

Use of Online Information Resources for Effective Research by Students in Noun in Enugu State

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Abstract

The paper examined use of online information resources for effective research by students in National Open University of Nigeria in Enugu state. This study employed descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised of 10 Librarians 1400 undergraduates in Enugu Study Center, Enugu state. A percentage sampling technique was used to select 10% of the users which is 140 and the 10 Librarians which is 150 sample size. Observation checklist and questionnaire were used to collect pertinent data for the study. The instruments were validated by three experts. The instruments were subjected to reliability analysis using Cronbach Alpha and a reliability index of 0.87 was obtained. Data collected were analyzed using frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation. The study found that majority of the type of online resources were available in the National Open University of Nigeria libraries in Enugu state. The extent of use of online information resources for research by the students in NOUN libraries in Enugu state was high. The extent to which use of online resources contribute to effective research in the NOUN libraries in Enugu state was high. The challenges associated with the use of online information resources for research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state were poor funding and lack of access to the resources. The strategies that can be adopted to enhance use of online information resources for effective research by students in the libraries in Enugu state is adequate provision of the resources and training on use of the resources. The study recommended that there should be an increased investment in ICT facilities to promote increase in accessibility and utilization of e-resources by academic staff and students' implementation of awareness campaign through community outreach programs, social media, and library-hosted events to educate patrons

Keywords

online information, electronic resources, academic libraries, research, open and distance learning

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State Chapter

Introduction

The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) offers distance learning programs aimed at providing flexible education to students who cannot attend conventional universities. This system is crucial for expanding educational access to a large number of students who face barriers to formal higher education. As noted by Ukoha

(2020), distance education utilizes web technologies to deliver instructional content and connect learners with faculty members remotely. The use of online information resources is therefore essential for supporting effective research, enabling students to access up-to-date information and academic materials for their studies with minimal needs for physical resources.

In Enugu State, where NOUN serves a broad range of students, the effective utilization of online resources directly impact students' research outcomes. With the open-door academic policy, NOUN provides opportunities for students to overcome the limitations of space and time, making education accessible to individuals with diverse backgrounds and work schedules. Open and distance learning (ODL) in this context supports lifelong learning, particularly benefiting working professionals and adults, who can study without interrupting their daily routines. The provision of well-managed digital resources is vital for enhancing students' research experiences and enabling them to fulfill academic requirements remotely.

Effective research in NOUN's distance learning environment requires robust online information management, which aligns with ODL's goals of accessibility, flexibility, and quality education for all. For NOUN students in Enugu, access to reliable and relevant online resources supports their academic success and contributes to achieving broader educational objectives, such as improved literacy, enhanced professional skills, and national development. This ensures that students can fully utilize these resources reinforces NOUN's mission to bridge educational gaps and enhance research capacity through a sustainable, technology-driven approach to learning.

The use of online information resources plays a crucial role in facilitating effective research for students at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) in Enugu State. Research is an essential component of higher education, providing systematic investigation into materials and information to establish facts and generate new insights. As Khosrow-Pour (2018) notes, the effectiveness of research is marked by the achievement of objectives and solving specific problems. At NOUN, effective research hinges on access to well-managed online resources, benefiting not only students

but also academic staff and other users involved in research activities.

University libraries, including those at NOUN, serve as critical support for research by providing access to the necessary and current resources required by distance learners. Bhuvaneswari and Shanmugam (2017) emphasize that libraries are central to education by offering students, researchers, and faculty access to essential information sources, supporting both learning and research. With advancements in information technology, libraries have evolved, offering online resources that meet the needs of remote students. According to the Association of College and Research Librarians (ACRL) cited in Chukwu and Nnamani (2023), distance learners are entitled to library resources equivalent to those on traditional campuses, highlighting the importance of accessible digital resources in the success of Open University students.

