ASSESSMENT OF LIBRARY DATABASE UTILIZATION FOR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AMONG KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY LECTURERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC PERIOD

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Abstract

Purpose: *This research investigated the utilization of library database for academic activities by Kwara State University lecturers during COVID-19 pandemic period. The entire population of 426 lecturers in the KWASU 7 faculties were adopted for the research.*

Design/Methodology/Approach: *Descriptive survey was the method adopted for this study. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages were used to analyse the data.*

Findings: *The findings of this research revealed among others that very few (34.4%) of the lecturers were aware of the subscribed online database; the major sources (67.7%) of awareness of the existence of the Elsevier database by the lecturers were through Conferences/Seminars/ Workshops/ Lectures. It was recommended that the university library should intensify sensitization of the lecturers on the awareness and use of the subscribed online database for teaching, research and learning in general. The study concluded that lecturers should make optimal use of the subscribed online database to improve their learning and teaching.*

Introduction

Lecturers need various kinds of information resources for teaching and research, for the purposes of impacting knowledge to students and self-development. One of the major sources of getting good information is database. A database is a collection of related files put together in a record treating the same field of interest.

Access to different databases assist learning to take place for lecturers and learners because it provides relevant and adequate information resources to them. Library resources contain information in both print and digital formats such as textbooks, e-books, journals, e-journal indexes, newspapers and magazines, reports, internet, video etc. Information sources such as educational databases are efficient if they provide relevant information, useful and accurate information that can help users solve their problems. Accessibility of library resources creates an enabling environment for the utilization of library resources. It is assumed that if information is accessible to the lecturers in university libraries through the online databases, teaching and research will be ease especially at a time like COVID-19 pandemic period when academic institutions were closed down.

The main goal of the university library is for users to gain access to its abundant wealth of information resources. Hence, the university library is the nerve centre of research, the central and primary place of the institution's academic activities. A university library, built with vision, ambition, knowledge and dedication will provide relevant information for its users (Nelson, 2003). Kwara State University Library was built following the conditions governing the set-up of the institution which is to provide necessary information to lecturers, students, researchers and community services, without which the whole system will not function well. Lecturers require quality information resources like databases in order to teach effectively; undertake innovative research and use their acquired knowledge and experience to provide expert services to the university in order to turn out professionals and qualified students who will be leaders

of tomorrow. Therefore, libraries are expected to provide such resources which when used effectively by lectures, would translate into improved teaching effectiveness and quality products.

Inability to access information resources through databases in the library can result in time waste and frustration searching for relevant information. Effective lecturing could be achieved if library information resources are correctly utilized for lecturing functions by the lecturers, thus, resources are of no value to the lecturers until they have been utilized maximally. The quality of a university is measured largely by the quality of its library resources like print and digital materials because of its unique role in the university system. The university library is therefore saddle with the responsibility of serving the lecturers and other members of the university community with adequate database.

Objective of the study

This study aims to assess the utilization of databases for research and other learning activities among lecturers of Kwara State University Nigeria at the period of covid-19.

Research questions

This study aims to investigate assessment of the utilization of databases for research and online lectures among lecturers of Kwara State University Nigeria at the period of covid-19.

Research questions used are:

1. What is the level of availability of databases in Kwara State University Library?
2. What is the purpose of use of the databases by lecturers of Kwara State University?
3. What is the extent of use of the databases by lecturers in Kwara State University?
4. What factors hinder the use of databases by lectures of Kwara State University?

Literature Review

Database is defined by Kensas Information service (2005) as information resources to include hardware and software intended for storage, transmission and use of information as well as the digital content files that may be stored, transmitted or used hardware/software. These include emails, voice system, local databases and external accessed database.

Theo Bothman.et.al (2014), opined that some databases cover variety of types of information sources e.g. articles, books, conference papers, dissertations and theses reports all in one database. Some covered one main discipline, for example Education, Library and Information Science or Chemistry while some is multi-disciplinary databases such as Science Direct and ISI Web of Science. Stephen P. Harter (1986) in his own idea on proliferation of systems and database said a major trend in online information services is the extraordinary growth in the number of search services and databases. He further emphasizes that there were not adequate awareness of databases and even how to search them.

