

Utilization of Electronic Information Resources by Postgraduate Student of Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola

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Abstract: *The study surveyed utilization of electronic information resources by postgraduate students of Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola. The study examines the level of ICT skills of postgraduate students of MAUTECH in the utilization of electronic resources, the study would help on how post graduate students access electronic information resources using a survey design and random sampling method, with a well structured questionnaire data were collected from 190 respondents comprising 25 Ph.D students, 85 masters students and 55 post graduate diploma students. The study reveal there are low levels of skillfulness in the users of ICT among postgraduate students of MAUTECH Yola the level of electronic information resources usage by postgraduate students (MAUTECH) Yola is high, based on the response from the respondents and the usefulness of electronic information sources such as web there is a high level of usage of electronic information resources most especially in research and educational area by the post graduate students of MAUTECH Yola. It was recommended that integration of ICT courses to postgraduate study curriculum should be done so as to improve on the skills of postgraduate students to maximize their potentials on the application of ICT in their day to day activities. Alternative sources of power supply should be put in place in the university so that students can access electronic information at any time they need it.*

I. Introduction

Background of the study

Information is the pivot of which the survival of any society rest. It remains the major ingredient in taking decision and assist in taking the degree of uncertainty.

Indeed, without information there can't be communication. The emergence of technology has lead to the proliferation of electronically available information resources. These resources include CD room database electronic mails, online public access catalogue (Opac) and internet browsing (Oduwole et al, 2001.) The internet which is the prominent of this source has made possible access to electronic books and journals various database and search engine.

In this age of globalization, the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) in an academic environment cannot be over emphasized because ICT facilitate quick access to information resources worldwide, through internet and other devices. In-fact, it is now difficult to imagine the world without information technology. In this digital age tertiary institutions strived to keep up to date in their curriculum. The provision and use of ICT is part and parcel of the entire system, to the student, faculty and the institution. It is one thing to recognize the importance of ICT and another to know if there's effectively used by postgraduate students in academics. If ICT are put to effective use, the essence of acquiring them is to a large extent, justified vice-versa.

Akintunde (2004) defined ICT as the electronics means of capturing processing, storing and disseminating information, according to ALABI (2003) ICT is the tools used for collection, processing, storage, transmission and dissemination of information.

With the advance in ICT, electronics information in the form of electronics books, electronics journals and the internet have changed the world into a global village. No institutions or organization can still rely on traditional printed information resources to perform effectively and efficiently.

To the librarian ICT is the significant development that provides tools for managing the available information generated and processed by institution such as university. Another area that has been affected by the information technology embrace is education. It has affected the way education is delivered and research conducted especially in the universities. Bandy Opaclhjay (1999), while discussing ways in which information and community technology (ICT) has affected the education sector write that "using (ICT), it is possible for a researcher in his office to access the full text digital contents of local distance libraries and database using computers and internet. Student as well has access to this opportunity. Through majority accessed through the commercial Cyber Cafe Odowole, (2004). However, libraries all over the world make available a wide variety of electronic information sources (EIS) for use by undergraduate, postgraduate, researcher, and staff in their respective institution.

These EIS form an essential part of the services provided by academic libraries. The cost incurred in acquiring and maintaining both the materials and human resources required providing EIS are enormous. It is in view of this that it is necessary to ensure maximum utilization of these sources. Hence the need to appraise the factors contributing to the effective use of otherwise of the sources

In view of the foregoing, the research looks into the utilization of electronic information resources among postgraduate students of Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola

II. Literature review

In order to utilize the growing range of electronic information sources, students must acquire and practice the skills necessary to exploit them for students using variety of online database, it is as though they were parking lot of attendance, where every vehicle is not only a different make and model but has a different configuration, band and Libutt has cited in Dutton (2006) suggest that, the skills required to maximize the potential of electronic information sources are much greater than those required for searching printing sources. These skills include knowledge of the structure of database and the instruction which must be input into the computer by the searcher, as well as an understanding of the ways in which the instruction are linked with one another to this end. Brophy (1993), state that users do not often appreciate the skills required to search these sources stating they are deceptively easy to use. The ability to find and retrieve information effectively is a transferable skill useful for future life has enabled the positive and successful use of the electronic information sources while at the university. Brophy (2007) argues that libraries must reach a position where the acquisition of information skills is acknowledge as one of the key learning objective for every students entering university so that students leaves without being fully equipped to cope with the information intensive world. As noted by Tsakona (2006) digital libraries, e-journals platform portals, e-prints and web based information systems provide services supporting users to perform intense work tasks that required complex interaction activities. This implies that library users cannot access e-resources without adequate computer skills.

