

*Full Length Research*

# Use of Electronic Information Resources by Undergraduate Students of Kogi State University Library, Anyigba

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The study investigated the use of electronic information resources by undergraduate students in Kogi State University Library. This study adopted descriptive survey research design. The sample for the study comprised 10% of the total population which is one hundred and thirty-nine (139) undergraduate users in the university under study. Simple random sampling technique was employed to select respondents for questionnaire distribution. The instrument used for the collection of data was a structured questionnaire and the copies of the final version of the questionnaire were administered. Descriptive statistics was used to answer all the research questions. The questions were analyzed using the Likert scale. Out of 139 questionnaires distributed, only 102 were duly completed and returned. The study revealed that electronic information resources such as CD-ROM, online database, electronic book, internet, electronic journal and electronic thesis and dissertation are occasionally used. While online bibliography, email and OPAC were rarely used. The study also revealed that they are certain problems impeding the use of electronic information resources amongst undergraduate students. The study recommended that university management of either federal or state should provide enough funds that is government should vote a reasonable amount of fund to education, especially the library system, this will enable the library management buy all infrastructure and well equipment needed for electronic library to work effectively and efficiently.

**Keywords:** electronic resources, information, university library

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## INTRODUCTION

The access to electronic information resources in academic libraries and among University students is rapidly increasing as a result of the massive adoption of information communication technology. Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) play vital roles in helping libraries in their quest to support the teaching and learning process at University level and to provide quality assistance to its users. As an emerging field, Information

technology has been facilitated by providing electronic and internet resources for fulfilling the day to day academic and research requirements of the university students (Kumar, Gauri, and Bimal, 2011).

Information technology has made a profound impact on availability and accessibility of electronic information resources and to provide a quick and comprehensive access to resources by using best possible tools and techniques is the ultimate aim of every library. The application of computers to information processing has

brought several products and services to librarianship as a profession. Consequently, library services have undergone tremendous changes during these years, assuming new dimensions influenced by technology-driven applications. Libraries therefore have witnessed a great transformation in recent years both in their collection development and in their services structures. Thus Libraries are using technology to improve the acquisition and management of scholarly information to strengthen and speed access to scholarly information not held locally. Electronic information resources are important research tools that complement the print-based resources in a traditional library setting, EIRs are easily accessible in the remote areas and solve storage problems and control the flow of information (Munira Nasreen Ansari and Bushra, 2010). Electronic information resources provide access to information that might be restricted to the user because of distance (Sabouri, et al 2010). The emergence of electronic resources has cut the barrier to valuable information resources which until now were difficult to access especially by scholars in the developing nations of the world. Commenting on the advantages of electronic information resources to students, lecturers and researchers, Dadzie (2005) writes that electronic resources are invaluable research tools that complement the print-based resources that are available in a traditional library setting. Their advantages, according to her include: access to information that might be restricted to the user due to geographical location or finances, access to more current information, and provision of extensive links to additional resources related contents, they contain current information because they updated frequently, they offer advanced search capabilities, they offer flexibility in the storage of the results, and they enable access to information without the restrictions of time and location.

In recent time, there has been the need of EIRs in academic libraries to meet up with the objective of their parent institution. Electronic information resources are invaluable tools for study, learning and research (Togia & Tsigilis, 2009). For any academic library to thrive in this information age, the library irrespective of the size of its collection must embrace Information Communication Technology. Online dictionary of library and information science (2004) defines electronic information resources as materials consisting of data and/or computer program(s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer, such as a CD-ROM drive or remotely via network such as the internet by use of a peripheral device directly connected to the computer. Shim et al (2001) defined Electronic information resources as those resources that users access electronically via a computing network from inside the library or remote to the library.

In the age of information technology and information

explosion era, the information communication technology (ICT) plays a vital role in the development of libraries and also helps to improve the quality of services. Managing the development and delivery of electronic library services is one of the major current challenges for library and librarian. This is a practical view of e-library issues. The term 'electronic library' is being used here in broad terms to mean a collection of networked digital information resources and associated technical and managerial infrastructure. The electronic library is assumed to include data in various formats which are created or assembled in order to provide a service to end users. Over the last decade, a growing the numbers of libraries adopted e-services to provide their users with electronics access like e-mail, web, mobile phone to wide range of services. E-service promise the cost saving, time consumption, increasing the operational efficiencies and improve the services for users.

