ibadan maintains a decentralized library system with Kenneth Dike Library (KDL) as the main library and 31 faculty libraries. The library seats cover 1,480 readers. The Kenneth Dike Library holds over 1,000,000 volumes made up of books, journals (6,000 titles), dissertations, monographs, Africana collections, etc, the advent of the Internet and electronic based information, the library decided to subscribe to a number of online Databases such as JSTOR, AGORA, HINARI, OARE, and also numerous CD-ROM Databases. Internet services and training facilities (E-Classroom) are available in the Library. The Kenneth Dike Library despite the financial problems has blown to a full-fledged organization with impressive collection of materials and database records.

Lead City University, initially known as City University, Ibadan is a private institution which was established in 2005. Its library was also established the same year. Lead City University, therefore, its library, being a young institution had taken advantage of the advent of the Internet and other latest developments in Information Technology to equip its Library with state of the heart ICTs facilities, e.g. V-SAT, to enhance holistic education for social, economic, cultural development and self-reliance. The Library has staff strength of 16 members of staff with a seating capacity of about 600 readers.

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Library and Documentation Centre

The IITA Library was established to provide the information needs of the IITA community. The Library formulated a policy to provide access to the various types of information (online database, books, journals, CDs, etc) required by the Institute Scientists, trainees, technicians, and other supportive staff. The Library and Documentation Centre also serve as a central reference library for materials on the tropical agriculture of sub-Saharan Africa, the region of its primary focus and for collaboration with other African research institutes. The Institute also realized its obligation to provide the educational and reference materials apart from the professional literature to staff and trainees needed for a good and efficient performance, thus the need to establish a viable library.

Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) Library

Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) was established in 1941 to conduct research in all areas of forestry, wildlife and environmental management and for the production of low

and medium level technical manpower in her mandate areas. The Institute apart from his headquarters that is located in Ibadan, Oyo State, has seven (7) outstations and four (4) colleges located in various agro-ecological zones. Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria Library, now known as the Information and Documentation Department, was established to provide access to the various types of information required by the Institute's scientists, technicians, supportive staff and students. In order to achieve this goal, the Department focused on the acquisition, organization, maintenance of literature, micro-films and audio-visual materials pertinent to research and training activities of the Institute.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study are to:

1. Find out the available electronic resources in the libraries under study.
2. Find out how these electronic resources are been utilized.
3. Examine the benefits derived from the use of e-resources
4. Examine the management of e-resources in these libraries and
5. Identify factors that affect the management and use of e-resources in these libraries

Research Questions

1. Are the e-resources available to the users?
2. How often are the e-resources used?
3. What benefits do the users derive from these e-resources?
4. How are the e-resources in these libraries managed?
5. What are the factors that hinder the effective management and use of the available e-resources in the libraries?

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages.