According to Eyitayo (2008) advance in technology have possible virtual classroom, online courses, and distance learning. This couple with the growth in society, access to information via (ICT) has altered student's perception of what the library has to offer if libraries are to maintain their relevance in the cycle of students needs then they must adapt and change. Toner (2008), Madu, and Adeniran (2006); argue that students sometimes lack technical and research skills and so do not find the best information tempting them to use whatever information they can find first fast and full text. The ability to find and retrieve information is a transferable skill for enabling the positive and successful use of electronic information sources by students while they are as the university as well as in their future life. According to Shuling (2007) the literature highlight the advantage of electronic information sources over a printed sources of information which include accessible easily searchable, speed, interactive links added value, inexpensive flexibility, more resources and so on. But also suggests the need for certain skills in order to access and use electronic information sources effectively. According to Liew (2000) new information technology and particularly the internet, is drastically transforming access to information and changing the learning and research process, how we search, discover, teach and learn. Ozoemelem (2009) posits that, the most prominent from the ICT today is the internet and that it provides the largest reservoir of vital information in all kind of discipline all over the world. Hence its universal acceptability in the world of research is synonymous with university education.

Senyo (2002) writing of the benefit of the internet submits that students offering corresponding courses all over African have the benefit of the uses of e-mail and World Wide Web to advice and read materials from their tutors. It is now a feasible option to embark on postgraduate studies online. Other studies Oduwole et al. (2003); Jagboro, (2003) and Ndomi et al; (2000) have also identify the use of electronic information resources among post graduate students. Access to electronic information resources should be available and affordable to all regardless of economic status and information literacy.

Higher education is changing rapidly with the advent of technology. According to Shuling (2007). The growth and diversity of electronic information sources, especially e-journal in the past few years has lead too many to predict the extinction of the printed journal Majid (1999) argue that technological advancements opened up new horizons for the creation, storage, access, distribution and presentation of information in global information technology (ICT) dominated world "place" is much less importance Majid and F. A (1999). "The impact of moving from text-based to resources based learning has involved heavier use of library materials and demand for more and varied media sources Kinengyere (2004), Electronic information resources (EIR) is now recognized as being of greatest importance to even small academic libraries. The present supply of information resources is made up of range of product that may exist in different forms such as CD-ROMs and resources available on the internet such as online databases, webpage etc. they provide libraries with vast resources for their users population. According to grant (2002), the devices needed to read e-resources especially e-books are relatively expensive e.g. handheld device, personal computers and readers, laptops etc. in order to minimize piracy, publishers use proprietor devices and software's platforms. The lack of universal standard is a problem.

Tenant (2000) observes the devices dependent e-resources bring them with particular problems, since the device must be managed.

Maxymuk (2002) supports although hand held devices and digital texts have had some particularly in public libraries this approach is not in line with for architecture framework which has allowed computers to become all pervasive over the last 20 years. The fact that the institution and it users are forces to lock themselves into one system for information retrieval may account for slow acceptance of hand held devices in libraries. The ability to find and retrieve information effectively is a transferable skill useful for future life as well as enabling the positive and successful use of the electronic resources among postgraduate students.

Objective of the study

The purpose of this research include

- To determine the level of ICT skills of post graduate students of MAUTECH in the utilization of electronic resources.
- To determine how post graduate students access electronic information resources.
- To identify the level of electronic information resources usage by postgraduate students.
- To determine if gender affect the use of the electronic resources by post graduate of MAUTECH.
- To identify the problems encountered by post graduate students in utilization of electronic information resources.