The main goal of the university library is to provide information resources to enhance teaching, learning and research. The library's driving philosophy is providing the right information for the right patron at the right time. This philosophy therefore makes a sine qua non for any library to acquire electronic information resources if they must retain patronage in this era. Electronic information resources found in libraries include online databases, CD ROMs, and internet. It is of essence to note here that these electronic resources are quite expensive to acquire especially considering the slim budget allocations of university libraries (Ifijeh, 2012). For libraries to make effective use of these electronic resources, they need basic infrastructure like hardware and software.

This rapid emergence and development of electronic information technologies therefore makes it possible to envision radically different ways of organizing the collections and services of the library as traditionally provided. A number of studies have been made with a view to proffering solutions to problems encountered in the use of electronic information resources. However, little or no efforts have been recorded in identification of influence and the use of electronic information resources among undergraduate students' of Kogi State University, Anyigba. Therefore, this is the gap which the researchers intend to identify. The purpose of study is to investigate the use of electronic information resources among undergraduate students of Kogi State University, Anyigba, Kogi State, Nigeria.

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The general objective of the study is to investigate the use of electronic information resources among undergraduate students of Kogi state University, Anyigba. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Ascertain the availability of electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library
2. Ascertain the level of undergraduate student's awareness of electronic information resources in KSU library.
3. To identify the purpose of the use of these electronic information resources in KSU library.
4. To identify the challenges faced by students when using electronic information resources.
5. To suggest the strategies for curbing the challenges faced by students when using electronic information resources

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Based on the objective of this study, the following questions will guide the study:

1. What are the available electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library?
2. Are undergraduate students aware of the electronic information resources in KSU library?
3. What are the purpose of use of these electronic information resources in KSU library?
4. What are the challenges faced by students when using electronic information resources?
5. What are the coping strategies for curbing the challenges faced by students when using electronic information resources?

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Electronic information resources are very important to the university setting and most especially in the academic libraries. According to Urgiewu (2014), the aim of digitalizing library materials is for preservation and easy access students, researchers and other users. In this era known as information age, seekers of knowledge need to have access to information resources that come in various forms, this is made possible by the provision of digital resources. In the words of Madondo (2017), electronic resources refer to the materials that require computer access whether through a personal computer mainframe or smart technologies, students are increasingly expected to use electronic resources while at the university. Although information gathering and use patterns in the traditional library have been researched into over the years, the electronic environment presents a new and relatively unexplored area for such study. Some early effects of the increasing availability of electronic resources are already apparent. The emergence of electronic information resources has tremendously transformed information handling and management in Nigerian academic environments and University libraries

in particular (Ani and Ahiauzu, 2008). These dramatic changes include the way in which information is provided to the University communities. A number of electronic resources initiatives have been put in place to assist in the development training and use of electronic resources in a number of academic institutions (Egberongbe, 2011).

Electronic information resources are sometimes referred to as e-resources. They are invaluable research tools that complement the print-based resources in a traditional library setting (Egberongbe, 2011). Okiki and Asiru (2011) stated that electronic information resources are "products of information and communication technologies and they have been found relevant to the learning and research process in Universities." Examples of these electronic information resources are e- journals, e-books, Databases, OPAC, e- thesis and dissertations, internet, etc. In a study carried out by Bassi and Gamble (2011) it was revealed that the internet is the most highly used e- resource; 392 (41.05%) of the 955 respondents make regular use of the internet and this was closely followed by the use of e-journals; 125 (13.09%) respondents indicated their regular use of e- journals. The high rate in the use of these electronic resources could be accredited to the fact that they usually contain current information which is highly treasured by academics. The use of these electronic resources has brought about a revolution in the activity of information provision and dissemination. The use of Electronic information resources provides a better platform and more opportunities for users being that it has obvious advantages over the print resources. (Afebende and Uyanah, 2008).

Similarly, Oduwole, et al. (2003), sought to know the electronic resources provided by Nigerian libraries. When asked what electronic resources they provide, Nigerian university libraries, he identified Online Public Access Catalog, CD-ROM, databases, electronic mail (e-mail) and Internet browsing. The study found that students constitute the major category of users of electronic services in the university libraries surveyed. In a survey of cyber cafes which are facilities established in the university environment to aid learning and research in Delta state, Adomi et al (2003) reported that 77.8% of the customers/users cafes were students. Ojedokun and Owolabi (2003) reported that e-mail is the most used Internet resource by staff and students

However, Ankras (2017) in Ming-der (2012) revealed that students encountered some problems that included inability to retrieve relevant materials, especially when searching by keywords, internet connections to access library resources and text articles were not complete because libraries did not subscribe to the journals. Some of the challenges are lack of awareness, inability to have the required knowledge of how to use the e-resources, inadequate computer system, poor internet connection, lack of guidance on use of electronic resources, lack of

experts and non-payment of subscription.