Popoola and Zaid (2008) undertook a study titled faculty awareness and use of library information products and services in Nigerian Universities. The main purpose of the study was to find out if there is any significant difference in faculty member's awareness of library information products, and services, and also to determine the sources used by faculty members to inform themselves about available information products and services in the library. The study observed that, colleagues, personal experience, signs/notice in the library, library correspondence and librarians were the major sources used by the members to inform themselves about the availability of library information products and services in the studied universities.

Dickenson (2006) in an academic library impact study (ALIS), of academic library usage and outcomes involving nine colleges and universities, indicated that faculty members use libraries, because of the resources they provide. Faculty members use libraries to fulfil need, that

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fulfilment which would enable them perform their duties or achieve various set objectives, and goals. The survey also showed that, the majority of faculty members indicated that, at least some of the time, they included bibliographic instruction or information literacy sessions in their undergraduate courses. The majority of them also indicated that, they frequently or sometimes placed print materials on the traditional reserve services at their institution's library for their students, and also recommended print resources. Again, in the ALIS study, some faculty members said that they have frequently, or sometimes used electronic reserve services through their college or university library. The survey also revealed that, the majority of them search library catalogues other than their own, by utilizing links from their library's website. Okore et al. (2009) also defines electronic resources as any information resource that is accessed via the internet. This definition is extended to include CD-ROMs because CD-ROM resources can be accessed online. They identified specific types of electronic information resources as consisting of electronic books (e-books), electronic journals (e-journal), and indexes, collections of journal articles, reference works, digital collections, databases such as OARE, JSTOR, AGORA, HINARI, GOALI, HEIONLINE, LAWPAVILION, EBSCOHOST and websites. These information resources do not fly into the library or find themselves in the library by accident and as such there should be coordinated efforts to select, acquire, organize and maintain them by the Librarians.

Databases are useful because of the volume of information they contain and because of the convenience of being able to access them both on-campus and remote access at anytime and anywhere (Okore et al. (2009). Several reasons have been advanced for preference of Digital information resources over print resources by libraries and information centres. Some of these reasons, according to Iwehabura (2009) include the ability to provide convenience and easier access to current and up-to date information by users in various places such as homes, offices and other workplaces, and hostels; easy storage and easy sharing of the same information resources among various users at a time, saving

space with relatively easy maintenance and easy linkage to indexing and abstracting databases. The internet for example, provides the opportunity to access a wide range of topics on different disciplines. It also allows students, staff and other researchers to retrieve information from different type of information sources such as e-journals, e-books, databases, newspapers and other sources.

Linux (2019) define database as a set of data that has a regular structure and that is organised in such a way that a computer can easily find the desired information. In another development Motino(1982) see database as a stock of information stored electronically with the retrieval mechanism for easy and effective access. They are one of the most important advances of the last few decades in the field of data processing. Grag (1976) opined that database is an organised collection of information or data usually in computer reliable form. He said further that database is *a bibliographic information stored in a computer or in a central computer and retrospective search is made possible remotely from a distance computer through the use of software*. Generally, databases are made available either for the use of online or offline search services. Chukwueke (2016) defined databases as e-journals and, eBooks that are in full–text and that allows users to access through the internet to search and retrieve information. In other for a library to effectively and efficiently achieve its objective of service delivery, information resources like databases among other things must be readily available both in print and most importantly, electronic formats as library in recent time as is change with responsibility of better providing for the dynamic needs of it ever increasing users.

Adeleke and Nwalo (2017) opines that availability of electronic resources such as CD-ROM technology enables libraries to provide instant, easy and convenient access to substantial amount of relatively current and retrospective information at fixed or predictable cost. They further listed the electronic resources acquired by libraries which includes; electronic journals (E-Journals), electronic books (E-Books), etc. All these can be housed in a database.

Methodology

This study is meant to elicit response from lecturers of kwara State University on the assessment of library database utilization for academic activities during Covid-19 pandemic period. A survey monkey was adopted using Google form to capture respondents. The respondent were from the seven faculty of the University. The population of this study comprise only lecturers of kwara State University. The choice of the university was as reason of underutilization of library databases and to make sure lecturers of the University use the databases been subscribed for the University**.**

Types of databases available in Kwara State University Library

This study aims to assess the utilization of databases for research and online lectures among lecturers of Kwara State University Nigeria at the period of COVID-19. The study specifically focus on the use of databases by lecturers at the period of COVID-19. One of the objectives of this research is to find out the type of databases available in KWASU library and know how it was been used by lecturers of the institution. Therefore, the respondents were given a list of databases from which they are required to indicate those that are available. The data collected and presented on tables.

