

Full Length Research

ICT Skills Relationship with the Utilization of E-Resources by Undergraduate Students of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State

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This study investigated ICT skills relationship with the utilization of E-Resources by undergraduate Students of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State. The research questions used for study are three. The researcher adopted a correlational research design. Population of the study is 615 respondents using a proportionate random sampling technique from the six (6) faculties in UNIZIK for the study. The instruments that were used for this study is questionnaire. Data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to answer the research questions The findings of the study revealed that: There is a high coefficient of relationship between utilization of electronic resources and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students of the UNIZIK; there is a very high coefficient of relationship between utilization of online public access catalogue (OPAC) and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students in UNIZIK; and there is a very high coefficient of relationship between utilization databases and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students. It was recommended among others that the management of tertiary institutions should ensure that every form of electronic resource is made available in the school environment for students' access, to help source information for their academic progress; online public access catalogue (OPAC) should be provided in the school by the school authority for students use, to help students see the trend of technology in the world and the need for them to know the different types of ICT facilities and ways they can be accessed; the use of ICT should be made compulsory in tertiary institutions to enable students blend into the trend of technology in improving their knowledge for academic progress; internet resources should be made available in tertiary institutions to help ease the stress in teaching and learning for the improvement of academic achievement.

Keywords: ICT skills, Utilization, E-Resources, Undergraduate Students, UNIZIK, Awka Anambra state

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INTRODUCTION

In any discipline, the backbone of teaching, learning and research is information resources (Maxwell, 2018). Thus beyond the classroom, postgraduate students are expected to utilize information resources provided by the library in complementing classroom instructions, especially in this age of globalization where Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilitate quick and easy access to a wide range of information resources worldwide. The provision and utilization of Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are part and parcel of the entire system, to postgraduate students, information professionals, staff, and researchers of an institution. It is one thing to recognize the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and another to know if they are effectively utilized by information professionals, and post graduates student's.

However, in this regard, Israel and Edesiri (2016) state that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skill is one essential requirement for one to operate in the knowledge society of the 21st century. Ukaegbu and Wegwu (2019) citing Quadri describe Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills as the abilities for the collection, effective processing, storing, transmitting and the dissemination of information which enables the use of computers and related technologies to meet personal academic and labour market objectives. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills of a student is a relative measure of the student's capacity to make appropriate utilization of Information and communication technology (ICT) resources for educational and learning purposes, this is because, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills are required to critically evaluate information content and explore it effectively, as well as understanding the technological infrastructure on which information transmission is based (Oliver & Tower, 2019).

One of the major functions of a university is conservation of existing knowledge. The university library plays a role in this regard by ensuring that the right information resources are acquired. The use of online information resources in university libraries is aimed at "broadening the range of available information resources within the library and adding value to the content by making them accessible through digital means so that students, researchers, and the entire members of the university community can access them anytime and anywhere" (Daramola 2016:7).

However, the author further states that, the library within the university systems provides the infrastructures and internet facilities to enhance student's accessibility of online resources. The availability of online resources has changed what students actually read and use (Renwick, 2018). These resources now come in different forms such as e-books, e-journals, e-dictionaries, e-magazines, online databases and internet resources. The emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has brought transformation in the techniques of accessing, storing, retrieving and dissemination of information resources in the library. Also, it transformed the means of providing services offered to user's community. Information and Communication Technology has influenced library services in developed countries as most of these libraries are automated and developing countries like Nigeria are not left out.

Online information resources, according to Tsakonas, (2019) are information sources provided in electronic form, and they include resources available on the Internet such as research guides by subject, online indexes, electronic books and texts, electronic journals, library catalogue, online reference sources etc. Library users are very vital in university library. The library is established because of them to satisfy their information needs and demands for academic and research purposes. The use of electronic information resources in learning and research by postgraduate students has become indispensable in this digital age where globalization of education is made possible through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). We are currently living in an information society where there is exponential growth in information accessibility through ICT especially the internet. This has given rise to virtual learning, learning at a distance and globalization of education. Tinio (2020) averres that globalization and technological change have created a new global economy that is powered by technology, fueled by information and driven by knowledge. This new global economy implies that as information continues to grow exponentially, schools cannot remain mere venues for the transmission of a prescribed set of information from teacher to student over a fixed period of time but schools must promote learning to learn as knowledge becomes more dynamic.

The emergence of online information resources (OIRs) has greatly transformed information handling and management in Nigerian university communities (Adeleke & Emeahara, 2016). Online information resources(OIRs) or simply electronic resources (e-resources) are information stored in electronic format, in computer or computer related facilities such as CD-ROMs, flash drives, digital libraries or the Internet. Electronic information resources (EIRs) provide easy access to vast amount of information remotely which is becoming more popular globally (Tinio, 2020). EIRs offer have potential advantages and benefits over the print in an electronic information environment. The Internet is a computer network that connects millions of computers globally. It is referred to as global communication network, global information system, information superhighway, network of networks and cyberspace. Electronic resources have been embraced in academic spheres. It is used for general communication, information retrieval and instructional delivery to support teaching, learning and research activities in tertiary institutions. The Internet is referred to as a global

information resource that contains all sources of information across academic disciplines. The World Wide Web (WWW) helps in navigating through different electronic resources.