Supporting this, Enakrire and Onyenania (2007) outlined challenges hampering users' access to electronic resources such as financial constraints, lack of training on how to browse the internet, knowledge of websites and problems associated with searching of information on the internet. Buttressing the above, Dadzie (2005, P. 295) indicated that lack of access to electronic sources, inadequate knowledge of usage and inability to acquire the necessary skills that are required to use these resources. In a study, Ogunsola (2005) averred that Nigeria libraries especially in the universities are faced with problems in their attempts to computerize their library operations. The shortage of manpower, lack of spare parts, low level of electricity supply and constant breakdown of computers. All these have slowed down the activities of Nigerian university libraries in utilizing the global information and technological innovations for the services of their clientele.

In curbing these challenges, Ukonu (2012) opined that digital libraries should ensure constant repair of their computers whenever they breakdown, there should be stable power supply, recruitment of more staff that will assist in the digital libraries sensitization of students who do not know about the digital library and its benefits, provision of training programmes for staff that would assist users and the need for more printers and computers and other facilities. Also, Biokuromoye et al (2014) averred that university libraries should give proper orientation to students about the various electronic resources. University libraries should create more awareness about availability of e-resources in the library

so that users have access rather than patronizing commercial cybercafé.

## METHODOLOGY

The research design for this study is survey (descriptive), which is a systematic approach of collecting data to find out respondent's opinion. The population of this study comprises undergraduate library users of Kogi State University Library, KSU, Anyigba. According to Library Statistics, the total numbers of undergraduate users is one thousand, three hundred and ninety one (1, 391). Therefore, the total population for the study is 1, 391. The sample size for the study comprises 139 representing 10% of the 1,391 population of undergraduate library users. The instrument used to elicit information from respondents was the questionnaire and observation checklist. Out of the 139 questionnaires distributed to respondents, only 102 were duly completed and returned. The data obtained for this study were analysed and presented based on the research question using table, simple percentage counts and Likert Scale. The decision rule for acceptability in using the Likert scale was based on 2.50 and above, and was rejected at mean scores less than 2.50.

## Data Analyses and Interpretation

**Research Question 1:** What are the available electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library?

Table 1: available electronic information resources in KSU library

S/N	Available resources	A	NA
1	CD-ROM	√	
2	Online database	√	
3	Electronic book	√	
4	Internet	√	
5	Electronic journal	√	
6	Electronic thesis and dissertation	√	
7	Online bibliography	√	
8	Email publishing		√
9	OPAC	√	

**Key: A-available, NA- Not Available**

From table 1, the findings arranged according to the university library investigated, revealed that out of the (9) items listed, (8) items are available and functional in KSU library, while (1) is Not Available in the library. Facilities and equipment such as CD-ROM, online database, electronic book, internet, electronic journal, electronic thesis and dissertation, online bibliography and OPAC. While email publishing is not available.

**Research Question 2:** Are undergraduate students aware of the electronic information resources in KSU library?

**Table 2:** Awareness of electronic information resources

S/N	Awareness	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Decision
1	CD-ROM	65	23	8	6	102	3.44	A
2	Online database	43	38	15	6	102	3.15	A
3	Electronic book	31	38	13	20	102	2.78	A
4	Internet	34	49	19	10	102	3.25	A
5	Electronic journal	55	22	14	11	102	3.18	A
6	Electronic thesis and dissertation	41	33	9	19	102	2.94	A
7	Online bibliography	29	31	20	22	102	2.65	A
8	Email publishing	15	6	38	43	102	1.93	R
9.	OPAC	38	43	14	7	102	3.09	A

**Key:** SA-Strongly Agree, A-Agree, D-Disagree, SD-Strongly Disagree

The table 2 shows the respondents' level of awareness on the use of electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library. Responses show the mean value ranging from (2.6) to (3.4), all of which agree that they are aware of electronic information resources. These resources CD-ROM, online database, electronic book, internet, electronic journal, electronic thesis and dissertation, online bibliography and OPAC. Whereas the mean scores of (1.9) depicts that respondents are not aware of Email Publishing in Kogi State University Library.

