

THE IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES ON ACADEMIC RESEARCH: A CASE STUDY OF KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

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ABSTRACT

Purpose - With advancement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Internet, e-resources have become influential tools to educational information by spreading high-tech knowledge and giving individuals everywhere fast access to enormous resources. With the proliferation of e-resources around the globe, there is an increase in usage of the resources for research and other educational purposes. A study to assess the effect of e-resources on the academicians is vital so as to ascertain the extent of usage and the impact e-resources has on their scholarly work. Although there have been a number of studies that discussed the impact of e-resources use in the universities worldwide, the research on the impact of e-resources usage on productivity of academicians is quite low. This study sought to address these issues by exploring the perceived effect of electronic resources usage on the lecturers in their literature search for professional growth by and large and the institution's academic excellence for the teaching, learning and research. Specifically the objectives of this study are (1) to determine the pattern of e-resources usage by academicians, (2) to examine the perceived impact of e-resources usage on the academicians' research.

Methodology - The research method adopted for this study was survey method. The population of the study consisted of 1500 academic staff member in Kaduna Polytechnic. The sample size of the study is 306. It is calculated using the formula on Morgan's statistical table which stands at 95% level of confidence and 5% margin error (Sekaran, 2003). The questionnaire was divided into three sections. Section A deals with the demography of the respondents. Section B consist of questions on access, usage and awareness of e-resources and the last section consider the perception of academic staff toward the impact e-resources usage on their research output. The questionnaire was design on a five-point Likert scale where, 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = strongly agree and 5 = agree. A total of 320 questionnaires were distributed randomly to the academic staff of Kaduna Polytechnic. Off 320 questionnaires, 295 were returned that gave a response rate of 96.4% and were also found to be usable for analysis. The returned questionnaires were screened and coded in SPSS v 23 for analysis. Descriptive statistic such as simple percentage, frequency count, cross tabulation and chi-square were performed in order to get the required result based on the research objectives of the study.

Findings - *Pattern of Usage*

Table 1 shows the pattern of e-resources usage. Based on Table 1, all respondents access e-resources but accessed it at various places. Of 295 respondents, 204 (69%) accessed e-resources at the Kaduna Polytechnic library. The majority (95%) of respondents use e-resources for research. This finding concurs with those findings of Santhi and Gopalakrishnan (2016). It is evidenced from the findings that majority of the respondents use e-resources frequently. This is reflected in Table 1 where 266 respondents accessed e-resources either daily or most of the days.

Table 1: Demographic Profile

Item	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Place of Access		
• Office	29	10
• Home	35	12
• Library	204	69
• Café	11	4
• Others	16	5
Purpose of Use		
• Research	279	94
• Teaching	14	5
• Others	2	1
Frequency of Use		
• Daily	150	50
• Most Days	116	39
• Weekly	27	9
• Others	2	1

Impact of E-Resources on Academicians' Research

When asked about how e-resources enhanced their academic research, the majority (58%) of respondents believe that the provision of current and up-to-date e-resources enhanced their research. Other respondents believe that free access to full text articles (27%), quick access to material (7%) and relevant bibliographic search tools (7%) enhance their research. The findings also show that most respondents is in agreement that e-resources contribute to their research (median = 4, IQR = 1).

Keywords: Electronic information resources, E-resources, academic staff, information communication technology.

CONCLUSIONS

The study show high level of acceptance of e-resources by academicians as indicated by their responses towards utilization of the resources. Frequency and awareness of usage had great

impact on their research. In addition, the positive perception of academicians toward e-resources has great impact on their research output and publications.

REFERENCES

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