Results of Findings

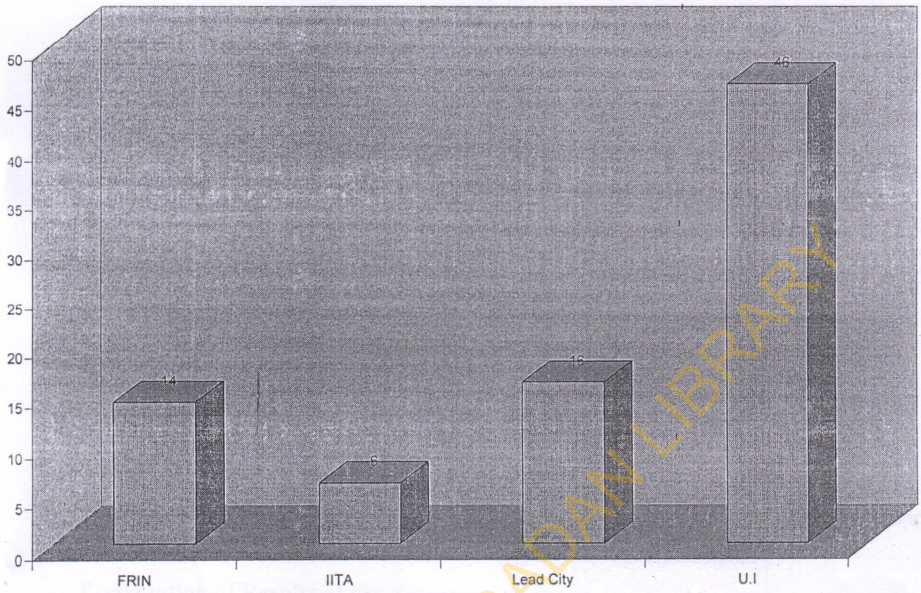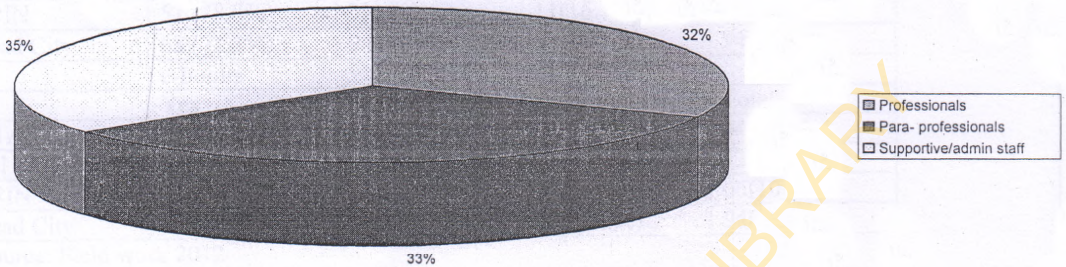Number of staff sampled in each of the institutions

Fig. 1: **Number of staff per institution**

From the chart in fig.1 above, 46 members of staff were sampled from U.I., 16 from Lead City, and 14 from FRIN and 6 from IITA.

Fig.2: Category of sampled staff

The chart in fig 2 shows that 35 % of the library staff in the four institutions are supportive/ administrative staff, 33 % Para- professionals and 32 % professionals.

Presentation of Results of the Research Questions

In a bid to ascertain the types of e-resources available in the library, users across the four institutions (IITA, FRIN, U.I, Lead City) were asked to tick the appropriate items. The findings are presented in the table below.

Research Question I: Are the e-resources available to the users?

Table 1: Availability of e-resources

	Online public access catalog (OPAC)			
	Yes	No	Not certain	Total
IITA	37 (84.1%)	2(4.5%)	5 (11.4%)	44 (100%)
U.I	43 (32.8%)	54 (41.2%)	34 (26.0%)	131(100%)
FRIN	32 (48.5%)	17 (25.8%)	17 (25.8)	66(100%)
Lead City	56 (59.6%)	18 (19.1%)	20 (21.3%)	94(100%)
	Internet			
	Yes		Not certain	Total
IITA	42 (95.5%)		2 (4.5%)	44 (100%)
U.I	123 (93.9%)		8(6.1%)	131(100%)
FRIN	62 (93.9%)		4(6.1%)	66(100%)
Lead City	86 (91.5%)		8(8.5%)	94(100%)
	Online database			
	Yes	No	Not certain	Total
IITA	31 (70.5%)	10(22.7%)	3(6.8%)	44 (100%)

U.I	67(51.1%)	34(26.0%)	30(22.9%)	131(100%)
FRIN	25 (37.9%)	26(39.4%)	15(22.7%)	66(100%)
Lead City	46 (48.9%)	30(31.9%)	18(19.1%)	94(100%)
	CD-ROMS/DVDS			
	Yes	No	Not certain	Total
IITA	37 (84.1%)	3(6.8%)	4 (9.1%)	44 (100%)
U.I	88 (67.2%)	19(14.5%)	24(18.3%)	131(100%)
FRIN	52 (78.8%)	3(4.5%)	11(16.7%)	66(100%)
Lead City	68 (72.3%)	9 (9.6%)	17(18.1%)	94(100%)
	e-books			
	Yes	No	Not certain	Total
IITA	30(68.2%)	8(18.2%)	6(13.6%)	44 (100%)
U.I	66(50.4%)	36(27.5%)	29(22.1%)	131(100%)
FRIN	30(45.5%)	19(28.8%)	17(25.8%)	66(100%)
Lead City	49(52.1%)	26(27.7)	19(20.2%)	94(100%)