**Research Question 3:** What are the purposes of use of these electronic information resources in KSU library?

**Table 3:** Purpose of Use of Electronic Information Resources

S/N	Use	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Decision
1	To do research	55	22	11	14	102	3.15	A
2	To do assignment	65	22	9	6	102	3.45	A
3	To complement classroom teaching	41	23	19	9	102	2.75	A
4	To update knowledge	34	49	19	10	102	3.25	A
5	For email	20	22	31	29	102	2.32	R
6	For news	29	31	20	22	102	2.66	A
7	To assess timely information	28	41	12	21	102	2.75	A

**Key:** SA-Strongly Agree, A-Agree, D-Disagree, SD-Strongly Disagree

The table 3 shows the purpose of Use of Electronic Information Resources in Kogi State University Library. The data in table 3 reveals the mean scores of (3.1), (3.4), (2.7), (3.2), (2.6) and (2.7) all of which support that electronic information resources are used to do research, to do assignment, to complement classroom teaching, to update knowledge, for news and to assess timely information respectively. The result also shows that respondents with the mean score of (2.3) rejected the use of electronic information resources for email.

**Table 4:** Respondent Frequency of Use of Electronic Information Resources

S/N	Resources	Regularly (%)	Occasionally (%)	Rarely (%)	Not at all (%)	Total (%)
1	CD-ROM	41 (40.1%)	53 (51.9%)	5 (4.2%)	3 (3.0%)	102(100%)
2	Online database	22 (21.6%)	43 (42.2%)	17 (16.7%)	20 (19.6%)	102(100%)
3	Electronic book	23 (22.5%)	42 (41.2%)	21 (20.6%)	16 (15.7%)	102(100%)
4	Internet	42 (41.2%)	39 (38.2%)	11 (10.8%)	10 (9.8%)	102(100%)
5	Electronic journal	25 (24.5%)	42 (41.2%)	19 (18.6%)	16 (15.7%)	102(100%)
6	Electronic thesis and dissertation	26 (25.5%)	41 (40.1%)	25 (24.5%)	10 (9.8%)	102(100%)
7	Online bibliography	15 (14.7%)	31 (30.3%)	40 (39.3%)	16 (15.7%)	102(100%)
8	Email publishing	12 (11.8%)	24 (23.5%)	36 (35.2%)	30 (29.5%)	102(100%)
9.	OPAC	17 (16.7%)	29 (28.5%)	37 (36.4%)	19 (18.6%)	102(100%)

The table 4 shows the respondents' frequency of use of Electronic Information Resources in Kogi State University Library. Responses show electronic information resources occasionally used in Kogi State University Library. These resources are CD-ROM, online database, electronic book, internet, electronic journal and electronic thesis and dissertation While 39.3%, 35.2% and 36.4% rarely use online bibliography, email and OPAC respectively.

**Research Question 4:** What are the challenges faced by students when using electronic information resources?

**Table 5:** Challenges with the Use of Electronic Information Resources

S/N	Problems	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Decision
1	Erratic power supply	41	23	19	9	102	2.75	A
2	Unawareness on the side of the users	29	31	20	22	102	2.66	A
3	Inadequate information resources gadgets/facilities	34	49	19	10	102	3.25	A
4	Inconsistent training for users	41	33	9	19	102	2.94	A
5	Slow network problem	43	38	15	6	102	3.15	A
6	Lack required search skills	31	38	13	20	102	2.78	A
7	Lack of subscription	28	41	12	21	102	2.75	A

**Key:** SA-Strongly Agree, A-Agree, D-Disagree, SD-Strongly Disagree

The table 5 shows the challenges with the use of electronic Information Resources in Kogi State University Library. Responses show the mean value ranging from (2.6) to (3.2), all of which agree that there are problems impeding the use of electronic information resources amongst undergraduate students. These problems range from erratic power supply, unawareness on the side of the users, inadequate information resources gadgets/facilities, inconsistent training for users, slow network problem, lack required search skills and lack of subscription.

**Research Question 5:** What are the coping strategies for curbing the challenges faced by students when using electronic information resources?