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The use of E-resources affords researchers and students the opportunity to have access to global information resources, especially the Internet for their scholarly work. Higher education students make use of electronic information resources for many purposes; mostly for academic purpose that is, retrieving current literature for studies and prepare for examinations, to do class assignments, to carry out research projects, and to communicate and collaborate with peers and teachers via the Internet on e-mail or by following blog discussions (Adeniran, 2018). Students use the World Wide Web (WWW), e-books and e-journal articles to acquire knowledge and carry out research work (Ajayi, Shorunke&Aboyade, 2019). Course materials are provided on CD-ROM for students' use which affords them to pre-use as convenient. With the emergence of ICT, electronic information resources (EIRs) have become widely used and accepted among scholars and have increased tremendously in volume around the globe (Oyedapo&Ojo, 2018). All these resources have really influenced learning and improved the quality of education as this is evident in distance learning. However, literature revealed low usage of EIRs by post-graduates in Nigeria (Omoike, 2016).

E-resources have many printed materials in that they can be accessed anytime, anywhere and they do not occupy much space like printed materials. As Varghese (2018) asserted, the availability of information in electronic media has created opportunities for global access to information, enhanced the speed of service, increased the number of users served, increased the quality of information provided, and offered new opportunities for students to find relevant information. Students are able to access up-to-date international literature as soon as it is published on the Internet from the libraries, student IT centers, internet cafes, work places and their homes. It is therefore important that higher

education students be equipped with the research tools necessary to access EIRs. This is particularly necessary for distance learning students. Moreover, Yalman, Basaran and Gonen (2016) aver that knowledge of ICT and related skills plays an important role in today's educational activities. Therefore, every distance learning students should possess these skills in order to be able to participate effectively and successfully as they make use of electronic information resources in learning.

However, there is a growing acceptance among academics, education policy-makers and employer groups that the development of ICT skills is part of the role of higher education. Employers are seeking graduates with a range of knowledge on ICT skills and personal attributes in addition to degree status. According to Akintunde (2018), Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a terminology has overtaken information technology (IT) because of its appropriateness and utilization. Beebe (2017) posited that ICT is a short term for computers, software, networks, satellite links and related systems that allow people to access, analyze, create, exchange and use data, information and knowledge. The use of ICT has increased and broadened the impact and skills of students on how to seek information electronically. The ICT skills that have become increasingly important in the pursuance of a degree-level education will affect both how students manipulate these e-learning resources and the way they are used for learning. ICT skills deal with the application of ICT to specific purposes. It is not just about using software package or using operating systems, neither is it concerned only with keyboarding skills and students' ability to copy-type or follow instructions. Rather, ICT skills among postgraduates is about students' ability to use their knowledge about ICT to find, develop and present information; whether it is text, image, or number, or all of these in an integrated task.

Meanwhile, Tariq and Cochrane (2019) noted that in recent year's employers require graduate employee to be skilled in a range of areas including information and communication technology (ICT) and employers look to higher education Institutions to equip their graduates with the requisite skills. Engeldinger (2018) noted that the fundamental purpose of higher education is the preparation of students for their future. If graduates of today and tomorrow are to flourish in the modern, fast paced, high tech world, they must have information seeking and technology skills. The means of acquiring these ICT skills must be imbedded in students learning and be part and parcel of their educational experience. These skills include a knowledge of computer operations, knowledge of the structure of databases and the instructions which must be input into the computer by the student, as well as an understanding of the ways in which the instructions are linked with one another. To this end, Brophy (2017) stated that students do not often appreciate the skills required to search these sources, stating that they are deceptively easy to use. The ability of students 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 while still at the university.

Also, Nikitakis (2017) states that ICT skill refers to the ability of fully understanding and acquiring a wholeness of capacities, such as recognizing, spotting, evaluating and making effective use of the given information. In order words, one should possess not only the basic computer usage skills, but also communication, inquiry and information retrieval capabilities. Ryan (2016) stated that, over a decade ago, the International Technology Education Association has recognized the students' preparation on internet application as an important objective of computer literacy education in the educational curriculum.

Therefore, preliminary observation by the researcher revealed that almost all of the postgraduate students that do patronize the university library are found going (or moving) from shelf to shelf in order to search for information directly. This scenario has become the researchers worry. This has created a gap in knowledge that this present study intend to address. Hence, the need for this study which seeks to investigate influence of information and communication technology skills and utilization of E-resources by undergraduate students in UNIZIK, Awka.