Source: Field work 2012

The results in table 1 on the availability of e-resources across the institutions indicate that 84.1% of the respondents in IITA said that OPAC is available while 4.5 said no and 11.4% are not certain. In the University of Ibadan, 32.8% said yes while the rest (41.2%) said no and 26% not certain on the availability of OPAC. For Lead City, most (59.6%) of the respondents said yes while 27.7% and 20.2% said no and not certain to the availability of OPAC in their institution. 48.5% of the respondents in FRIN said yes while 25.5% respectively said no and not certain.

In comparison to the rate of responses on the availability of OPAC to the users across the four institutions as revealed by results in table 4.4, IITA scored very high (84.1%) followed by Lead City (59.6%), FRIN (48.5%) and U.I (32.8%). The availability of Internet to the users across the four institutions is very high as could be seen from the results in table 4.4. 95.5% of the users said yes in IITA, 93.9% respectively said yes in U.I and FRIN while 91.5% said yes in Lead City University. What this result has shown in essence is that the four institutions have Internet connectively which is always available to their users.

For online database, 70.5% of the respondents in IITA said yes, 22.7% no and 6.8% were not certain. In university of Ibadan 51.1% said yes, 26,0% no and 22.9% were not certain. 37.9% of the library users in FRIN said yes on the availability of online database, 39.4% said no and 22.7% were not certain. In Lead City University, 48.9% said yes, 31.9% no and 19.1% were not certain. A closer look at this result shows that IITA (70.5%) has online database that is readily available to users followed by the University of Ibadan (51.1%), Lead City (48.9%) and FRIN (37.9%). The results in table 1 show that the four

institutions recorded above 60% each on the availability of CD-ROMS/DVD. The breakdown are as follows (84.1%) for IITA, (67.2%) for U.I, (78.8%) for FRIN and (72.3%) for Lead City. As could be seen also from this results, IITA scored highest followed by FRIN, Lead City and U.I in that order on the availability of CD-ROMS/DVDS to users. For e-books, results in table 1 reveal that 68.2% said yes, 18.2% no and 13.6% not certain for IITA, (50.4%) yes, (27.5%) no and (22.1%) not certain for U.I, (44.5%) yes, (28.8%) no and (25.8%) not certain for FRIN, (52. 1%) yes (27.7%) no and (20.2%) not certain for Lead City looking at the four institutions. Most (68.2%) of the users in IITA said yes to the availability of e-books compared to 52.1%, 50.4% and 45.5% recorded respectively for Lead City, U.I and FRIN.

Research Question 2: How often are the e-resources used?

Table 2: Frequency in the Use of E-resources

	Very often	Often	At times	Not at all
IITA	38(86.4%)	4(9.1%)	1(2.3%)	1(2.3%)
U.I	37(28.2%)	42(32.1%)	48(36.6%)	4(3.1%)
FRIN	28(42.4%)	20(30.3%)	18(27.3%)	0(0%)
Lead City	42(44.7%)	28 (29.8%)	18(19.1%)	6(6.4%)

Source: Field work 2012

The results in table 2 indicate that 86.4% of the respondents make use of the e-resources very often in IITA while the rest (9.1%) make use of it often, (2.3%) sometimes or not at all. However in University of Ibadan results in table 4.5 indicate that 28.2% make use of the e-resources very often (32.1%) often, (36.6%) at times and (3.1%) not at all. In FRIN, 42.4% make use of the library very often, (30.3%) often and (27.3%) at times. Similarly, 44.7% make use of the library very often in Lead City University while 29.8% make use of it often. Also 19.1% visits the library at times while 6.4% do not. Examining the frequency of e-resource use across the four libraries as revealed by the results, most library users (86.4%) in IITA make use of e-resources very often compared to users in the other institutions (Lead City 44.7%, FRIN 42.4%, and U.I 28.2%).

Research Question 3: What benefits do the library users derive from these e-resources?

