

Full Length Research

Availability and Utilization of Online Information Resources (OIRS) in Selected Academic Libraries, Ondo State, Nigeria

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Academic libraries in Ondo State, Nigeria were chosen for research on the availability and use of Online Information Resources (OIRS). The descriptive survey research design was used in this study. University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Wesley University, (WUO) Ondo, and Federal Polytechnic, Ile-Oluji, (FEDPOLY) Ondo State are the academic libraries. This study's sample size is 175 persons, which is the same as the population size. As a result, it is a total enumeration sample. The observation check list and structured questionnaire were employed to collect information. Checklist for the first research question, and the data from the retrieved questionnaire copies were examined using descriptive statistics. The researchers discovered that the following Online Information Resources (OIRs) were available in the Academic libraries they visited: e-conference papers, e-zines, e-newsletters, e-reference materials, e-projects, e-journals, e-seminar papers, e-books, and e-dissertations. Students use OIRs to a limited extent, according to the research. Students' barriers to accessing OIRs in the three libraries include epileptic power supply, a lack of online databases, a lack of formal training in Internet abilities among students, inadequate bandwidth, network difficulties, and slowness of server. In academic libraries in Ondo State, Nigeria, there was a moderately positive relationship between accessing and extent of consumption.

KEYWORDS: Online Information Resources, Availability, Utilization, Polytechnic, Undergraduates and Universities.

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INTRODUCTION

Every human being requires information at some point in their lives. Regardless of the nature of their work, specified duties, occupations, businesses, or researches, information is a requirement for success in any field. Information has been proven to bridge the gap between knowing and ignorance. It has also been referred to as the fifth production factor). The well-known saying "information is power" implies that once information is obtained, any activity or assignment may be completed. It is critical for an individual to understand his or her information requirements. The challenge is half addressed once the information requirement has been determined. Meanwhile, due to the advent of new fields and discoveries, the academic environment is dynamic. Similarly, technology innovation, which is inherently unpredictable, has grabbed the attention of young people, who make up a larger number of undergraduates in most Nigerian universities.

The availability and use of Online Information Resources (OIRs) through an effective distribution network is a prerequisite for the creation of a crop of well-informed citizens. Information must be readily available, adequate, and accessible in order to be presented in a manner that is acceptable and hence usable. As a result, it is a valuable resource in every setting, and its use is largely dictated by its availability and accessibility (Ternenge and Kashimana, 2019).

In today's competitive world, accurate and relevant information is increasingly recognised as a competitive advantage. Information is provided in a variety of formats, including print and online. While users are already familiar with the print format, technology has vastly increased the amount of information available and the forms in which it may be found. Libraries play a vital role in the knowledge society as guardians and disseminators of information (Obialor and Uwandu, 2017). They are prepared to assist their parent organisations by supplying the necessary information to assure their survival and continuation. While some libraries are designed to serve huge groups of people, others are designed for specific purposes. Special libraries are referred to as such. Medical institutes, hospitals, law firms, and universities all have these types of libraries.

Information centres are special libraries around the world that are professionally structured collections of information materials for convenient retrieval. Special libraries are distinct from conventional libraries in that they cater to specialised professional organisations or groups. Special libraries are dedicated to specific topics. Professionals and researchers can keep up to date on current research and information in specialised libraries. They choose, assess, organise, and communicate information in specific areas of expertise for "specialists," "experts," and "top management" who do not have time to go through extensive literature in order to make timely judgments today. (2010) (Agbanu, Ofordile, Okeji, and Ogwu).

As previously stated, information is made available in a variety of formats, including print and online information resources. The study will concentrate on the online information resources accessible in the health industry. Libraries (especially those in the medical or health fields) are gathering such online information and making it available on the Internet/Intranet for the benefit of their library users in the information technology age. As we all know, technological advancements have drastically altered how libraries and organisations provide information services. Libraries are being automated and connected to the Internet to make retrieving and disseminating of information easier, which will benefit teaching, learning, research, and administrative work in universities.

Accessing and using online information resources for academic purposes such as teaching, learning, and research is known as utilising online information resources. When students need information for their research projects, they go to the library. Since the introduction of Information Communication Technologies in academic libraries, demand for online information resources has surpassed, but not completely replaced, that for print materials. Users and libraries benefit from online information resources in a variety of ways, including hyperlinks to other resources, large information reservoirs; quick information, various search options, ease of citations, ease of uploading and updating, ease of storage and dissemination, flexibility, time, space, lesser cost and ease of archiving (Tekale and Dalve, 2012). Users, particularly those from institutions of higher learning who are seriously active in research, can gain access to reliable and timely information via online tools (Ukpebor, 2012).

