

**Research Article****USAGE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES BY STUDENTS IN THE DELTA STATE POLYTECHNIC LIBRARY, OTEFE****Mukoro, Roseline and \*Dr. Eyaufe O. Omamomo**

Delta State Polytechnic, Oghara, Delta State, Nigeria

**Received 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023; Accepted 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023; Published online 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

---

**Abstract**

This study investigated the usage of electronic information resources by students of the Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe. In carrying out this study, three research questions were generated. Descriptive survey design was utilized for the study. The population of the study is (2000) registered Library users of which two hundred students (200) were randomly selected for this study. The random sampling was adopted in selecting the students who made use of the Library electronic resources for the period of the study. The instruments used for this study was a questionnaire with the title "Usage of Electronic Information Resources" The data obtained were analysed, using frequency and percentage. Findings revealed that undergraduates of Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe make use of electronic books, followed by electronic journals and that the purpose of utilizing electronic information resources was for research and assignment purposes. slow Internet connectivity and poor power supply were some of the identified problems militating against the effective use of electronic information resources in Otefe library. The study has provided information that will be useful to the library in the provision electronic resources to the undergraduates. It was recommended that the University management should ensure that there is alternative power supply in the library and Internet connectivity should be improved on increasing the size of the bandwidth.

**Keywords:** Electronic Resources, Information and Communication Technology, Internet

---

**INTRODUCTION**

Modern technology has no doubt helped in making accessible electronic resources in the educational arena. Consequently, higher education has been exploring these exciting opportunities that technologies have brought to institutions, educators and students. As a result, there has been rapid growth in the availability and uptake of online teaching and learning resources by many colleges and universities in Nigeria and the world over (Boateng and Amankwa, 2016). Electronic information resources are those materials that deal with both electronic and digitized resources which can be either accessible from library's database or from the world-wide-web. The electronic materials include e-books, e-journal, e-newspaper, e-magazine, e-projects, e-thesis, e-dissertations, e-reports, website, www-resources and other related materials which can be considered necessary by the users, researchers and information professionals. On the other hand, electronicized resources mean converting the materials from other formats into electronic format (Shariful, 2012). Sonkar (2014) listed the merits of electronic resources as follows: it can be 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. It further posited that electronic resources can be searched, browsed, accessed, copied, downloaded fast and customized. The application of the concept of Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) into library functions and services have invariably changed the connotation of what an academic library stands for. Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) is the presence of printed information in a format only

viewed and accessed through the use of ICT via electrical manipulations (Urhiewhu and Omah, 2016).

**Objective of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to investigate the usage of electronic information resources by students of the Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe. The study has the following specific objectives:

1. Know the different types of electronic information resources and services available in Delta State Polytechnic Library;
2. To know the purpose for students, make use of electronic information resources;
3. Identify the challenges faced by students in the usage of electronic information resources;

**Research Questions**

This study is guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the different types of electronic information resources and services available in Delta State Polytechnic Library?
2. What is the purpose for which students make use of electronic information resources?
3. What are the challenges faced by students in the usage of electronic information resources?

**Review of Related Literature**

Speedy advancement of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has transformed the way information is handled, ultimately presenting the academic world with varied

options of how they can easily access information. However, in emerging economies, there seem to be many hindrances to scholars acceding to the use of e-resources (Okello-Obura 2010). Electronic information resources are essential tools in teaching and learning process of any academic institution. Members of the academia need it for teaching, learning, research, update of knowledge and personal development. These resources are acquired by the library to meet the information needs of their users (Aladeniyi and Owokole, 2018). Several studies have dealt with the use of electronic resources among postgraduate and undergraduate students in both federal and state universities but there is scarcity of such studies among students of Delta State Polytechnic students. Okiki and Ashiru (2011) studied use of electronic information resources by Nigerian students and found that the undergraduates were motivated to use electronic resources for their research projects, gain quick access to information and to search for new things. The major problems encountered by respondents in gaining access to and use electronic resources were slow internet connectivity, frequent incessant power outage and too few computers with internet facilities.

Adeniran (2013) investigated the usage of electronic resources at Redeemers University in Nigeria found that even though respondents were aware of the different types of electronic information resources available in the university library, their use rate of these resources was low. The factors that impede effective utilization of electronic resources were large mass of irrelevant information, the need to filter the results from search, download delay, failure to find information and inadequate or lack of search skills. The study concluded that electronic resources have impacted positively on the academic performances of the undergraduates, but recommended the need for them to acquire more skills in the use of electronic resources.

## METHODS

The study employed the descriptive survey design. The population of the study was 200 students randomly selected from the library during the period of the study. The study therefore comprised of both higher national diploma (HND) and ordinary national diploma (OND) students of Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe. The research instrument used for this study is a self-designed questionnaire with the title "Usage of Electronic Information Resources (UEIRQ)" Two hundred (200) questionnaires were distributed and One hundred and eighty-five (185) were retrieved. The random sampling technique was adopted for this study. The questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Frequencies and percentage was used to analyse the data.

## FINDINGS

**Table 1. Gender of the Respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Males	97	52
Females	88	48
Total	185	100.0

From Table 1, it can be seen that there were 97 (52%) males while there were 88 (48%) females. This implies that more male students made use of the library than their female counterpart.