Table 3: Benefits derived from the use of e-resources

	Access to up-to-date information			
	Greatly	Moderately	Fairly	Not certain
IITA	34(77.3%)	8(18.2%)	1(2.3%)	1(2.3%)
U.I	73(55.7%)	45(32.4%)	11(8.4%)	2(1.5%)
FRIN	34(51.5%)	24(36.4%)	7(10.6%)	1(1.5%)
Lead City	53(56.4%)	29(30.9%)	9(9.6%)	3(3.2%)
	Easier access to information			
IITA	34(77.3%)	6(13.6%)	4(9.1%)	
U.I	72(55.0%)	48(36.6%)	9(6.9%)	2(1.5%)
FRIN	36(54.5%)	23(34.8%)	6(9.1%)	1(1.5%)
Lead City	51(54.3%)	25(26.6%)	15(16.0%)	3(3.2%)
	Faster access to information			
IITA	34(77.3%)	6(13.6%)	4(9.1%)	
U.I	72(55.0%)	48(36.6%)	9(6.9%)	2(1.5%)
FRIN	36(54.5%)	23(34.8%)	6(9.1%)	1(1.5%)
Lead City	51(54.3%)	25(26.6%)	15(16.0%)	3(3.2%)
	Access to wider range of information			
IITA	26(59.1%)	11(25.0%)	4(9.1%)	3(6.8%)
U.I	70(53.4%)	47(35.9%)	9(6.9%)	5(3.8%)
FRIN	37(56.1%)	23(34.8%)	4(6.1%)	2(3.0%)
Lead City	40(42.6%)	32(34.0%)	17(18.1%)	5(5.3%)

Source: Field work 2012

On the benefits library users derive from the e-resources, results in table 3 indicate that more than 50% of the respondents in each of the institution, stated that e-resources greatly help them in accessing up-to-date information.

The breakdowns are as follows: (77.3%) Greatly, (18.2%) moderately (2.3%) Rarely and not certain respectively for IITA, (55.7%) greatly, (34.4%) moderately, (8.4%) Rarely and (1.5%) not certain for U.I, (51.5%) greatly, (36.4%) moderately, (10.6%) fairly and (1.5%) not certain for FRIN, (56.4%) Greatly, (30.9%) moderately, (9.6%) rarely ,and (3.2%) not certain for Lead City University.

Going by this result, most (77.3%) of the library users in IITA stated that e-resources greatly help them in accessing up-to-date information followed by U.I (55.7%), Lead City (56.4%) and FRIN (51.5%).

However, more respondents (36.4%) from FRIN stated that e-resources moderately help them in accessing up-to-date information compared to 34.4% recorded for U.I ,30.9% for Lead City and IITA (18.2%).

In a similar vein, results in table 3 reveal that more than 50% of the respondents in each of the institutions stated that e-resources enhance easier access to information. The breakdown equally shows that IITA (77.3%) recorded highest percentage when compared to the other institutions – U.I (55.0%), FRIN (54.5%) and Lead City (54.3%).

In terms of faster access to information, the results in table 3 show that most respondents across the four institutions agreed that e-resources has greatly benefited them in accessing information faster.

The breakdown are as follows: (77.3%) greatly, 13.6% moderately and 9.1 rarely for IITA, (55.0%) greatly (36.6%) moderately, (6.9%) rarely and (1.5%) not certain for U.I, (54.4%) great (34.8%) moderately, (9.1%) rarely and (1.5%) not certain for FRIN, (54.3%) greatly, (26.6%) moderately (16.0%) rarely and (3.2%) not certain for Lead City.

One salient point from this result is that IITA recorded the highest percentage of users who stated that e-resources greatly enhance their access to information very fast when compared to result from other institutions.

Another benefit that accrues to the use of e-resource is its ability to access wider range of information. The results in table 3 indicate that 59.1% of the respondents from IITA believe that e-resource greatly influence their access to wider range of information while 25% said moderately, 9% rarely and 6.8% were not certain.

For University of Ibadan, also, most (53.4%) of the library users observed that e-resources greatly enhance their access to wider range of information while 35.9% said moderately, (6.9%) rarely and 3.8% were not certain.

