LIBRARY AND INTERNET USE AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION BY STUDENTS OF FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC EKOWE BAYELSA STATE

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Abstract:
It is no news that the source of academic information is very important to students. Fundamentally, academic libraries provide much relevant research materials in both printed and electronic formats to support students and lecturers alike. Institutions such as Federal Polytechnic Ekowe have, therefore, invested resources in acquiring library infrastructure to facilitate research work. This study sought to analyze students use of library and internet resources for academic activities. Primary data were collected using a questionnaire from 126 students who were selected using a simple random sampling procedure. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The results specify that students use both library and internet resources for their academic work. However, the use of the internet is more than that of the Polytechnic's library resources. Demographic and economic variables were recognized as determinants for the use of library and internet resources. The results have several implications for students' academic work in the institution.

Keywords: Internet, Library, Academic Work, Research Material, Education, Electronic Resource

Introduction

In recent times, access to information is more relevant for academic work in all higher institutions. The role of academic libraries is to provide accessible information resources to the entire academic fraternity (Oak, 2016). Libraries make electronic sources of information available to users because e-learning is giving new dimension in learning and hence affecting education in many ways (Bajpai et al. 2016). The revolution in the world of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has shifted the content of library resources from printed information to online information resources (Israel and Edesire, 2016). Hence, the content of libraries is not restricted to physical formats such as books, magazines or journals. Libraries are now shifting from traditional printed resources to the use of electronic-driven services (Nnadozie and Nwosu, 2016; Okazie, 2016). This makes the internet use a necessary condition for effective utilization of library resources. However, the use of electronic resources does not take the place of printed resources but facilitates it through access to a large stock of Library materials (Okazie, 2016).

The academic library serves as an important role in supporting the principal functions of research and scholarship of higher education. Besides the old-fashioned way of providing access to knowledge, libraries also offer a friendly environment as a meeting place that allows users to complete their assignments, undertake their projects or revise their studies. As such, the significance of the academic library in institutions of higher learning is well-established (Tenopir 2009).

According to Mason (2010), the mission of an academic library is to build and maintain a collection that will support and improve the instructional and information needs of the institution. Mason (2010) also agrees with other researchers that academic libraries provide access to all sources of information. The services of the library depend on processed data for users to understand their information need and make corrections on past mistakes and improve on the future. This can be accomplished by library users because they use the library and will be able to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the services being provided to them by the academic library.

Besides, following the technological revolution, libraries do not need to be in a physical space to be able to provide information to its users. The main reason is that ICT is contributing significantly towards the removal of geographical barriers across the globe (Prakash, 2017). Internet is a multipurpose tool with numerous potentials. It enables students to interconnect with other students abroad and thus share each other's ideas, knowledge, experiences, and cultures. It enhances the skills and capabilities of students, which assist them in their studies and professional life. Consequently, the teaching and learning processes along with educational programmes and pedagogy of instruction are being reorganized and transformed to meet the expectations of a whole new breed of students entering the Universities.

Information and Communication Technology applications in the education sector can greatly enhance the quality of education. The learners, through multifaceted ICT applications, can control the content, time and pace of learning. ICT is also one of the greatest recent advancement in the world and has become a useful instrument that has nurtured the process of making the world a global village. This is a universal fact that the use of the internet has a great impact on the student's academic work.

In recent years, the use of the Internet has become very popular in many areas as well as in the educational sector. Accordingly, Internet access in schools has increased greatly over the last 20 years (Berson, 2000). This shows that more students are relying on the Internet for their academic needs than any other areas. In recent years the Internet has become a very effective and popular tool used by students for their academic work as well as for other various purposes including entertainment and communication.

The Internet provides a collaborative environment for sharing as well as to see information on a wide, divergent and variety of subjects. Consequently, its use has become very popular among the student community which is used by them to complement their studies. The availability of the Internet and electronic resources may negatively affect the use of an institution's library by students, while socio-economic and demographic characteristics of students can also have a significant impact. It is possible that while some students go to the library to use the available services, others may not go to the library, perhaps due to the availability of alternatives like personal e-resources and Internet connection at their service.

Franscotti et al. (2007) are of the view that libraries are trying to reinvent themselves to be more appealing to students. They are doing this by fostering literacy information through resources and services to encourage their clients to visit and use the library. Despite this, studies have shown that attitude of students to the use of the library and what characterized their use, reasons for using the library, and information need vary, and where there is low use, there are often pedagogic reasons for it.

In the Polytechnic, there has not been any comparative study on students' use of the Library and the Internet as sources of information to enhance their academic work. The Internet indeed has a large amount of information, but the relevance of the information to academic work especially concerning quality and authenticity is guaranteed largely by the one provided by the library and should not be neglected. The information sources from both the Library and the Internet should complement each other to facilitate teaching, learning, research and knowledge dissemination. This study attempts to compare students use of both the library and the Internet for academic works

This study is aimed at comparing students of Federal Polytechnic Ekowe concerning the use of the library and the Internet as a source of information.
 The study's objectives are to investigate the frequency and purpose of library and Internet use by students, to identify the factors influencing students' use of the library and the Internet, and finally, to analyze the challenges students face when using the Internet and the library.