Methodology

Using a simple randomization method all the post graduate students of Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola were visited personally by the researcher to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire for utilization of electronic information resources were filled by the Ph.D, Master’s students and PGD of the school. A total of 190 respondents who fill in the self administered questionnaires However, out of 190 targeted students, the researcher managed to get back one hundred and sixty five (165) respondents. This represents one hundred percent (100%) response rates. The data collected for this research is analyzed in a systematic way and presented in tables using frequency, histogram, pie-chart and percentage to indicate the varied responses of the questions asked.

III. Results or findings

Figure 1 table showing the gender distribution of the respondents.

Table 1 shows gender of the respondent

Gender	No 165	
Gender	Frequency	Percentage %
	(F)	(%)
Male	95	58%
Female	70	42%

Table 1 above shows that the majority who are male 95 (58%) and 70 (42%) were female students. This is in agreement with Ndomi (2000) that there are more male than female in post graduate schools in Nigerian Universities.

Table 2 Names of schools of the respondents in Modibbo Adama University of Technology (MAUTECH) Yola.

Figure 2

Name of schools	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
School of agric & agricultural technology	30	18.18
School of engineering	0	--
School of environmental technology	0	--
School of management technology	60	36.36
School of pure science	30	18.18
School of technology education	45	27.27
Total	165	100

The table above, 30 (18%) were postgraduates students from school of agriculture, 60 (36%) representing school of management technology, none of the students from either school of engineering and school of environmental technology, were available during the distribution of the questionnaire, 30 (18%) are students from school of pure science while 45 (27%) are the students from school of management technology, given a total of 165 (100%) of the respondents.

Figure 3. pie chart showing distribution of respondents

Figure 1 showing distributing respondent

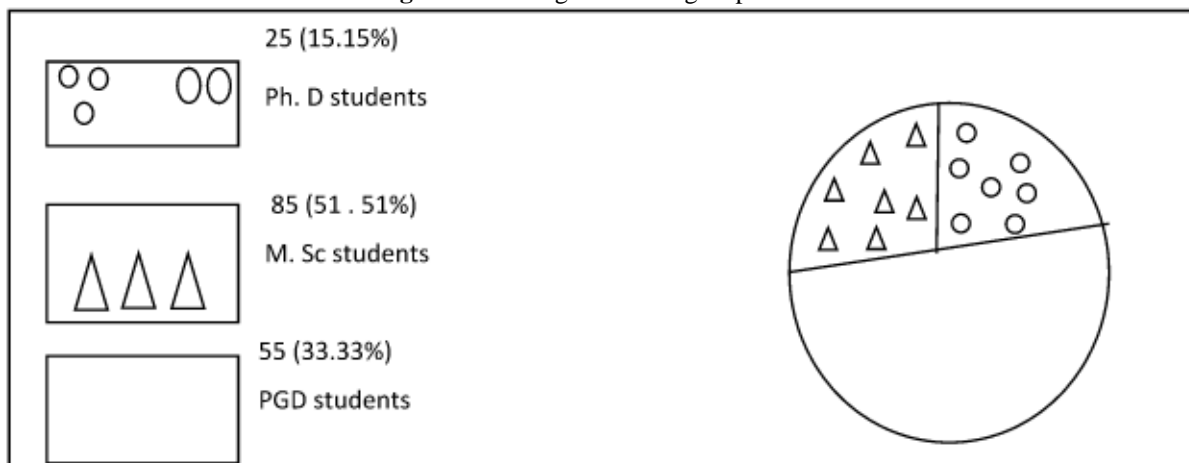


Figure 3 above 25 (15%) respondent were Ph.D students, 85 (55%) respondent were master degree students and 55 (33%) were postgraduate diploma students of Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola

Table 3 Electronic information skills

From the table above it was observed that there is a low level of skill fullness in the use of computer 105 (64%) agreed that they have skilled in the use of computer. 60 (37%) disagreed, there is a low level skillfulness in the knowledge of database as well as online searching techniques only 45 (28%) agreed. To have the skills in the knowledge of database structure, while 120 (73%) disagree; there is also low level of skillfulness in the online searching techniques.