In this information era, one of the benefits of online information resources for libraries and scholars is the lessening of demand on academic libraries for physical storage space for books and journals, as well as users' limitless access to information (Ternenge and Kashimana, 2019). Users' attention has turned increasingly to online information resources at universities and other academic institutions, as it now dominates scholars' research activities and makes them realise the relevance of such resources (Hadagali, Kumbar, Nelogal and Bachalapur, 2012). Most institutions have an e-library that administers online resources, which are important academic resources that help teaching, learning, and research (Zhang & Liu, 2011). Online resources, according to Ternenge and Kashimana (2019), are invaluable research tools for students in higher education institutions.

Statement of the Problem

The evolution of e-resources in libraries and information centres began at the turn of the century. Prior to this, most library collections consisted solely of print resources. With the development of e-resources, some institution management believes that e-resources will eventually replace printed resources. Online resource collection development has become an integral part of library development, complementing print collection development. Collection development is the systematic creation of a library collection based on meaningful data rather than personal preference. It is the process of determining the library's strengths and weaknesses, as well as making plans to address the weaknesses and retain the strengths. The selection of current and retroactive content, as well as the appraisal of the existing collection, are all part of the collection development process.

The introduction of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has resulted in significant changes, particularly

in the growth of electronic resources collecting. Libraries, particularly university libraries, have worked to remain relevant in the supply of information resources to their patrons by providing electronic resources in order to keep up with the library's transformative changes and to meet the information needs of library users. It would be pointless to build a library collection that could not meet users' information needs. To be effective, library collection creation should be based on the information demands of users, who are the institution's major stakeholders. Some of the problems militating against the efficient and successful use of online resources in libraries include collection creation that requires understanding of electronic distribution techniques. The problem of user training, technological up-grading, financial constraints, and IT skill manpower are the problems of online resource collecting and management in libraries. As a result, the researchers wish to look into the availability and use of Online Information Resources (OIRS) in a few academic libraries in Ondo State, Nigeria.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONS IN ONDO STATE, THAT WERE USED FOR THE STUDY.

Historical Background of University of the Medical Sciences, Ondo City

In 2014, the Executive Governor of Ondo State, His Excellency Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, signed into law the bill for the establishment of the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo proposed by the Ondo State House of Assembly under Schedule 1, Section 5(2), and Article 39(1) of Ondo State Laws. The Law was designed to find ways to sustain the delivery of model health services that had been the hallmark of the administration of the State under Governor Mimiko. Under the Abiye program, Ondo State was the only state in the country that had achieved the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 aimed at reducing maternal and child deaths. The State had established model Mother and Child Hospitals in Akure and Ondo, ultra-modern diagnostic services and a Medical Village with considerable investments made in infrastructural and human resource development. To sustain such a groundbreaking vision, and to ensure high quality delivery of health services for all Nigerians, the idea of a University came to the fore.

The alternative options for implementing the vision of sustaining human resource development for health in Ondo State was to either to establish a College of Medicine in the existing State Universities in Akungba or Okitipupa or to establish a mini-campus on Medical education linked to one of the Universities. However, these options fell through because of experiences which shows that Colleges of Medicine established far away from the operating headquarters of the main Universities have not worked very well in this country. There is always the problem of primary loyalty to the initial founding vision of the parent Universities and also administrative bottlenecks that often prevent the full realisation of the full potentials of the medical institution. Also, many mini-campuses of Universities have never really functioned well in this country, and because of the big vision of transforming West Africa's health care delivery system being envisaged for this initiative, it was felt that a new University right from the onset, will be more appropriate.

Thus, following the enactment of the law establishing the University, the State Government mandated a consortium led by Professor Eugene Okpere of the National Universities Commission, assisted by Professor Odugbemi, Vice-Chancellor of the Ondo State University of Science and Technology to develop academic briefs for the new University. Part of what is being reported here is the results of the work of these two frontline medical educators. Additionally, a consultant - Okoh Investment, Nigeria Ltd - provided a detailed master plan of the University for its Location in Laje Road in Ondo Town.

On presentation of the State Law establishing the University, the Master Plan and the Briefs of the University, the National Universities Commission (NUC) gave official recognition to the University on April 22, 2015. In presenting the letter of recognition to the Executive Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko, the Executive Secretary of the NUC said inter alia: "I wish to congratulate the Government and people of Ondo State for this establishment of the Ondo State University of Medical Sciences. With effect from 22nd April, 2015, the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo has been recognized by the National Universities Commission as the 40th State University and the 139th Academic in Nigeria. It is however advised that the Academic should invite the NUC to assess the resources and facilities before the enrolment of students into the medical programmes". Responding, the Executive Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko said "our goal is not only to produce one of the best Nigerian Universities but we want a University of global record. We were driven by the passion for excellence in medical services in Nigeria and we thought that we needed a specialized University dedicated entirely to training, service delivery and high quality research in the medical disciplines. We also want an institution that will be a medical tourism destination where we can give first class quality service to every Nigerian and beyond.