The study will be of great benefits to the Polytechnic. It will help them to know the advantages of using the library and the internet. It will also be beneficial to the student's research works. It will encourage the use of these facilities at the campus. Finally, the study will serve as a reference point to intending researchers and could form a basis for future researches.

Materials and Methods

A survey was conducted on students at the Campus. A survey has several characteristics and several claimed attractions. Typically, it is used to scan a wide field of issues, populations, programmes etc. to measure or describe any generalized features (Cohen et al., 2007). The survey method can be used for descriptive, exploratory, or explanatory research and is best suited for studies that have individual people as the unit of analysis (Bhattacherjee, 2012). The relative strength of the survey method informed the choice of it for this study.

The sample size was estimated using a statistical procedure proposed by Miller and Browser (2003). The formula is given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where n = sample size; N= sample frame and e = error or significance level. According to Ahuja (2001), an acceptable error level traditionally is up to ± 0.05 or ± 0.10 (i.e., 5 or 10 percentage point). In this study, N = 185 students and e = 5% = 0.05. Therefore,

$$n = \frac{185}{1 + 185(0.05^2)} = 126$$

Therefore, 126 students out of which number were selected for an investigation into the use of library and internet. The respondents were selected using a simple random sampling procedure.

2.1 The Area of Study

The Federal Polytechnic Ekowe is located in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. The institution was established by.

2.2 Data Collection

The data required for the study were obtained mainly from primary sources. The primary data were collected using a questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to gather background information of the respondents, the use of internet and library by students, the factors influencing the use of library and internet, and the challenges associated with the use of library and internet by the HND students were also obtained using the questionnaire.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The study used descriptive statistics to analyze the frequency, purpose and challenges associated with the use of library and internet among students. Besides, the factors influencing students' choice of library and internet use were identified using a regression framework. The decision to use or not to use the library and or internet is a choice for the students; influenced by the utility gained from the use of a particular source of information.

The variables definition and measurement are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Variables definition and measurement

Variable	Measurement
Dependent Variables	
Use of library	Used =1, Otherwise = 0
Use of internet	Used = 1, Otherwise = 0
Independent Variables	
Age	Years
Gender	Male = 1, female = 0
Years of experience	Years

in-library use

Membership to   Membership = 1, Otherwise = 0
study group

Cost of textbooks   Naira
Cost of using the library   Naira
Cost of using the internet Naira

Result Analysis
The results of the study described the respondents' background characteristics. The variables captured include gender, age, course year, and diploma type. As shown in Table 2, 54 out of the 126 students were males and this represents 42.9% of the sample. 72 respondents representing 57.1% were females. The result shows that majority of the students were females.

The students' age distribution was also computed. The results indicate a minimum age of 21 and a maximum age of 43. The mean age was estimated at approximately 32 years. The standard deviation of the age was 4.7 and this is low; implying that many of the ages are closer to the mean.

It was also discovered that the students were from different year groups. As shown in Table 2 below, 29.4% of the students were ND One students, 24.6% were ND-Two students, 17.4% were HND-One students while 28.6% were in their HND Two level of study.

The students were found to be from different schools in the institution. These include the School of Applied Sciences (SAS), School of Management Technology (SMT) and School of Engineering Technology (SET). The distribution in Table 2 indicates that 66 students were SAS students and these represent 52.4% of the sample. Besides, 58 respondents representing 46% were SMT students while 2 students representing 1.6% were SET students. The distribution suggests that majority of the students were SAS students.

Table 2: Background characteristics of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	54	42.9
Female	72	57.1
Total	126	100
Study year		
ND One	37	29.4
ND Two	31	24.6
HND One	22	17.4
HND Two	36	28.6
Total	126	100
Diploma type		
SAS	66	52.4
SMT	58	46.0
SET	2	1.6
Total	126	100

Frequency and Purpose of Library and Internet Use
The result of the study revealed library and internet use among students and the distribution is shown in Table 3. From the table, 79 respondents indicated that they use the library resources of the Polytechnic for Development Studies and these represent 62.7% of the sample. However, 47 respondents representing 37.3% indicated that they have not been using the library resources. The results revealed that a significant proportion (37.3%) of the students have not been using the Polytechnic library resources.

Some students use traditional internet sources as a substitute or complement to the Polytechnic Library resources. This study discovered that 112 respondents which represent 88.9% of the sample were users of the internet for their academic activities. However, 14 respondents representing 11.1% have not been using

the internet. The distribution revealed that majority of the students use internet sources other than the library resources to support their academic activities.

Table 3: Use of library and internet for academic work

Use of library	*Frequency*	*Percent*
Yes	79	62.7
No	47	37.3
Total	126	100
Use of internet	*Frequency*	*Percent*
Yes	112	88.9
No	14	11.1
Total	126	100

Source: Field Survey (2019).