Results and discussion

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Faculty

	Frequency	Percent
Agricultural and Veterinary Science	24	15.8
Education	14	9.2
Engineering and Technology	23	15.1
Humanities, Management and Social Sciences	25	16.4
Information and Communication Technology	19	12.5
Law	14	9.2
Pure and Applied Sciences	33	21.7
Total	152	100.0

Table 1 shows that out of the 152 respondents that participated in the survey, 33 representing 21.7% were from Pure and Applied Sciences, 25 representing 16.4% of the participants were from faculty of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences, 24 of the respondents representing 15.8% were from faculty of Agricultural and Veterinary Science, 23 representing 15.1% from faculty of Engineering and Technology, while 19, 14, 14, representing 12.5%, 9.2%, 9.2% respectively, were from faculties of Information and Communication Technology , Law, Education.

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Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Departments

	Frequency	Percent
Animal science	5	3.3
Agric. economics and extension	11	7.2
Plant science	8	5.3
Early childhood and primary education	5	3.3
Business education	5	3.3
Kinesiology	4	2.6
Busines and Entrepreneurship Studies	1	.7
Civil Engineering	5	3.3
Material science	3	2.0
Aeronautics Engineering	2	1.3
Mechanical Engineering	5	3.3
Agricultural Engineering	8	5.3
Political Science	5	3.3
Islamic Studies	2	1.3
CRS	2	1.3
Economics	2	1.3
History	5	3.3
Tourism	1	.7
English	4	2.6
Linguistics	4	2.6
Library and Information Science	10	6.6
Computer science	5	3.3
Mass Communication	5	3.3
Jurisprudence	4	2.6
Islamic Law	4	2.6
Common Law	6	3.9
Microbiology	10	6.6
Biochemistry	8	5.3
Physics	7	4.6
Geology	6	3.9
Total	152	100.0

Table 3: Distribution based on Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	121	79.6
Female	31	20.4
Total	152	100.0

Table 4: Age distribution of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
21-30	11	7.2
31-40	31	20.4
41-50	63	41.4
51-60	43	28.3
Above 60	4	2.6
Total	152	100.0

Results from Table 2 shows that the highest respondent comes from Agric. economics and extension with 7.2%, follow by Microbiology and Library and Information Science with 6.6% each while the least respondents emanated from Business and Entrepreneur department with only 0.7%

Table 3 reveals participants gender. 121, 31 representing 79.6% , 20. 4% were male and female respectively.

Result from table 4 above shows that participant between the ages 41 – 50 were 63 representing 41.4%, ages 51 – 60 were 43 representing 28.3%, ages 31 – 40 were 31 representing 20.4%, ages 21 – 30 were 11 representing 7.2% , and above 60 were 4 representing 2.6%.

Table 5: Educational Background Distribution of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
HND	3	2.0
B.Sc/B.Ed/BLS	7	4.6
MSc/M.Ed/MLS	38	25.0
Ph.D	103	67.8
Other	1	.7
Total	152	100.0

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents based on Year of Work Experience

	Frequency	Percent
1-10 years	70	46.1
11-20 years	40	26.4
21-30 years	41	27.0
Above 30 years	1	.7
Total	152	100.0

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Table 7: Distribution of Respondents based on Designation

	Frequency	Percent
Professor	12	7.9
Associate Prof.	3	2.0
Senior Lecturer	16	10.5
Lecture I	34	22.4
Lecturer II	64	42.1
Assistant Lecturer	21	13.8
Graduate Assistant	2	1.3
Total	152	100.0

Table 8: Availability of Databases subscribed

	Frequency	Percent	Rank
AGORA	25	16.4	2nd
ARDI	9	5.9	5th
DOAJ	10	5.9	4th
ERIC	5	2.6	9th
GOALI	17	11.2	3rd
JSTOR	46	31.6	1st
JGATE JOURNALS	8	5.3	6th
IG PUBLISHING LIBRARY (ebooks)	6	3.9	8th
LAW PAVILION	7	4.6	7th
HEINONLINE	9	5.9	5th
HINARY	3	2.0	11th
PUBMED	3	2.0	11th
OARE	4	2.6	10th
Total	152	100.0	