The increasing availability of digital and electronic resources is indispensable for NOUN students in Enugu, aiding their academic endeavors and research needs. Information resources, as defined by Elaturoti (2020) are materials providing content and services for users, include both print and non-print forms like databases, e-books, and online journals. The transition from print to digital resources has revolutionized access to research materials, making them more efficient, faster to access, and supportive of the academic requirements of NOUN's students. By leveraging these resources, students can conduct research more effectively, ultimately contributing to personal academic development and broader societal progress

The effective use of online information resources is essential for research success in open universities, where access to varied resources enhances learning experiences. Online resources, often referred to as electronic or e-resources, include e-books, e-journals, databases, and online reference

sources that can be accessed through the Internet or local networks. Unlike traditional print resources, these electronic materials provide faster, multi-access options and multimedia formats like text, audio, video, and animation, which are advantageous for comprehensive research activities. The ability of open universities to provide these resources is crucial in promoting research efficiency, especially in flexible learning environments like NOUN, where students may be geographically dispersed.

In any open university, the management of online information resources is key to ensuring accessibility and usability by students. Effective management strategies can maximize resource utilization, making it possible for students to engage with a broad range of scholarly materials at any time, which is vital for non-traditional students who may be balancing study with work or family commitments. The establishment of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) was part of a broader national educational policy aimed at increasing access to higher education through innovative, flexible learning models. These models provide students with the means to conduct research through well-managed, readily available online resources, fostering a more inclusive educational system.

NOUN's mission to promote lifelong learning and access to quality education has led it to become a major distance learning institution in Africa, with numerous study centers and a large student population. The university's dedication to providing online resources helps bridge the gap for students who cannot attend traditional universities, enabling them to achieve their academic goals. This study aims to examine the management and utilization of these online resources specifically within NOUN's Enugu study center, focusing on how these resources impact students' ability to conduct effective research and achieve academic success.

Statement of the Problem

Information resources in an online learning are essential for promoting the building of global learning networks as well as reducing the knowledge divide that separates and partitions societies. The reason is due to its ability to reach a wider range of users, save the cost of time and space that users have to travel down to the physical location of the university and include the excluded. Online information resources are of great benefits to users since they provide multiple accesses at multiple points simultaneously, and at any point in time. Adequate use of online information resources facilitates effective research by students of national open universities. Despite the important benefits of information resources and its utilization thereof, literature and observation revealed that most students have problems in successfully conducting and writing their research work. Could this be due to ineffective use of online information resources? When online information resources are not properly used, the consequence is the dearth of its use; thus, research could be hampered in any institution in which this occurs. Worse still, universities could end up, producing higher institution graduates that are not well grounded in research. This will in turn affect national development.

There is therefore an urgent need to delve into this study to find out the extent of use of online information resources for effective research by students. There seems to be a research gap on this issue. It is against this backdrop that the researcher sought to assess the use of online information resources for effective research by students of the National Open University of Nigeria Libraries in Enugu state.

Purpose of the Study

"The main purpose of this study is to determine the use of online information resources for effective research by students in

NOUN in Enugu state. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. identify the type of online resources available in the National Open University of Nigeria libraries in Enugu state.
2. determine the extent of use of online information resources for research by the students in NOUN libraries in Enugu state.
3. determine the extent to which use of online resources contribute to effective research in the NOUN libraries in Enugu state.
4. find out challenges associated with the use of online information resources for research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state.
5. find out strategies that can be adopted to enhance use of online information resources for effective research by students in the libraries in Enugu state.

Literature Review

Open and Distance Learning

Open and distance learning (ODL) breaks down time and space barriers by connecting students and institutions through technology, making learning a two-way, interactive process. Often associated with terms like e-learning, online learning, and distance learning, ODL relies on ICT to facilitate access to educational materials, making learning possible for students who are unable to attend physical classes. Okello-Obura and Ikoja-Odongo cited in Adebola and Akinwale (2023) describe e-learning as learning supported by computer technology, particularly through the internet. Ukoha (2020) similarly defines ODL as a method of learning delivered via the internet and web technologies, allowing students to engage in education remotely. Distance learning is thus a flexible and convenient system where

students complete coursework virtually, fostering a new kind of information society.