This means that some students will be using the library alongside the use of the internet while others will be using the library alone and the internet alone for their academic purpose. Further analysis was done to examine the simultaneity on the use of library and internet resources. The results shown in Table 4 indicate that 9 respondents representing 7.2% use only the library for their academic work. Besides, 52 respondents representing 41.3% use only the traditional internet sources for their academic work. Finally, the results indicate that 65 respondents representing 51.6% use both the internet and library for their academic work.

Table 4: Source of information for academic work

Source of information	*Frequency*	*Percent*
Library only	9	7.2
Internet only	52	41.3
The library and internet	65	51.6
Total	126	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2019)

The results suggest that some students are considering library resources and the traditional internet sources as substitutes since they have decided to resort to only one of these two sources for their academic information. However, some of the students combine the use of the library with traditional search engines outside the library resources for their academic work.

Students visit the library for different academic purposes. The study revealed that common reasons students' use of the Library resources include: search for literature especially for their project work, read lecture notes, borrow books, search for academic journals, and use the library internet resources.

Table 5 shows the distribution of the purpose of library visit among the respondents.

Moreover, users of traditional internet sources other than the library resources do so some purposes. The results in Table 5 indicate that the main purpose of using the internet among students include searching for research materials, communication with friends, and rereading news. Further distribution in terms of frequency and per cent are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Purpose of library and internet use

Purpose of library use	*Frequency*	*Percent*
Search for literature	74	58.7
Read lecture notes	25	19.8
Borrow books	29	23.0
Search for academic journals	37	29.4
Use the internet	23	18.3

Purpose of internet use	*Frequency*	*Percent*
Research	116	92.1
Communicate with friends	24	19.0
Reading for news	25	19.8

Source: Field Survey (2019)

The results in Table 5 provide varied purposes of students using the library and internet. The purposes are all related to academic work. However, the use of the internet to communicate with friends as indicated by 19.0% of the respondents could have a different implication for academic work. Nowadays, social media has created an opportunity for many people including students to use the internet for social issues not related to academic activities. This can divert students' attention from their intended academic purposes.

Among users of the library also use internet resources in the library. The specific uses of the internet facilities include electronic mail, World Wide Web (www), video conferencing, internet for file transfer protocol (FTP), internet for Google and Google scholar. The distribution in terms of frequency and per cent is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Use of internet facilities in the library

Use of library internet	*Frequency*	*Percent*
Use electronic mail (e-mail) in the Library	48	38.1
Use World Wide Web (www) in the Library	53	42.1
Use video conferencing in the library	4	3.2
Use internet for file transfer protocol (FTP) in the Library	4	3.2
Use internet for Google in the Library	46	36.5
Use internet for Google scholar in the Library	18	14.3

Source: Field Survey (2019)

The results in Table 6 revealed that students use electronic mail, the World Wide Web (www), and Google more than the other uses as presented in the table. However, the use of library resources for video conferencing and file transfer protocol (FTP) is not common. This suggests that users of the library resources do not make maximum use of all the resources available. In terms of frequency of library use, the results point out that 21 respondents representing 16.7% of the sample use the library very often, 19 respondents representing 15.1% use it often, 39 respondents representing 31.0% use the Library resources occasional. However, 47 respondents representing 37.3% never used the library.

The results also revealed that among the users of the internet, 81 respondents representing 64.3% use it very often, 29 respondents representing 23.0% indicated that they use it often while 2 respondents representing 1.6% use it occasionally. However, 14 respondents representing 11.1% never use the internet for academic purpose.

Table 7: Frequency of library and internet use

Frequency of library use	*Frequency*	*Percent*
Vey often	21	16.7
Often	19	15.1
Occasionally	39	31.0
Never	47	37.3

Total	126	100
Frequency of internet use		
Vey often	81	64.3
Often	29	23.0
Occasionally	2	1.6
Never	14	11.1
Total	126	100

Source: Field Survey (2019)

Conclusion and Recommendation
Conclusion
Federal Polytechnic Ekowe has modern library facilities that are being used by students. However, efforts by the institution to achieve full utilization of the library resources have not been realized because many students have resorted to the use of traditional internet sources for their academic work.

Students have considered traditional internet resources as a substitute for library resources. Rather they serve similar purposes. So both internet and library resources should play a complementary role in providing relevant information sources to facilitate students' academic work. Demographic and economic variables have been responsible for students switching between the uses of sources of academic information. The results of the study imply that despite the switch between academic information sources, students are not conveniently using both library and internet resources resulting from the challenges associated with both sources.

Recommendations
Students are advised to resort to the use of the library resources because they do not contain only printed resources but electronic resources as well. It is a perfect choice because it also contains the internet resources that otherwise could be used elsewhere. Besides, the Librarians on campus can facilitate this by adopting a friendly approach in service provision to students.

Management of the institution should put efforts to acquire relevant reference materials for the library. This can be achieved through interaction with lecturers and students to suggest the needed resources required in the library.

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