Figure 2 electronic information access

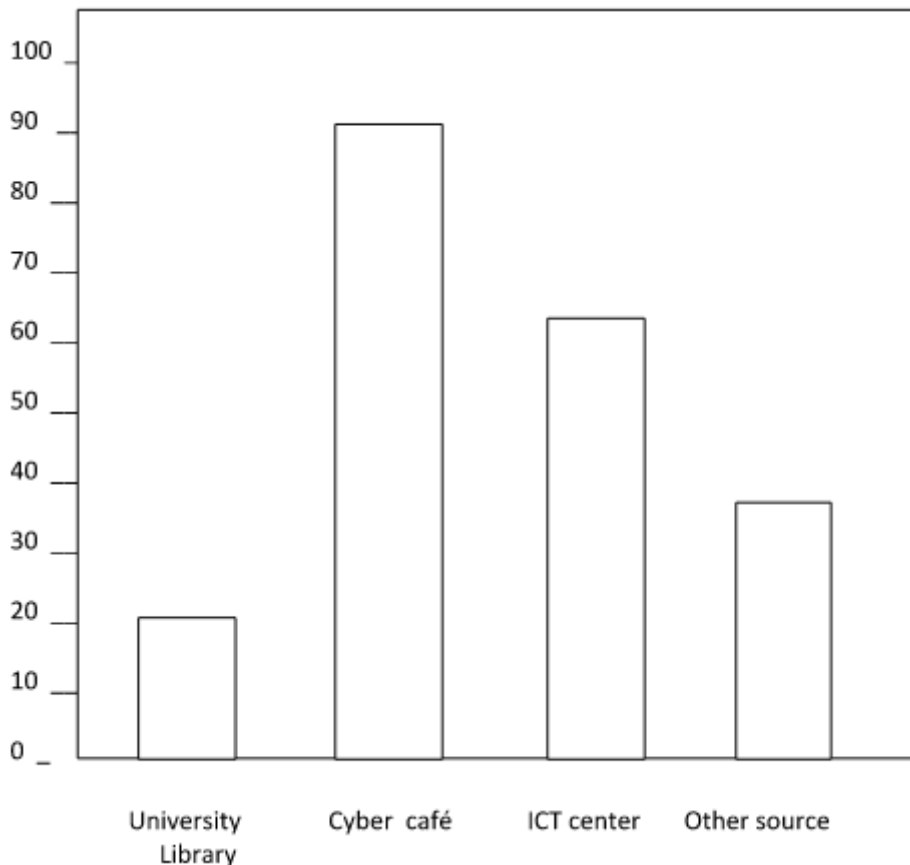


Figure 2: above indicate that majority of the respondents access electronic information resources is via cybercafé (105 64% some university ICT (25%) while others indicates other means 20 (13%) of accessing their information resources. Zero percent (0%) none of the respondents agree with the university library as their means of accessing electronic information resources.

Figure 3 what medium do they use in accessing electronic information resources:

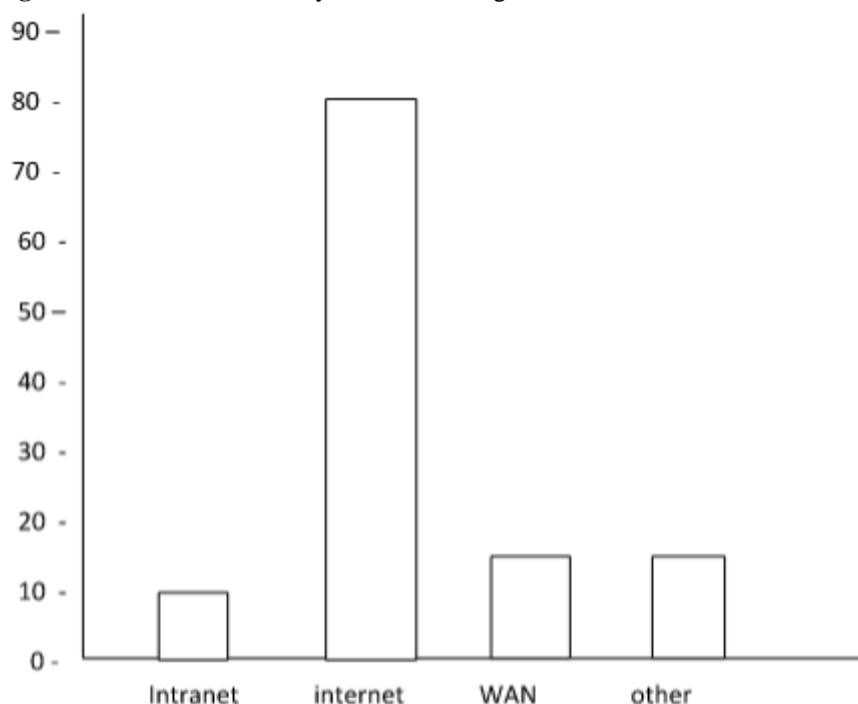


Figure 3: above indicate that the internet is the most widely used medium of sourcing of electronic resources 165 (100%) response agree on the internet as the main sources of electronic resources. This supports Kennedy (1999) which shows that more people are using the internet to find they need information that is unmediated by library.

Figure 4 search engine do they used to access electronic information resources.

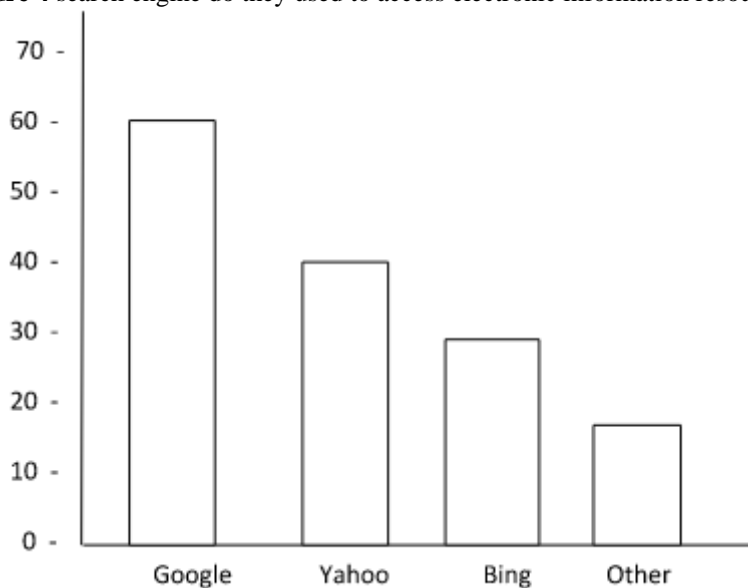


Figure 4: indicate that the most widely used search engine is Google 105 (64%) most of the respondents agreed on Google as their most widely used search engine while 60 (37%) uses Yahoo, none of the respondents agreed on Bing and other means as their search engine. Dutton (1990) and Brophy (1993) said the skills require searching electronic sources, starting that they are deceptively easy to use. Electronic information resources usage by postgraduate students of Modibbo Adama University of Technology Yola.

The results of the analyzed are presented in table 4

s/no	Item	Response	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Uses of electronic resources	Yes	105	64%
		No	60	36%
2	Frequency of e-resources usage	Very often	50	31%
		Often	95	58%
		Rarely	20	13%
		Never	0	--
3	Purpose of e-resources usage	Education	55	34%
		Entertainment	20	13%
		News	20	13%
		Research	60	37%
		Others	10	7%

The table above shows that, the student uses the electronic information resource usage is high, the students of tertiary institution show that they looked for the fastest way that would be a satisfactory result when carried out research, going for Electronic Information Resources (EIS)

According to Beason (2001) dependence expel with easy access to technology points towards students spending a substantial quality of time on the internet/ online. Also from the result above, the frequency of usage is fairly high electronic resources, specifically research education, news are frequently patronized online, entertainment and other purpose patronizing electronic information resources are less by respondents.

Table 5: Gender affects on the uses of electronic information resources

s/no	Item	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
1	Any prohibition of access to electronic information resources in regards to sex/gender	Yes	30	18.18%
		No	135	81.81%
2	Male and female who uses electronic information resources more	Male	120	72.72%
		Female	45	27.27%
		Neither	0	0%

The table above reveals that there is no prohibition of access to electronic information resources in regards of sex/gender. 30 (18%) agreed that there is a prohibition while 135(82%) disagreed that there is no any prohibition, and male 120 (73%), female 45 (27%) while neither 0 (0%) that means male uses electronic resources than female postgraduate students.