E-learning, synonymous with terms like asynchronous learning, allows students to access resources anytime and anywhere, creating a personalized and interactive environment (Rodrigues et al., 2019). Defined by categories such as technology-driven, delivery-system-oriented, communication-oriented, and educational-paradigm-oriented approaches, e-learning supports enhanced learning experiences through the use of ICT (Sangrà et al., cited in Nwachukwu & Ikpe, 2023). In Nigeria, distance education, endorsed by the National Policy on Education, aims to expand educational access, reduce brain drain, and address employer needs with special certification programs. Open universities exemplify this model, transforming how education is delivered and accessed, which is especially crucial for learners facing social, economic, or geographic constraints

Open University Library

Tertiary education's primary role is to develop critical thinking, analysis, and problem-solving skills, thereby producing a high-level workforce for society. Universities achieve this through comprehensive teaching, research, and technological initiatives, with libraries playing a central role by providing resources essential for student and faculty development. University libraries, like the National Open University's Knowledge Gateway, provide access to a wealth of e-resources that support learning, research, and professional growth. These libraries not only house physical materials but also increasingly offer digital resources, including e-books, e-journals, databases, and other online tools that facilitate student-centered learning.

The evolution of information technology has transformed library services, expanding access to resources for distance and traditional learners alike. Despite this, libraries face challenges like funding

limitations, low computer literacy, and connectivity issues that hinder effective use, especially in distance education contexts. Libraries must adapt by organizing and providing materials that address the specific needs of their users, including personalized assistance and training in digital resource usage. As libraries continue to align with institutional goals, they are advised to position themselves as comprehensive, accessible centers of information to support academic excellence. For sustained impact, adequate funding and autonomy for library administration are crucial to maintaining their role in enhancing education and research

Online Information Resources

Open University libraries play a crucial role in supporting academic institutions by providing resources to aid teaching, learning, and research. Information, defined as valuable data aiding decision-making, is available in both print and electronic formats. Electronic resources (e-resources) have increasingly become primary sources in libraries, offering access to a wide range of materials like e-journals, e-books, multimedia, and online databases (Agim, Obiekwe & Rabi'u 2021). This shift enables students and researchers to access timely and global information, facilitating academic tasks such as assignments, literature reviews, and research projects. E-resources, including digital libraries and online journals, enhance the educational experience by providing up-to-date, diverse, and efficient access to information. Libraries now utilize information technology, which simplifies resource access and expands students' learning opportunities.

These electronic resources are critical for distance learners, enabling them to access vast academic content and interact with instructors and peers online. The advantages of e-resources over traditional materials include faster retrieval, simultaneous search capabilities, and access to global information networks. However, efficient use and management of these resources are essential

to maximize their benefits, as underutilization can lead to wasted resources. Open educational resources (OERs) further contribute to expanding access to education by providing free, adaptable materials to support learning, especially in developing countries. As such, e-resources have transformed library collections, leading to innovative ways of organizing and delivering educational content, ultimately improving the quality of education and supporting the overall objectives of open universities.

Utilization

The utilization of resources in academic libraries, particularly electronic resources, expands the accessibility and value of library content by providing digital means of access (Agim, Irieguna, Chivuzo, 2023). Studies, such as those from Ashesi University in Ghana, show high computer use for information access among students, yet optimal use of e-resources is hindered by issues like limited access, slow bandwidth, and inadequate infrastructure (Dadzia, cited in Adekunle & Salau, 2019). Similarly, research highlights that while many users rely on internet services in libraries, dissatisfaction arises from inadequate ICT infrastructure (Akporkonor & Lucky, 2016). The Ranganathan theory, which advocates for the practical use of resources, emphasizes that library resources should be easily accessible and that library services should prioritize user convenience. This theory underpins the mission of academic libraries to provide user-centered services, including special services like current awareness and indexing, to ensure the right resources reach the right users efficiently.

E-resource usage among students, particularly Millennials or digital natives, has evolved, with many preferring search engines over library databases for convenience, despite recognizing library resources as credible (Schunk & Zimmerman, cited in Eze & Obi, 2023). Challenges like slow connectivity, cyber restrictions, and low computer literacy impact students' ability to use e-resources

effectively, as noted in studies of Nigerian universities. These findings suggest the need for improvements in digital infrastructure and training to boost e-resource utilization. Additionally, fostering computing skills is recommended to enhance students' competence in using these resources for academic research, thereby aligning with the broader goal of academic libraries to support users' information needs in a digital age

Effective Research

Effectiveness is a measure of how well a process or intervention achieves its goals, often assessed by whether defined objectives are met. In the context of education, effectiveness refers to the production of specific analyses that evaluate how well particular educational goals or institutional requirements are achieved. To ensure effectiveness, quality assurance is crucial. Libraries and information resources, for instance, must adhere to standards, implement policies, and assess processes to manage resources efficiently. Effective research is characterized by identifying researchable problems, evaluating their feasibility, and producing results that contribute to knowledge and innovation. This process involves careful topic selection and comparing interventions, strategies, and outcomes to improve educational practices and online information access, especially in open universities.