Table 5 reveals that 103 representing 67.8% of the respondents have Ph.D, 38 representing 25% have MSc/M.Ed/MLS , 7 representing 4.6% have B.Sc/B.Ed/BLS, 3 representing 2% have HND while only one (1)participant representing 0.7% has other educational background

Table 6 displays participants work experience. 70 (4.1%) have the work experience years to be between 1 – 10 , 41(27%) have work experience years to be 21 – 30 , 40(26.4%) have work experience years to be between 11 – 20, and others were above 30 years

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From table 7 above table, Lecturer II constitutes 42.1% (64), Lecturer I 22.4%(34), Assistant Lecturer 13.8% (21), Senior Lecturer 10.5% (16) , Professor 7.9% (12) , Associate Prof. 2% (3), Graduate Assistant 1.3% (2) of the respondents.

Table 8 shows the ranking of database subscribed to by respondents. It appears that JSTOR is the most subscribed database.

Table 9: Purpose of using database

	Frequency	Percent
For research work	54	35.5
For teaching	30	19.7
For keeping track of different but related things	5	3.3
To be well-informed about current trends in my field of study	35	23.0
For preparing lecture notes	9	5.9
For consulting reference materials	3	2.0
For checking newly published materials	2	1.3
For data security and integrity	14	9.2
Total	152	100.0

Table 10 : Utilization of databases during COVID 19 PERIOD.

Databases	Always	Often	Seldom	Never	Total
AGORA	45 (29.6%)	42 (27.6%)	37 (24.3%)	28 (18.4%)	152 (100%)
ARDI	43 (28.3%)	33 (28.3%)	35 (21.7%)	41 (23.0%)	152 (100%)
DOAJ	39 (25.7%)	37 (24.3%)	36 (23.7%)	40 (26.3%)	152 (100%)
ERIC	54 (35.5%)	52 (34.2%)	322 (1.1%)	14 (9.2%)	152 (100%)
GOALI	45 (29.6%)	36 (23.7%)	42 (27.6%)	29 (19.1%)	152 (100%)
JSTOR	52 (34.2%)	36 (23.7%)	32 (21.1%)	32 (21.1%)	152 (100%)
JGATE JOURNALS	48 (31.6%)	34 (22.4%)	38 (25.0%)	32 (21.1%)	152 (100%)
IG PUBLISHING LIBRARY	38 (25.0%)	35 (23.0%)	41 (27.0%)	38 (25.0%)	152 (100%)
LAW PAVILION	41 (27.0%)	33 (21.7%)	40 (26.3%)	38 (25.0%)	152 (100%)
HEINONLINE	34 (22.4%)	38 (25.0%)	43 (28.3%)	37 (24.3%)	152 (100%)
HINARI	42 (27.6%)	44 (28.9%)	43 (28.3%)	23 (15,1%)	152 (100%)
PUBMED	36 (23.7%)	34 (22.4%)	50 (32.9%)	32 (21.1%)	152 (100%)
OARE	32 (21.1%)	44 (28.9%)	47 (30.9%)	29 (19.1%)	152 (100%)

Results gathered from Table 9 shows that, 54(35.5%) use the database for research work, 35(23%) use database to be well-informed about current trends in their field of study, while the least respondents with 2(1.3%) use it for checking published materials.

Tables 10 showed how regular database users made use of available database during Covid-19. Result shows that ERIC database is most frequently used during Covid-19 with 35.5% respondents follow by JSTOR database with 34.5% respondents, J. Gate 31.6% ARDI (28.3%) GOALI 29.6%, LAW PAVILLION 27.0% and the least used is OARE with 21.1%.

Table 11 : Challenges of making use of database

	Frequency	Percent
Lack of awareness about the available databases	11	7.2
Non-availability of network/data	25	16.4
Internet facilities are not adequate	28	18.4
Power outage	37	24.3
Cost of access to internet is too high	13	8.6
Lack of information searching and retrieval skills	12	7.9
Difficulty in finding relevant information	10	6.6
Lack of access to the databases	16	10.5
Total	152	100.0

The results indicate that, power outage is the major challenge face when using database during Covid-19 with percentage score of 24.3% , while inadequate internet facilities and non-availability of network data follow with 18.4% and 16.4% percentage score respectively.