Table 6: problems encountered while using electronic information sources.

s/no	Item	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
1	What problem do you encountered while using e-resources	Yes	145	87.87%
		No	20	12.12%
2	Information overload	Yes	78	47%
		No	87	52%
3	Lack of search skills	Yes	115	69.69%
		No	50	30.30%
4	Power outages	Yes	165	100%
		No	0	0
5	Network and connection problem	Yes	95	57.57%
		No	70	42.42%
6	Others specify		25	15.15%

The table above indicate that there is a general endorsement by the respondents that issues of power outage as a major problems Militating against the effective utilization of electronic resources 165 (100%) agreed on the problems of power outage, 78 (48%) answer Yes on the problem of information overload while 87 (53% answer No on the problems of information overload, 115 (70%) of the respondents answers Yes on the problems of lack of search skills only 50 (30%) disagree with the problems of lack of search skill. However, 95 (57%) agree with the problem of network and connection while 70 (43%) disagree and answer No, on the problem of network and connection problem and other problems were specify by 25 (16%) of the respondents.

Problem encountered while using electronic resources these corroborates Okello – Obura and E (2008) that the major with search engines is that search queries turn up far, too many results, erring and the side of the

recall rather than provision. Other problems are network and connection problem, information overload, lack of search skills power outages and so on. Delone and McDonald (2004) in spite of the popularity of the internet, people may resist using it due to the slow response time and people complain that the information generate by the web is not what they need.

Finding of the study/summary

The study reveals that:

- There are low levels of skillfulness in the users of ICT among postgraduate students of Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola
- The internet via University ICT center and cyber café are the major medium and facility used in accessing electronic information resources by postgraduate students
- The level of electronic information resources usage by postgraduate students of (MAUTECH) Yola is high, based on the respond from the respondents and the usefulness of electronic information sources such as web.
- There is a high level of usage of electronic information resources most especially in research and educational area by the postgraduate students of (MAUTECH) Yola
- Issues like large mass of irrelevant information, the need to filter the result from search information overload, inadequate skills on how to use the facilities, power outages, network and connection problems are very difficult in navigating through electronic information resources and so on are problems encountered in using electronic information resources by postgraduate students of (MAUTECH) Yola.

IV. Recommendation

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were suggested:

- Integration of ICT courses to postgraduate study curriculum should be done so as to improve on the skills of postgraduate students to maximize their potentials on the application of ICT in their day to day activities.
- Alternative sources of power supply should be put in place in the University so that students can access electronic information at any time they need it.
- The University library should be up to date faculties on the available electronic information resources. And academic staff should sensitize students on the usefulness of electronic information resources. Course work assignments required the uses of electronic resources should be develop this can compel students to utilize electronic resources.
- Libraries information centres and other information organization should swiftly but systematically move to automate their routines and services to create an enabling environment in order to facilitate easy and wider access to electronic information resources as well as use and retrieval
- Due to heavy uses of electronic information resources, this research further recommend that libraries and information centres should improve upon e-journal subscriptions and other databases be it open or closed access to accommodate all disciplines.
- Internet bandwidth should be improved. Libraries and information centres should strive to secure their own personal gateway (sever) this can enable them to install library software and in return can enhance libraries electronic services and also reduces the problem of slow internet connectivity and downloads
- Search engines have revealed to enjoy wide patronage. The ICT section of libraries should itemize and explain available search engines with their peculiarities to users.

V. Conclusion

From the foregoing, it is obvious that postgraduate students of Modibbo Adama University of Technology Yola need to improve on their ICT skills such as computer and information retrieval skills, limited number of network computers and slow internet speed, among others that affect the effective utilization of electronic information resources, so as to equip them in utilizing the enormous benefit available in electronic format. It is an indication that even without the expertise knowledge of manipulating information in an electronic environment, students are still getting satisfaction from the little they could get out of electronic resources even though majority of the respondents doesn't use electronic information resources very often. This high level uses of Electronic Information Resources is also as a result of their perception and usefulness of electronic information resources such as web.

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