In a similar vein, 56.1% of the respondent from FRIN agreed that e-resource greatly enhance access to wider range of information the rest (34.8%) said moderately, (6.1%) fairly and (3.0%) not at all.

For Lead City, less than half (42.6%) of the respondents stated that e-resource enhances their access to wider range of information while 34.0% said moderately the rest 18% and 5.3% said rarely and not certain respectively. Looking at these results generally across the four institutions, it could be said that the respondents benefit greatly on the use of e-resources to access up-to-date and wider range of information, and equally have easier and faster access to information.

Research Question 4: How are the e-resources in these libraries managed?

Table 4: Management of e-resources

Contractors	Mostly	If necessary	Not at all
U.I	4 (8.7%)	35(76.1%)	7(15.2%)
Lead City	0%	9 (56.3%)	7 (43.8%)
FRIN	0%	6 (42.9%)	8 (57.1%)
IITA	1 (16.7%)	0%	5 (83.3%)
ICT Technicians			
U.I	21 (45.7%)	21 (45.7%)	4 (8.7%)
Lead City	10 (62.5%)	6 (37.5%)	0%
FRIN	5 (35.7%)	9 (64.3%)	0%
IITA	5 (83.3%)	1 (16.7%)	0%
Professional Librarians			
U.I	40 (87.0%)	6 (13.0%)	
Lead City	15(93.8%)	1(6.3%)	
FRIN	14(100%)	0%	
IITA	5(83.3%)	1(16.7%)	
Password			
U.I	16(34.8%)	23(50%)	7(15.2%)
Lead City	6(37.5%)	9(56.3%)	1(6.3%)
FRIN	4(28.6%)	10(71.4%)	0%
IITA	4(66.7%)	1(16.7%)	1(16.7%)

Sources: Field work 2012

The results in table 4 indicate that 83.3%, 57.1%, 43.8% and 15.2% of the respondents from IITA, FRIN, Lead City and U.I respectively stated that the e-resources in their libraries are not managed by contractors. However, 76.1%, 56.3% and 42.9% of the respondents from U.I, Lead City and FRIN respectively stated that if the situation warrants, that is if necessary that contractors are invited to manage their e-resources.

Research Question 5: What are the factors that hinder the effective management and the use of the available e-resources in the libraries?

Table 5: Challenges in the management and use of e-resources

	Lack of adequate skills					
	No response	Greatly	Moderately	Rarely	Poorly	Not certain
U.I	0%	3(6.5%)	18(39.1%)	13(28.3%)	4(8.7%)	8(17.4%)
Lead City	0%	0%	5(31.3%)	6(37.5%)	0%	5(31.3%0
FRIN	3(21.4%)	1(7.1%)	0%	2(14.3%)	2(14.3%)	6(42.9%)
IITA	0%	0%	0%	2(33.3%)	1(16.7%)	3(50.0%)
	Erratic power supply					
	Greatly		Moderately		Rarely	Poorly
U.I	6(13.0%)		24(52.2%)		16(34.8%)	0%
Lead City	1(6.3%)		4(25.0%)		9(56.3%)	2(12.5%)
FRIN	5(35.7%)		6(42.9%)		3(21.4%)	0%
IITA	0%		1(16.7%)		1(16.7%)	4(66.7%)
	Lack/shortage of ICT equipment					
	Greatly		Moderately		Rarely	Poorly
U.I	28(60.9%)		13(28.3%)		5(10.9%)	0%
Lead City	0%		1(6.3%)		10(62.0%)	2(12.5%)
FRIN	0%		5(35.7%)		4(28.6%)	5(37.7%)
IITA	0%		0%		6(100.0%)	0%
	Cost of use					
	Greatly		Moderately		Rarely	Poorly	Not certain
U.I	4(8.7%)		9(19.6%)		8(17.4%)	8(17.4%)	17(37.0%)
Lead City	2(12.5%)		3(18.8%)		2(12.5%)	5(31.3%0	19(25.1%)
FRIN	0%		5(35.7%)		3(21.4%)	1(7.1%)	5(35.7%)
IITA	2(16.7%)		2(33.3%)		2(33.3%)	0%	1(16.7%)
	Absence of relevant databases					
U.I	5(10.9%)		6(13.0%)		19(41.3%)	11(23.9%)	5(10.9%)
Lead City	2(12.5%)		9(56.3%)		4(25%)	1(6.3%)	0%
FRIN	1(7.1%)		6(42.9%)		7(50.0%)	0%	0%
IITA	0%		0%		4(66.7%)	1(16.7%)	1(16.7%)