In accordance with the University Law, the State Governor thereafter appointed **Professor Friday Okonofua, FAS**, a renowned professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Academic in March 2015. Dr. Funke Oyebade, mni, a former Registrar at the Federal Academic of Technology (FUTA), Akure was also appointed the first Registrar of the institution in March 2015. Finally, Mr.W.A Akinfolarin was appointed as Ag. University Librarian.

A Brief History of Wesley University, Ondo

The proprietor of Wesley University, Ondo is the Methodist Church Nigeria. Methodist Church Nigeria was established in the Country in 1842 by the Methodist Society from Britain. While engaging in their main goal of evangelizing and converting the people, the Methodists recognized the need to train a number of people who can read the Bible and serve as assistants to the Missionaries. The Methodists therefore, ventured into education of the people and set up the first "Nursery of the Infant Church" in Badagry in 1843. This marked the first initiative at establishing schools in Nigeria.

Over the years of its existence, the Methodist Church has shown interest and (had in fact) participated in the development of Education, Health and Agriculture in the country with the establishment of Primary and Secondary Schools, Teacher Training Colleges, Theological Institutions, Hospitals, Leprosy Centres and various agricultural projects.

From the historical viewpoint, the Church was regarded as a preserver of knowledge. In the world today, education is viewed as a vocational training for the young, and education disciplines the mind, develops the reasoning power and enables the young graduate to find employment and be of good service to the Church and the community.

To this effect, following the decision of the Federal Government of Nigeria to permit the establishment and running of private Universities by individuals or organizations based on Federal Government's criteria through the National Universities Commission, the Church decided to establish Wesley University of Science and Technology, expected to be a centre of excellence, committed to regeneration of good moral standards among the youths. MCN also observed the need to provide improved standard of delivery as well as provide additional places for the teeming population of young people who cannot be reasonably accommodated in the existing institutions.

The University was granted official license by the National Universities Commission (NUC) on May 17, 2007. Consequently, the official opening ceremony took place on May 14, 2008, at the university site in Ondo town, while full academic activities commenced in October, 2008, with the admission and resumption of the University's pioneer students.

We strive to provide the enabling environment for effective teaching and research in cutting-edge science and technology for sustainable development. The Wesley University of our dream is not just a University that provides facilities for teaching and research but one in which moral regeneration of our children would be approached through formal and informal means, so as to ensure stimulation of interest in national development from moral, cultural and religious perspectives.

A Brief History of Federal Polytechnic Ile-Oluji

The Federal Polytechnic, Ile-Oluji, Ondo State was established by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2014. Following the assumption of offices by the pioneer Rector, Registrar, Bursar and the Polytechnic Librarian in April 2015, the first set of staff were appointed later in the year. As a way of building a very solid foundation for the Polytechnic, acquainting all the pioneer staff with the Vision, Mission, founding objectives and all relevant plans and directions of the Polytechnic, the Polytechnic Management organized a 3-day orientation for the staff between 16th Monday and 18th Wednesday November, 2015 at the take-off academic campus.

The library was established along with the institution. **Federal Polytechnic, Ile-Oluji Library** is using Librarika, the free Integrated Library System (ILS) for managing its library online. You can also leverage this wonderful library information platform to manage your organisations library, family library or even your own personal library online.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the Online Information Resources (OIRs) services available in the three academic libraries in Ondo State?
2. To what extent is utilisation of Online Information Resources among undergraduate students in academic libraries?
3. What are the problems against utilisation of Online Information Resources (OIRs) by undergraduate students in academic libraries?

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey research design was used in this study. This will aid the researchers in determining how OIRs are used by undergraduate students in three Ondo State academic libraries. The Institutions include: University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City (UNIMED), Federal Polytechnic, Ile-Oluji (FEDPOLY), and Wesley University, Ondo. This study's sample size is 175 people, which is the same as the population size. All are undergraduate students in Nigerian academic libraries. As a result, entire enumeration sampling is used. The observation check list and structured questionnaire were employed to collect information observation checklist for the first research question.