**Table 6:** Strategies for curbing the problems

S/N	Solutions	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Decision
1	Provision of consistent power supply	31	38	13	20	102	2.78	A
2	Provision of adequate electronic information resources facilities	55	22	11	14	102	3.15	A
3	Consistent training of users	29	31	20	22	102	2.66	A
4	Provision of modern technologies	34	49	19	10	102	3.25	A
5	Organising and facilitating publicity awareness programmes	29	31	20	22	102	2.66	A
6	Organising special training on searching and retrieval of e-resources	41	33	9	19	102	2.94	A

**Key:** SA-Strongly Agree, A-Agree, D-Disagree, SD-Strongly Disagree

The table 6 shows the strategies needed to resolve the challenges impeding the use of electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library. The data in table 6 reveals the mean scores of (2.7), (3.1), (2.6), (3.2), (2.6) and (2.9) all of which support the provision of consistent power supply, provision of adequate electronic information resources facilities, consistent training of users, provision of modern technologies, organising and facilitating publicity awareness programmes and organising special training on searching and retrieval of e-resources.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The result of the study revealed that the following electronic information resources are available in Kogi State University Library. They include: CD-ROM, online database, electronic book, internet, electronic journal, electronic thesis and dissertation, online bibliography and OPAC. While Email publishing is not available. Oduwale et al (2003) in a similar study identified the following as digital resources available in Nigerian university libraries: OPAC, CD-ROMs databases, e-mail and internet browsing. The findings of the study revealed the level of awareness on the use of electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library. These resources CD-ROM, online database, electronic book, internet, electronic journal, electronic thesis and dissertation, online bibliography and OPAC. However, it is imperative to not that the availability of digital library resources for users will go a long way in making university libraries to be more relevant to their users as well as be up to date so they can handle effectively the ever growing information need of their users. It was discovered that electronic information resources are used to do research, to do assignment, to complement classroom teaching, to update knowledge, for news and to assess timely

information respectively. The study also discovered that electronic information resources such as CD-ROM, online database, electronic book, internet, electronic journal and electronic thesis and dissertation While 39.3%, 35.2% and 36.4% rarely use online bibliography, email and OPAC respectively. Also, the study also found out that there are problems impeding the use of electronic information resources amongst undergraduate students. These problems range from erratic power supply, unawareness on the side of the users, inadequate information resources gadgets/facilities, inconsistent training for users, slow network problem, lack required search skills and lack of subscription. In consonance with this findings was a study by Ejibuwa (2005) who found out that the absence of basic infrastructure like constant electricity necessary for ICT growth, lack of facilitation for network resources sharing, inadequate professionals with requisite ICT skills and above all, inadequate fund to support development in their direction were impediment to the use of electronic resources. Lastly, the study revealed that the strategies needed to resolve the challenges impeding the use of electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library. Among which are the provision of consistent power supply, provision of adequate electronic information resources facilities, consistent training of users, provision of modern technologies, organising and facilitating publicity awareness programmes and organising special training on searching and retrieval of e-resources.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, the below conclusion are drawn with reference to the research questions. The result of the study revealed that the following electronic information resources are available in Kogi State University Library such as CD-ROM, online database,

electronic book, internet, electronic journal, etc. While Email publishing is not available. The findings of the study revealed the respondents are aware of the use of electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library. The study also discovered that electronic information resources such as CD-ROM, online database, electronic book, internet, electronic journal and electronic thesis and dissertation are occasionally used. While 39.3%, 35.2% and 36.4% rarely use online bibliography, email and OPAC respectively. Also, the study also found out that there are problems impeding the use of electronic information resources amongst undergraduate students. Lastly, the study revealed that the strategies needed to resolve the challenges impeding the use of electronic information resources in Kogi State University Library. Among which are the provision of consistent power supply, provision of adequate electronic information resources facilities, consistent training of users, provision of modern technologies, etc.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The researcher suggests that university management, either Federal or State should provide enough funds that is government should vote a reasonable amount of fund to education, especially the library system, this will enable the library management buy all infrastructure and well equipment needed for electronic library to work effectively and efficiently.
2. Management of the university library in the study should try to train their students in up- to-date 21st century skills of Information Communication technologies (ICTs). This will help to solve the problems of ICTs skills among undergraduates.
3. Effort should be made by the University and library management of both federal and state universities to minimize the challenges faced by undergraduates to access digital information resources.
4. Finally, there is need for university authorities to make adequate and constant provision on

electricity supply to the library. They can achieve this by making available back-up power plants.

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