Source: Field work 2012

Examining the factors that hinder the use of available e-resources across the libraries, results indicate that lack of adequate skills is not a major problem hindering the effective use of available e-resources across the four institutions. For U.I 39.1% stated that lack of adequate skills had a moderate effect, 28.3% said (rarely), (6.5%) greatly and 17.4 not certain., for Lead City 37. 5% said rarely, 31.3% (moderately) and 31.3% not certain, for FRIN, 4.2.9% were not certain, 14.3% (rarely) and (21.4%) no response, for IITA (33.5%) said rarely, and 50% were not certain.

In the case of erratic power supply, results show that this is not a major problem in U.I, Lead City and IITA libraries. On the contrary, in FRIN, a greater percentage of the respondents stated that this greatly affect the use of available e-resources in their library. Looking at the situation in Nigeria today , it is evident that most of these libraries do not rely onto Power Holding Company (PHCN) for the supply of electricity rather they make use of generating sets.

On the lack/shortage of ICT equipments, results in table 4.8 indicate that the shortage of ICT equipment greatly hinder the effective use of e-resources in U.I library. For the other institutions, (Lead City, FRIN, IITA) this does not have a great effect. For U.I 60.9%of the respondents stated that shortage of ICT equipment greatly affect the use of e- resources in the library, 28.3% said (moderately) and (10.9%) rarely, for Lead City 6.3% said moderately, 62.5% rarely, and 31.3% not certain, for FRIN, 33.7% said moderately, (28.6%) rarely and 35.7%) not certain, and for IITA 100% said that the shortage of ICT equipment rarely hinder the effective use of e- resources in their library.

Looking at the breakdown of the results, 100% of the respondents in IITA said that lack of ICT equipments rarely hinder the effective use of e-resources in their library while 62.5% and 28.6% respectively in Lead City and FRIN equally stated so. What this means in essence is that these institutions (IITA, Lead City, FRIN) to a certain level have the necessary ICT equipment needed for the effective use of e- resources in their libraries.

Looking at the effect of cost on the utilization of available e-resources across the four institutions, result reveals that cost does not greatly hinder the effective use of e-resources rather its effect is moderate.

The breakdown shows that there is variation across the institutions. For FRIN 35.7% of the respondents stated that cost moderately affect their utilization, while 33.3%, 17.4%, and 12.5% respectively stated so in IITA, U.I and Lead City.

In a similar vein, the results in table 5 indicate that the absence of relevant databases does not have a great effect on the utilization of e-resources across the institutions. However, in Lead City and FRIN, most of the respondents 56.3% and 42.9% respectively stated that the absence of relevant data bases have a moderate effect: U.I 10.9% (greatly), 13.0% (moderately), 41.3% (rarely) 23.9% (poorly) and 10.9% (not certain) heading 12.5% (greatly), 56.3% (moderately), 25% (rarely) 6.3% (poorly), FRIN 7.1% (greatly) 42.9% (moderately) 50% (rarely), IITA 66.7% (rarely) 16.7% poorly and not certain respectively.

To improve the management of e-resources for optimum use, the under listed points were gathered:

- Allocation of adequate funds

- Good policies to guide the acquisition and proper management of e-resources are of paramount importance.

- Evaluation of the stake of the library is required

- Getting digital content from local publisher

- More skilled personnel are to be employed

- Proper/ more publicity

- Exposing library staff to more training

- Librarians must have interest in their jobs

Discussion of the Findings

The major findings of the study were as follows:

The availability of e-resources varies across the institutions in question. In IITA for instance, the e-resources are better organized and readily available to users unlike other institutions which are still restricting their users in accessing some of their e-resources either due to lack of adequate equipment or unskilled staff:. The availability and accessibility of e-resources is

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very paramount to users satisfaction as Oyinloye (2004) stated that "nowadays, the knowledge base which the library users want access to is no longer stored only on linear media as textbooks, printed matter base but rather in a computerized electronic information domain" and that "library users want access which will no longer be limited by time and space"

The effect of erratic power supply on the use of e-resources across the institutions was moderate except for FRIN that was greatly affected (35.7%). It is obvious in present Nigeria that power supply is a national problem, thus individuals and organization resort to the use of generator for the daily activities that require electricity.