The researchers were able to measure the level of consumption and difficulties with online information resources in various academic libraries by using structured questionnaires. The researchers used copies of the final version of the questionnaire that were personally distributed to the desired number of library customers at the time of administration. The information gathered from the recovered questionnaires was evaluated using descriptive statistics. Two research questions will be answered using descriptive statistics, while the first will be answered using reporting.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Regarding the study's data and analysis as they relate to the research questions and hypothesis that led the investigation, a total of 174 were distributed, with 154 being returned.

Research Question 1: What are the online information resources services available in Academic libraries?

Table 1. Online information resources available in academic libraries

S/N	OIRs	UNIMED	FEDPoly	WUO
1.	e- Project	Available	Not Available	Available
2.	e- Conference papers	Not Available	Not Available	Available
3.	e- Journals	Available	Available	Available
4.	e-Technical report	Available	Not Available	Available
5.	e-Reference materials	Not Available	Not Available	Available
6.	e-seminar Papers	Not Available	Not Available	Available
7.	e- Conference proceedings	Available	Available	Available
8.	e- Zines	Available	Not Available	Not Available
9.	e-Books	Available	Available	Available
10.	e-Newsletters	Available	Available	Available
11.	e-Grey document	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
12.	e-Thesis	Available	Not Available	Available
13.	e- Dissertation	Available	Not Available	Available

The Table 1 above used observation checklist which shows that none of the academic libraries has e-Conference papers. At the UNIMED Library, ten types of online information resources out of the thirteen types of online information resources checked, were available. The available online information resources in the library are e-Journals; e-Technical report; e-Reference materials; e-Proceedings; e-Zines; e-Books; e-Newsletters; e-Grey document; e-Thesis; and e-Dissertation.

At the Wesley University Library, four types of online information resources are available. They are e- journals; e-proceedings; e- Books; and e-newsletters. At the Federal polytechnic Library, ten types of online information resources out of the thirteen types of online information resources checked were available. The available online information resources in the library are e-Journals; e-Technical report; e-Reference materials; e-Proceedings; e-Zines; e-Books; e-Newsletters; e-Grey document; e-Thesis; and e-Dissertation. The findings show that online information resources available in academic libraries in Ondo States are e- Projects e -Journals; e-Technical report; e-Reference materials; e-Conference proceedings; e-Zines; e-Books; e-Newsletters; e-Grey document; e-Thesis; and e-Dissertation; e-Seminar. From the available OIR in the three Academic Libraries the study shows that UNIMED and WUO has more OIRs than Fedpoly, Ondo State.

Research Question 2: To what extent is utilization of OIRs among undergraduate students in Academic libraries, Ondo State of Nigeria?

Table 2. Mean scores(x) of extent of students use of online I information resources (OIRs) in the institutions.

DIR	Mean	Remarks
e- Projects	2.68	High Extent
e- Journals	2.60	High Extent
e- Reference materials	2.70	High Extent
e- Seminar Paper	2.67	High Extent
e- Books	2.62	High Extent
e- Newsletters	2.51	High Extent
e- Thesis	2.54	High Extent
e-Zines	2.06	Low extent
e- Conference papers	2.40	Low extent
e-Technical reports	2.49	Low extent
e- Grey_Document	2.17	Low extent
e- Conference proceedings	2.17	Low extent
e- Dissertation	2.36	Low extent

The result presented in Table 3 shows that undergraduate students use e- Projects; e- Journals; e-Reference materials; e- Seminar papers; e-Books; e- Newsletters; and e- Thesis to a high extent in the institutions, thus the mean scores of 2.68; 2.60; 2.70; 2.67; 2.62; 2.57; and 2.54 respectively. Postgraduates students also use e-zines; e- Conference proceedings; e-Grey document; e-Dissertation; e-Conference papers; e-Technical to a low extent, in the institutions, thus the mean scores of 2.40, 2.49; 2.17; 2.06; 2.17 and 2.36 respectively. A grand mean of 2.46 shows that students use Online Information Resources(OIRs) in the academic libraries to a low extent.

Research Question 3: What are the problems against the Utilisation of Online Information Resources (OIRs) by undergraduate students in academic libraries?