Discussion of Findings

The results of the study shows that JSTOR database is most available database subscribed to during Covid-19 followed by AGORA and GOALI. Majority of the respondents used the database for research work during Covid-19 because these databases are very current, while other lecturers are using them for teaching and to be well-informed about the current trends in their field of study.

The study revealed that, all the databases are always used extensively during Covid-19. This submission portrayed the significance impact of database on research, teaching and learning etc.

Table 1 shows the respondents by their faculties that out of the 152 respondents that participated in the survey, 33 representing 21.7% were from Pure and Applied Sciences, 25 representing 16.4% of the participants were from Faculty of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences, 24 of the respondents representing 15.8% were from faculty of Agricultural and Veterinary Science, 23 representing 15.1% from faculty of Engineering and Technology, while 19, 14, 14, representing 12.5%, 9.2%, 9.2%.So, Faculty of Pure and applied Sciences has the highest respondent with 21.7%

Table 2 shows that the highest respondent from Agric. economics and extension with 7.2%,

follow by Microbiology and Library and Information Science with 6.6% each while the least respondents emanated from Business and Entrepreneur department with only 0.7%

Table 3 reveals participants by gender. 121, representing male 79.6%, while 20. 4% were female respectively. So, the table shows more male respondent than the female.

This table 4 shows that participant between the ages 41 – 50 were 63 representing 41.4%, ages 51 – 60 were 43 representing 28.3%, ages 31 – 40 were 31 representing 20.4%, ages 21 – 30 were 11 representing 7.2%, and above 60 were 4 representing 2.6%. From the percentage shown in table 4, 41.4% representing ages from 41-50 has the highest respondents.

Table 5 reveals that 73 representing 48.2% of the respondents have Ph.D, 68 representing 44.7 have MSc/M.Ed/MLS , 7 representing 4.6% have B.Sc/B.Ed/BLS, 3 representing 2% have HND while only one (1)participant representing 0.7% has other educational background. So , the table shows that 48.2% has Ph.D and carry's the highest number of respondents.

Table 6 displays participants work experience. 70 (4.1%) have the work experience years to be between 1 – 10 , 41(27%) have work experience years to be 21 – 30 , 40(26.4%) have work experience years to be between 11 – 20, and others were above 30 years .

Table 8 shows the ranking of database subscribed to by respondents. It appears that JSTOR is the most subscribed database.

Results gathered from Table 9 shows that, 54(35.5%) use the database for research work, 35(23%) use database to be well-informed about current trends in their field of study,

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while the least respondents with 2(1.3%) use it for checking published materials. Results gathered from Table 9 shows that, 54(35.5%) use the database for research work, 35(23%) use database to be well-informed about current trends in their field of study, while the least respondents with 2(1.3%) use it for checking published materials

Table 10 Result shows that ERIC database is most frequently used during Covid-19 with 35.5% respondents follow by JSTOR database with 34.5% respondents, J. Gate 31.6% ARDI (28.3%) GOALI 29.6%, LAW PAVILLION 27.0% and the least used is OARE with 21.1%.

The last table results indicate that, power outage is the major challenge face when using database during Covid-19 with percentage score of 24.3% , while inadequate internet facilities and non-availability of network data follow with 18.4% and 16.4% percentage score respectively.

Conclusion

The study revealed that great value attached to the use of database to its significant to research and teaching and learning. The study also revealed that database carry most current information in a lucid and concise manners. Though adequate information on the database should be given priority so as to make the target users be aware.

However, power outage, inadequate internet facilities and non-availability of network data pose a lot of challenges in using database during Covid-19.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered in the Study:

1. The University Library should subscribe to more databases which will cut across all programs offered in the university.
2. That the university library should time to time organise user's education program for their users to keep them abreast of new development in the library especially on access and utilization of databases.
3. That the university authority should rise up in funding university library well so

that they can meet up with current spate of information in the world.
4. 4 .That the library should in improve in the awareness of the databases and it use for the staff of the university to avoid underutilization.

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