**Table 2. Level of Study of the Respondents**

Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
200	91	49
300	94	51
Total	185	100

Table 2 shows that 91 (49%) of the respondents were in 200 level while 94 (51%) were in 300 level. This implies that majority of the respondents were in their 300 levels respectively.

## Answering of the Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the different types of electronic resources and services available in Delta State Polytechnic library?

**Table 3. Types of electronic resources and services available**

Types of electronic resources available	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Electronic journals	56	30
Electronic books	76	42
Electronic databases	9	7
E-Theses and Dissertations	-	-
Search engines such as Google	21	10
CD-ROM	8	4
E-newspapers	15	8

Table 3 shows the different types of electronic resources used by the students. It indicated that 76 (42%) of students used electronic books, followed by electronic journals 56 (30%), search engines 21 (10%) and E-newspapers 15 (8%). The electronic resources least utilized were CD-ROM 8 (4%) and electronic databases 9 (7%). From the analysis, it could be inferred that students made use of electronic books and journals more frequently.

Research Question 2: What is the purpose for which students make use of electronic information resources?

**Table 4. Purpose of Utilizing the Electronic Information Resources**

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Research	56	30
Assignment	45	24
Examination	43	23
Obtaining general information	27	16
Current Awareness	14	6

Table 4 shows the purpose of utilizing electronic information resources. 56 (30%) stated research, this was followed by assignment 45 (24%), examination 42 (23%), obtaining general information 27 (16%) and current awareness 14 (6%). From the analysis, it could be deduced that students' purpose for the usage of electronic resources are for research and examination

Research Question 3: What are the challenges faced by students in the usage of electronic information resources?

Table 3 shows that slow Internet connectivity which represents 46 (52%) is the major challenge militating against the use of electronic resources. This was followed by poor power supply 41 (22%), poor infrastructure 37 (20%), lack of IT skills and knowledge 21 (11%), Inappropriate search terms 10 (5%) and high cost of printing 7 (4%).

**Table 4. Challenges faced by students in the usage of electronic information resources**

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Slow internet connectivity	46	25
Insufficient access time	23	12
Poor power supply	41	22
Poor infrastructure	37	20
High cost of printing	7	4
Lack of IT skill and knowledge	21	11
Inappropriate search terms	10	5

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The results showed that students of Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe make use of electronic books, followed by electronic journals. This may be as a result of the fact that it is vital to their academic work. This finding agrees with Okiki & Ashiru (2011) who found that the students were motivated to use electronic resources for their research projects, gain quick access to information and to search for new things. The findings discovered that the purpose of utilizing electronic information resources by the students was for research and assignment purposes. This may be as a result of the fact that it is key to their academic growth and advancement. This finding is in conformity with Aladeniyi and Owokole (2018) who stated that electronic information resources are essential tools in teaching and learning process of any academic institution. The study shows that the challenge militating against the effective use of electronic resources is slow Internet connectivity and poor power supply. This finding is in conformity with the study of Okiki and Ashiru (2011) whose study found that the major problems encountered by respondents in gaining access to and use electronic resources were slow internet connectivity, frequent incessant power outage and too few computers with internet facilities.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that the use of electronic information resources had tremendous impact on the academic performance of the students of Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe. However, there is need for more improvement in the area of slow Internet connectivity and poor power supply. This paper will enable the library improve on its library services, especially in assisting the students in their academic work.

## Recommendations

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

1. The library management should organize periodic training on the use of electronic resources for the students.
2. Provision of uninterrupted power supply (UPS) to guarantee the comfort of library users.
3. Internet connectivity should be improved on. This can be achieved by increasing the size of the bandwidth so as to encourage the usage of ICTs by the students.

## References

- Adeniran, P. (2013). Usage of electronic resources by undergraduates at the Redeemer's University, Nigeria. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 5 (10), 319-324. Retrieved from <http://www.academicjournals.org/IJLIS>.
- Aladeniyi, F.A. & Owokole, T.S. (2018). Utilization of library information resources by undergraduate students of University of Medical Science Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria. *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, 8 (4), 92-120.
- Boateng, R. O. & Amankwaa, A. (2016). "The impact of social media on student academic life in higher education". *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: G Linguistics and Education*, 16 (4), 1-8.
- Okello-Obura, C. (2010), 'Assessment of the problems LIS postgraduate students face in accessing e-resources in Makerere University, Uganda', *Collection Building*, 29(3), 98-105.
- Okiki, O. C (2011). Information communication technology support for an e-learning environment at University of Lagos, Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (ejournal)*. Paper 610.
- Shariful.I. (2012). Definition of Digital Information Resources. Retrieved from [http://univdhaka.academia.edu/sharifulislam/papers/203831/definition\\_of\\_digitalinformationresources](http://univdhaka.academia.edu/sharifulislam/papers/203831/definition_of_digitalinformationresources).
- Sonkar, S.K. (2014). Use of Electronic Resources by Post Graduate Students and Research Scholars of the Banaras Hindu University: A Study. *Journal of Information Management*, 5(1), 87-97.
- Urhiewhu, L.O. & Omah, J.E. (2016). Levels of electronic information resources usage among undergraduate students in Taraba State University Library, Janligo, Taraba State, *International Journal of Information and Technology (ASPL Journal Series)*, (1), 01-12

\*\*\*\*\*