Purpose of the Study

This study will examine ICT skills as a correlates to utilization of e-resources by undergraduate students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State
Specifically, it will seek to:

- determine the extent of utilization of online information resources and ICT skills possessed by undergraduate students in UNIZIK.
- ascertain the relationship between the utilization of Online public access catalogue (OPAC) as online information resources and extent of ICT skills possessed by postgraduate students in UNIZIK
- investigate the relationship between the utilization of online databases as online information resources and extent of ICT skills possessed by postgraduate students in UNIZIK

Research Questions

The following research questions are posed for this study:

- What is the extent of utilization of online information resources and ICT skills possessed by undergraduate students in UNIZIK
- What is the relationship between the utilization of Online public access catalogue (OPAC) as online information resources and extent of ICT skills possessed by undergraduate students in UNIZIK.
- What is the relationship between the utilization of online databases as online information resources and extent of ICT skills possessed by undergraduate students in UNIZIK

Research Method

This study adopted correlational design. A correlational design seeks to establish what relationship exists between two or among more variables. It simply means, the degree of relationship is expressed as a correlation coefficient. The sample for this study will be 615 from three faculties. The whole population was used for the study. The instrument to be used for data collection will be a researcher-made rating scale. The researcher will visit the universities and will engage three research assistants each to assist in the administration and retrieval of completed instrument. The administration and collection of the research instrument will last for three weeks. Research question one will be answered using descriptive statistics involving Mean and Standard deviation, while research questions. The basis for the decision for the research questions' conclusion will be as follows: for answering research question 1, the basis for the item remark will be as follows; any item with a Mean score between as follows:

1-1.74 = Very Low Extent,
 1.75-2.49= Low Extent,
 2.50-3.24=High Extent and
 3.25-4.00=Very High Extent.

But for the Cluster, the basis for the Cluster mark will be as follows, with a Mean score between as follows:
 15-26.25 = Very Low Extent,
 26.26-37.51 = Low Extent
 , 37.52-48.77 = High Extent, and

RESULTS

Research Question 1:What is the extent of utilization of online information resources and ICT skills possessed by undergraduate students in UNIZIK?

	N	r	MR	DR	Remark
Utilization of electronic resources ICT skill possession	615	0.891	Very high	Positive	Very high positive relationship

Sample Size (n), Summation (Σ), Pearson (r), Magnitude of Relationship (MR), and Direction of relationship (DR) and Remarks

The result in Table 1 above showed the relationship between utilization of electronic resources and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students in UNIZIK, With the sample size of 615 and a correlation result of 0.891, it shows that there is a high positive relationship between utilization of electronic resources and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students.

Research Question 2:What is the relationship between the utilization of Online public access catalogue (OPAC) as online information resources and extent of ICT skills possessed by undergraduate students in UNIZIK

	N	r	MR	DR	Remark
Utilization of online public access catalogue (OPAC) ICT skill possession	615	0.911	Very high	positive	Very high positive relationship

Sample Size (n), Pearson (r), Magnitude of Relationship (MR), and Direction of relationship (DR) and Remark

From the result on Table 2, the coefficient of relationship between utilization of online public access catalogue (OPAC) and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students UNIZIK was revealed. Also, the sample size of 615 and a correlation result of 0.911 were revealed. With the correlated coefficient of 0.911, it shows that there is a very high positive coefficient of relationship between utilization of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students.

Research Question 3:What is the relationship between the utilization of online databases as online information resources and extent of ICT skills possessed by undergraduate students in UNIZIK?

	N	r	MR	DR	Remark
Utilization databases	615	0.870	Very high	positive	Very high positive
ICT skill possession					relationship

Sample Size (n), Pearson (r), Magnitude of Relationship (MR), and Direction of relationship (DR)

Table 3 above revealed the coefficient of relationship between utilization databases and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students in UNIZIK. With the correlated coefficient of 0.870, it shows that there is a very high positive coefficient of relationship between utilization databases and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students of the faculties.

Summary of Findings

From the result of the analysis carried out, the following findings were obtained and summarized as follows:

- i. There is a high coefficient of relationship between utilization of electronic resources and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students in UNIZIK
- ii. There is a very high coefficient of relationship between utilization of online public access catalogue (OPAC) and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students in UNIZIK
- iii. There is a very high coefficient of relationship between utilization databases and ICT skill possession by undergraduate students in UNIZIK

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study was carried out to investigate investigated ICT skills relationship with the utilization of E-Resources by undergraduate Students of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State. To the best of the researcher knowledge, no study has been carried out on possession of information and communication technology (ICT) skills as correlates of utilization of online information resources by undergraduate students of UNIZIK. This is the gap that the present study filled. From the findings of the study, the researcher therefore made the following recommendations:

1. The management of tertiary institutions should ensure that every form of electronic resource is made available in the institution's environment for students' access, to help source information for their academic progress.
2. Online public access catalogue (OPAC) should be provided in the institution's by the school authority for students use, to help students see the trend of technology in the world and the need for them to know the different types of ICT facilities and ways they can be accessed.
3. The use of ICT should be made compulsory in tertiary institutions to enable students blend into the trend of technology in improving their knowledge for academic progress.

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