A good researcher is open-minded, diligent, and focused, with the ability to contribute original thought and intellectual value to their field. According to Amadi and Udo (2022), the qualities of an excellent researcher include curiosity, commitment, inquisitiveness, excellence, expertise, and recognition. Research is often influenced by affective commitment, which shapes personal

characteristics and work experiences, and by sacrifice, where the researcher seeks solutions to gaps in knowledge. Excellence in research contributes significantly to new understanding, especially in management. The integration of professional-quality practices into standard business processes also plays a vital role in ensuring research quality. Despite these qualities, managing and using online information resources in Open University libraries presents significant challenges.

METHODS

This study employed descriptive survey research design. This study was carried out in National Open University of Nigeria, Enugu study center. The population of this study comprised of 10 Librarians 1400 undergraduates in Enugu Study Center, Enugu state. **A purposive sampling technique was used to select 10% of the users which is 140 and the 10 Librarians which is 150 sample size. The instrument used to collect data was the observation checklist and questionnaire.** The checklist was used for research question one which is on the types of online information resources available in the National Open University of Nigeria libraries in Enugu state, while questionnaire was used to answer research question 2-5. The instruments were validated by three experts. The instruments were subjected to reliability analysis using Cronbach Alpha and a reliability index of 0.87 was obtained. Data collected were analyzed using frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: What types of online information resources are available in the National Open University of Nigeria libraries in Enugu state?

Table 1: Frequency and percentage of online information resources are available in the National Open University of Nigeria libraries in Enugu state

S/N	Online Information Resources	Available	Not Available	Remark
1	e-Newspaper	✓		Available
2	e-Audio		x	Not Available
3	e-Magazine		x	Not Available
4	e-Image		x	Not Available
5	e-Book	✓		Available
6	e-Journal	✓		Available
7	e-Research report		x	Not Available
8	e-help and tutorial	✓		Available
9	e-Repository	✓		Available
10	e-Thesis Dissertation		x	Not Available
11	Video, Slide and photo share	✓		Available
12	World Wide Web	✓		Available
13	CD-ROM	✓		Available
14	e-Database	✓		Available
15	Jstor (Journal search)	✓		Available
16	Subject Guide	✓		Available
17	Conference paper	✓		Available
18	e-Manuscript	✓		Available
19	e-Government Document		x	Not Available
20	Web 2.0		x	Not Available

Result in Table 1 reveals types of online information resources available in the National Open University of Nigeria libraries in Enugu state. Analysis in Table 1 obtained from the observation checklist revealed that out of the 20 online information resources investigated, 13 (65%) were available. The online information resources available include; e-newspaper, e-book, e-journal, e-

help and tutorial, e-repository, video, slide and photo shares, World Wide Web 2.0, CD-ROM, e-database, Jstor, subject guide, conference paper and e-manuscripts.

Research Question 2: What is the extent of use of online information resources for research by NOUN students in Enugu state?

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation on the extent of use of online information resources for research by NOUN students in Enugu state (n = 140)

S/N	Items	Score	SD	Decision
1	e-Newspaper	3.24	.91	Very High Extent
2	e-Audio	2.19	.92	Low Extent
3	e-Magazine	2.35	.86	Low Extent
4	e-Image	2.33	.92	Low Extent
5	e-Book	2.92	.97	High Extent
6	e-Journal	2.88	.93	High Extent
7	e-Research report	2.40	.95	Low Extent
8	e-help and tutorial	2.93	.97	High Extent
9	e-Repository	2.82	.90	High Extent
10	e-Thesis Dissertation	2.29	.89	Low Extent
11	Video, Slide and photo share	2.97	.88	High Extent
12	World Wide Web	2.86	.98	High Extent
13	CD-ROM	2.91	.95	High Extent
14	e-Database	3.24	.95	Very High Extent
15	Jstor (Journal search)	3.22	.97	Very High Extent
16	Subject Guide	2.90	.96	High Extent
17	Conference paper	3.28	.98	Very High Extent
18	e-Manuscript	2.92	.99	High Extent
19	e-Government Document	2.42	.94	Low Extent
20	Web 2.0	2.39	.94	Low Extent
	Cluster Mean	2.80		High Extent