It was also revealed in this study that the institutions to a certain level had the adequate manpower to handle the e-resources in their libraries Oyelude (2004) corroborate this as she stated that "The job of the academic librarian does not end in getting and arranging the library materials but the users have to be taught how to use the library resources".

In all the institutions, except IITA, user's suggestions do not always guide the management in procurement of e-resources. Suggestions from members of staff often determine the choice of e-resources to be acquired in all the institutions. Publishers' catalogues, cost, and vendors often determine the choice of e-resources acquired in all the institutions this corresponds with the opinion of Breeding (2004) who pointed out that "libraries subscribe to electronic content in a number of different ways. Some publishers offer packages that include many electronic journals, some products may include electronic journals from many different publishers, and libraries acquire some electronic journals individually.

Implication of the Findings

Some of the e-resources are not readily available in these institutions, the implication that the users (researchers, students) limited materials in their academic pursuit and research. For instance, 41.2% of the library users in University of Ibadan do not have access to online public access catalog (OPAC). What this means in essence is that most students will not be able to have access to wider range of information in their various disciplines as they ought to.

The findings also reveal that lack of skill or technical know-how in handling ICT equipment hampers the effective use of e-resources in some of the institutions. In U.I for instance, this problem is enormous while its effect could be said to be moderate in FRIN. The implication

of this is that students and researchers alike will not be exposed to the modern trend in searching and retrieving of information in the institutions.

The study also revealed that in all the institutions except IITA user's suggestion are not always taken into consideration rather it is what the staff suggest most times that guide the choice of the e-resources to be acquired. this implies that users in these institutions have little or no contribution as to what they need. The overall effect is that most items or equipment that is not needed by the users might be purchased while the ones they need often are ignored

Conclusion

Since the study revealed that the e-resources in the libraries of the selected institutions are managed by professional librarians and ICT technicians, the problem in some of these institutions is in the inadequate funding of the library and not in the management of e-resources itself.

The University of Ibadan and FRIN are having problem of shortage of ICT equipment. The reason for this is not farfetched as these institutions are Federal government funded. Looking at Lead City which is a private institution, the study reveal that most of the ICT equipment needed is being provided by the management. Equally, the availability of ICT equipment in IITA is not surprising as this institution is funded by the United Nations, and some other rich nations.

With the low level of funding received from the Federal government, these institutions (FRIN, U.I) should look inwards on how to effectively source for fund from private organizations in order to be able meet the challenges of the 21st century. Equally, management in these institutions should make judicious use of the available resources made available at anytime by the government.

One would therefore, conclude that e-resources are often used in all the institutions but its availability varies across the institutions. Equally e-resources have been found by the users as a veritable tool for conducting research as it exposes them to wide range of information across their various fields of study.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested to improve the availability and management of e-resources to users across these institutions:

(i)   The various institutions should always ensure that the budget allocated to the library is considered as a top priority in their annual budget.

(ii)   The library management should ensure that the funds meant for the running of the library are properly utilized.

(iii)   Government at all levels should fund these libraries adequately for them to be able not only to purchase e-resources but also for them to be able to manage them effectively.

(iv)   Library management should always seek the opinion of their users through interviews or questionnaires, and theirs suggestions need to be taken into consideration before embarking on the purchase or introduction of new e-resources.

(v)   There should be training and re-training of the library staff for them to keep abreast of the latest innovations in ICT world as 'yesterday's knowledge is too old for today'.

(vi)   More computers with internet facilities should be provided to meet the teeming number of users in these institutions.

(vii)   To have access to wider electronic information resources, collaboration needs to be encouraged amongst libraries because no library can be self-sufficient in information services.

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