Table 3. Mean scores(X) of students on the constraint face by undergraduate students the use of OIRs

S/N	Online Information Resources	Mean	Remarks
1.	Epileptic power supply	2.96	Agree
2.	None availability of online databases	2.69	Agree
3.	Inadequate or slow band width	2.68	Agree.
4.	Inadequate number of computers to access online information resources in my library	2.57	Agree
5.	Network problems	2.63	Agree
6.	Lack of skills to access online information resources in the both local /foreign databases of my library	2.64	Agree
7.	Lack of formal training in Internet use	2.68	Agree
8.	Server slowness	2.62	Agree
9.	Frequent breakdown	2.52	Agree

The result presented in Table 4 shows that the respondents agreed that epileptic power supply, non-availability of online databases; inadequate number of computers to access online information resources, inadequate bandwidth, network problems, lack of skill to access online information resources in local and foreign databases, lack of formal training on internet use, slowness of server and frequent breakdown of online resources are constraints to students

effective use of online information resources in Academic libraries, thus the mean scores of 2.96; 2.69; 2.68; 2.57; 2.63; 2.64; 2.68; 2.62; and 2.52 respectively.

This shows that the undergraduate students agree that all the listed nine constraints for accessing online information resources were encountered by them as they tried to access the online information resources.

Discussion of Findings

The number of available and used online information resources in academic libraries shows that the three academic authorities are off track in terms of providing online information resources in libraries, though there is a need for attention in terms of providing e-conference papers and providing OIRs, which are in short supply in libraries. Isiakpona and Ifijej (2012) discovered that OIRs are available in the Federal University of Agriculture, Library Ogun State, Babcock University Library, Ogun State and Covenant University library in Ogun State. e-Projects, e-Journals, e-Technical reports, e-Reference materials, e-Conference proceedings, e-Zines, e-Books, e-Newsletters, e-Grey document, e-Thesis, and e-Dissertation; e-Seminar papers are among the online information resources available in Academic libraries in the state, according to the findings. Wesley University is on track in terms of providing online information resources in the libraries, while there is need for improvement in terms of providing e-Conference papers and providing online information resources that are in short supply in the libraries. The findings reveal that OIRs are rarely employed in academic libraries.

The findings show that students use e-Zines, e-Conference papers, e-Technical reports, e-Grey documents, e-Proceedings, and e-Dissertation to a limited level. The reason for this is the lack of infrastructure and abilities among students in using OIRs at the library. This study agrees with Achonna(2008), who discovered that access and consumption of e-resources among undergraduates was poor due to a lack of skills, inadequate computer provision, and power outages, among other issues, at Yaba College of Technology, Library, Yaba Lagos, Nigeria.

The findings reveal that a number of issues prevent students from using OIRs at the three state-owned academic libraries. These factors include epileptic power supply, network problems, and insufficient computers for students, inadequate bandwidth, a lack of skills and formal Internet training, slowness of server, and frequent outages of Internet connectivity facilities. Imo and Igbo (2011) found comparable issues in the use of OIRS among undergraduates in Nigerian universities, and our study supports their findings. Lack of skills and knowledge of online and online resource development and management by librarians, inadequacy of funds for projects, unstable electricity supply, lack of written policy framework guidelines for the project, lack of maintenance, fear of copy-right violation, and lack of training programmes for staff up-skilling are among the issues identified.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The following conclusions are formed with reference to the research questions based on the analysis and discussion of the study's findings.

The UNIMED Library has Online Information Resources (OIRs). E-journals, e-proceedings, e-books, and e-newsletters are the only four categories of OIRs offered by Fedpoly. Furthermore, OIRs are used to a degree in both academic and public libraries. Undergraduate students at Fedpoly use OIRs to a limited extent. In addition, OIRs are used to a limited extent in WUO. In academic libraries, there is a significant coefficient of association between availability and consumption. In academic libraries in three Nigerian states, there is a moderately favourable relationship between access and extent of use. In academic libraries in Ondo State, Nigeria, there is a moderately positive relationship between accessing and extent of consumption. Epileptic power supply, lack of availability of online databases, inadequate or slow bandwidth, lack of formal training in Internet use, network problems, and lack of skills to access OIRs in both local and foreign databases in their libraries, as well as slowness of server are all factors that prevent students from accessing OIRs.

The following are the recommendations made in the light of the facts and conclusions drawn from this study:

- Staff in libraries should get ongoing training and retraining in the use of databases and online information retrieval.
- They should attend local and international seminars, workshops, and conferences where specialists in the field of ICTs will interact with them one-on-one and artificial intelligence technology will be demonstrated in a practical context.
- Nigerian higher education libraries should concentrate their efforts on understanding how OIRs may be used to provide high levels of satisfaction and efficiency to library clients.
- Government and higher education library administration should collaborate on the best ways to incorporate and use

contemporary technology, such as artificial intelligence, in offering library services to potential library users.

- In the future, this policy will help to improve and simplify the process of obtaining library equipment.
- Finally, given the importance of information science professionals as key players in the delivery of information services, there is a need to develop ICT management skills through necessary awareness programmes, and parent institutions should be on the lookout for current service delivery ICT facilities.

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