The table illustrates the perceived availability and extent of use of various online information resources in National Open University of Nigeria libraries at Enugu state. The majority of available resources (13 items) cluster under "High Extent" for 9 with a score above 3.00 indicating strong engagement, while four of these show "Very High Extent" with a score above 2.50, reflecting exemplary usage. In contrast, few resources (7 items, including e-Audio, e-Magazine, e-Image, e-Research report, e-Thesis Dissertation, e-

Government Document, and Web 2.0) are rated as "Low Extent" with mean score below 2.50, indicating limited or minimal usage. The grand mean score of 2.80 suggests an overall high extent of utilization of online resources such as e-Book, e-Journal, e-Repository, World Wide Web, e-Database, and Jstor (Journal search), among others

Research Question 3: To what extent does the use of online resources contribute to effective research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state?

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation of respondents on the extent to which the use of online resources contributes to effective research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state (n = 140)

S/N	Item Statement	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Access to adequate information resources	3.32	.87	High Extent
2	Ease of analysis of data	3.21	.92	High Extent
3	Effective use of research methods	3.09	.87	High Extent
4	Access to private course materials outside the study centre	3.08	.95	High Extent
5	Access to course materials offered by study centre/institutions	3.07	.92	High Extent
6	Access to more current online information resources	3.04	.95	High Extent
7	Access to authoritative online information resources	3.02	.94	High Extent
8	Quick completion of research online	3.02	.97	High Extent
9	Access to resources persons in any area of study	2.74	.91	High Extent
Cluster Mean		3.07	.36	High Extent

Result in Table 3 reveals that items 1-9 together with the cluster mean had their mean values ranged from 2.74-3.32. These values were within the real limit of 2.50-3.49; indicating that the extent to which the use of online resources contribute to effective research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state is high. The major ones include: Access to

adequate information resources, Ease of analysis of data, and Effective use of research methods.

Research Question 4: What are the challenges associated with the use of online resources for influential researchers in NOUN libraries in Enugu state?

Table 4: Mean and standard deviation of respondents on the challenges associated with the use of online resources for influential researchers in NOUN libraries in Enugu state (n = 140)

S/N	Item Statement	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Lack of adequate researches	3.25	.93	Agree
2	Inadequate funding	3.24	.88	Agree
3	Noisy environment	3.16	.98	Agree
4	Library not spacious enough for the number of users	3.11	.84	Agree
5	Poor services delivery by personnel	3.11	.88	Agree
6	Poor internet use skill	3.09	.96	Agree
7	Poor attitude to use online resources	3.08	.86	Agree
8	Lack of up-to-date subscription	3.07	.99	Agree
9	Poor access provision by the librarians	3.00	1.05	Agree
10	Incompetent personnel	3.00	.95	Agree
11	Inadequate computer/laptops	2.98	.95	Agree
12	Lack of alternate power supply	2.81	.93	Agree

Result in Table 4 reveals that lack of adequate researches, inadequate funding, noisy environment, library not spacious enough for the number of users, poor services delivery by personnel, poor internet use skill, and poor attitude to use online resources among others are the challenges associated with the use of

online resources for influential researchers in NOUN libraries in Enugu state.

Research Question 5: What are the strategies for enhancing the use of online resources for efficient research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state?

Table 5: Mean and standard deviation of respondents on the strategies that can enhance the use of online resources for efficient research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state (n = 140)

S/N	Item Statement	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Provision of more current online information resources	3.28	.94	Agree
2	More access provision for the librarians	3.23	.85	Agree
3	Providing a standby power supply	3.16	.87	Agree
4	Provision of air condition	3.15	.85	Agree
5	Provision of free airtime	3.12	.97	Agree
6	Up-to-date online information resources provision	3.11	.96	Agree
7	Providing qualified personnel	3.10	.94	Agree
8	Improved internet service provision	3.09	.97	Agree
9	Improved funding	3.07	.93	Agree
10	Adequate internet services	3.05	.98	Agree
11	Provision of more computers for improved access	2.86	.88	Agree
12	More computers/laptops	2.73	.89	Agree

Result in Table 5 reveals that provision of more current online information resources, more access provision for the librarians, providing a standby power supply, provision of air condition, provision of free airtime, up-to-date online information resources provision, and providing qualified personnel, among others were the strategies that can enhance the use of online resources for efficient research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state.

Discussion of the Findings

Types of Online Resources Available in National Open University of Nigeria libraries

The findings of the study revealed that out of the 20 online information resources investigated, 13 were available. The finding of the study is also in agreement with the findings of Ogwo and Nwachukwu (2019) who found out that the overall percentage of availability of electronic information resources in all the medical libraries studied was rather low, about 30.9% on the average. The non-availability of some of the online

information resources may be attributed to the assertion of Abdulsalami (2013) that the provision and use of information resources have grown to be a political and social responsibility. It appears that this responsibility of making these resources available will continue to increase with demands in more current information and upsurge in digital divides.

Extent of Use of Online Information Resources for Research by the Students in NOUN Libraries in South-East, Nigeria

The findings of the study revealed that the extent of use of online information resources for effective research by NOUN students in Enugu state is high. The finding of the study is similar to that of Akinola and Balogun (2022) who noted that efficient use of information technology is a key to providing access to information resources in libraries. The high use of online information resources for effective research by NOUN students in South-East, Nigeria may be attributed to its merits as pointed by Sonkar (2014) which include its access from any part of the globe

without any geographical and time limitations, can be subscribed through consortia/ publisher, update, modification and alteration could easily be effected, availability in various files and formats immediately they are uploaded on the server saving time and money. The finding of the study is in line with the findings of Agim, Irieguna and Chivuzo (2023) who found that media and other electronic resources are used for class assignments and to get updates about their specialty

Challenges associated with the use of online information resources for research

The findings of the study revealed that the challenges associated with the use of online resources for influential researchers in NOUN libraries in Enugu state include; lack of adequate researches, inadequate funding, noisy environment, library not spacious enough for the number of users, poor services delivery by personnel, poor internet use skill and poor attitude to use online resources, among others. The findings of the study is in agreement with the findings of Emeahara and Ajakaye (2022) whose study reported that the major challenges undergraduates encounter in the use of information resources were poor or no internet services, lack of multiple copies of some information materials, small reading space, irregular power supply, obsolete materials on the open shelves (though the library carried out weeding process during the cause of this study to give room for new and current information materials. The result agrees with the work of Ugwu and Onyegiri (2013) who in their study identified funding, staffing, and information technology infrastructure as challenges hindering effective online information resources.

Strategies for Enhancing the Use of Online Information Resources for Effective Research

The findings of the study revealed that the strategies that can enhance the use of online resources for efficient research in NOUN libraries in Enugu state include; provision of

more current online information resources, more access provision for the librarians, providing a standby power supply, provision of air condition, provision of free airtime, up-to-date online information resources provision and providing qualified personnel. The result of the study is in agreement with the findings of Essien (2015) who reported training and retraining of staff as well as offering free access to resources among others as the major strategies for enhancing utilization of resources in the National Library of Nigeria. The finding is in line with the assertion of Ugah cited in Oladipo, Afonja and Adeyemi (2021) who opined that the national information education policy should be revised and there should be proper e-resources policies written.

Conclusion

This study has succeeded in determining the use of online information resources in NOUN libraries in South-East, Nigeria. Literature was also searched to find out the state of affairs both internationally and locally. Findings from literature showed that management of electronic-resources is of great essence. Empirically, literature showed some lapses as well as some prospects in the use of online information resources. Findings from the data collection showed that resources in electronic formats are now significant holdings in the library; and while some are available, some are not. Use of online information resources in university libraries are needed especially with the emergence of information and communication technology (ICT). The use of the e-resources enables the undergraduates to have access to current and up-to-date information, faster and easier access to information, and access to a wider range of information; and unless these resources are being managed, they may not be effectively used.

Recommendations

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

1. The University should provide the resources that were not available such as e-Audio and e-Image so that students can access them
2. The university lecturers should be involved in creating an awareness of the importance of these library electronic resources to their learners so that their utilization can be sustained.
3. Since every library faces the problem of limited budget, less staff and time with ever changing needs of users, the consortia can assist librarians to provide the required information to the users with minimum expenditure
4. As part of the strategies, there should be an increased investment in ICT facilities to promote increase in accessibility and utilization of e-resources by academic staff and students.

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