

Research Article

# Students' awareness on the use of digital library in tertiary institutions in Ekiti state for sustainable development

Eunice Olayinka Adepoju<sup>1\*</sup> & Ogunmodede Aderemi Sunday<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Vocational and Technical Education, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup> Department of Educational Technology, Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Nigeria

\*Corresponding Author: [ogunmodede.aderemi@bouesti.edu.ng](mailto:ogunmodede.aderemi@bouesti.edu.ng) | Phone Number: +2348060290576

## ABSTRACT

The study examined the awareness of students and use of e-library in tertiary institutions in Ekiti State. Descriptive design of the survey was employed. The population comprised all 100 level and 200 level students in tertiary institutions in Ekiti State while the sample consisted of 150 students drawn from three tertiary institutions in Ekiti State using proportionate sampling techniques. A self-constructed questionnaire titled "Students' awareness and use of e-library" was used to collect relevant data for the study. The instrument was validated by experienced library expert. A reliability co-efficient of 0.75 was obtained through test re-test method. Data collected were analysed using frequency count and simple percentage. The study revealed that students in tertiary institutions were aware of e-library but with low patronage on the use of electronic database. The major source of awareness of electronic library among the students are through friends and sensitization. The finding revealed that students use youtube page more than online database and e-journal, e-book and google. Based on the findings, the students should be encouraged to use e-library. Emphasis must be made in the class during the lecture on the use of e-library.

**Keywords:** students' awareness; e-library; learning effectiveness; sustainable development;

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A technology driven Institutions will definitely key into digital operation in all aspect of teaching and learning. Digital library is part of new modern system of operating library without bulky physical material and it can be operated and accessible from anywhere in the world. Wikipaedia (2021) define A digital library as an online library, an internet library, a digital repository, or a digital collection is an online database of digital objects that can include text, still images, audio, video, digital documents, or other digital media formats or a library accessible through the internet. The integration of information and communication technology has brought a significant-changes to teaching, learning and research activities in Nigerian Universities. consequently, with the use of ICT in tertiary institutions, many libraries are moving from traditional system to contemporary system where many information in the library have been electronically digitalized. Library in the time past were full of hard copies of material. But in recent time, many libraries in the Universities have started adopting online database or electronic information resources. with the use of database or electronic information resources (EIR) students will automatically have access to world library where they can get different materials and recent information on any field required. It is observed by the researcher that even students who uses library often appears not to have known how to make use of library database. Students and lecturers can access books and other resources through electronic information resources with easy access to unlimited information. The quality of academic library services has improved through the integration of traditional library materials and electronic information resources coupled with the application of information and communication technology. Lolade (2020) affirmed that the traditional library has transformed into digital or hybrid library where information resources migrate from print to electronic resources thereby making library operations become electronically driven.

As a results, a digital library is one where collections are preserved in digital formats and accessed using computers. The digital information may be saved locally or viewed remotely through the internet. A digital library is a sort of retrieval mechanism for information (Candela,Castekku,Loannidis, Koutrika, Meghini, Pegano,Ross,Schek & Schuldt, 2011). It is envisaged that the terms "digital library" and "e-library" would be interchangeable in this research. The term "digital library" refers to a collection of digital items. Text, video, and audio can all be used to classify these objects. Despite the multiple benefits received from e-library at tertiary institutions, the researcher has discovered that the majority of students appear to be unaware of all of the e-functions library's and capabilities.This is consistent with Lolade's (2020) results, which said that students are either unaware of or not making optimal use of these critical resources. Ibrahim (2004) ascribed limited online database usage to a lack of understanding of electronic resources, a lack of time to access electronic databases, and the use of too many difficult-to-remember passwords. According to the findings, pupils do not all use

internet databases equally. This might be unrelated to issues that prevent library patrons from using electronic materials, such as a bad internet connection or a lack of funds to pay for a future online membership. For the day-to-day operation of an e-library, there is a high cost of maintenance and an epileptic power supply.

In the same line, the study has discovered that some issues, such as epileptic power supply, high maintenance costs, and computer competency abilities required by students, function as a block to the successful usage of an e-library. Similarly, Bashorun, Isah, and Adisa (2011) note that the irrelevancy of search results from databases, intermittent electricity supply, communication gap between librarians and academic staff, and a lack of educated librarians are all obstacles that may limit the usage of e-resources. In a similar vein, Bamgbade (2014) claimed that the inability to navigate between e-resources and a lack of necessary computer skills were barriers to accessing e-databases in two agricultural institutions in Nigeria's South-Western area.

Furthermore, according to Adomi (2005), the primary hurdles to access and use of e-resources are users, the exorbitant cost of gaining internet connection through cybercafé in underdeveloped nations, and a lack of basic ICT skills among employees. Despite the obstacles, according to Zaid and Oyelude (2012), the integration of technology into library services has made the usage of e-library encouraging in Nigerian university libraries. This has resulted in significant modifications in the university's library system. The utilization of ICT facilities, according to Adeoluwa and Ogunmodede (2018), is dependent on the level of proficiency of lecturers. However, improving lecturer competence and efficiency in the use of ICT facilities would aid in the development of students' academic intelligence through the usage of an e-library. When students are aware of a service but are not prepared to utilize it, it might be difficult to make good use of it. In this scenario, efficient use of the e-library necessitates students' preparation for long-term growth. When discussing e-library at tertiary institutions, however, the students' attitude cannot be underestimated; working with digital electronic libraries is a state of mind that students must maintain in order to develop individual learning skills. According to Adepoju and Awoyemi (2017), the majority of respondents had a good attitude toward the usage of ICT facilities, which helped to diversify teaching and learning and support individual learning.

Computer skills and other associated ICT abilities, on the other hand, will contribute to students' active engagement in using the electronic library. According to Binta and Muhammad (2016), the usage of online electronic databases was a major success among academic staff due to supporting variables such as the respondents' readiness to adapt to change, ICT skills, and internet access, among others. On the other hand, various obstacles, such as a lack of awareness campaign, the expense of access and usage of online databases, and unpredictable power supply, among others, obstruct the use of these databases, particularly the offline ones. The obstacles to successful use of electronic information resources, on the other hand, must be overcome quickly and firmly. Similarly, Mandalia and Parekh (2017) said that the library's administration and staff can raise student understanding of how to use the digital library by holding at least two seminars each year. The library is a valuable source of knowledge since it provides all students with immediate access to the most up-to-date information on academics, research, curricular, and co-curricular activities. With the usage of a digital library, information may be obtained anywhere and at any time. Information can be accessed via the computer, via library databases and the internet. This is the computer age, and information may be controlled all across the world via the internet. The notion of an electronic library was created to compensate for the shortcomings of traditional libraries and to promote long-term educational growth. According to Eze (2013), the idea of an electronic library arose as a result of the existing library system's shortcomings. With the advent of the internet era, the world wide web as a new medium for information storage and distribution in the twenty-first century, the notion of an electronic library has gained traction. According to Eze (2013), digital libraries are well-known for sharing resources all over the world and entail co-operation, coordination, and cooperation between and among libraries for the aim of information exchange. The author went on to say that the goal of a digital library is to alleviate the difficulties that come with operating a physical or traditional library. As a result, there are various types of digital libraries, including electronic books, journals, theses and dissertations, videos, music, and magazines, all of which can be easily accessed through electronic libraries that produce metadata that is used to index all of the content in the library; it provides information about each item in the form of keywords and abstract descriptions that can be searched.

Since the noticeable problem of literature explosion in the 1970s, it became imperative for the world over to devise ways of facilitating the storage and flow of information in an acceptable quality within and outside shores, as stated by Akintunde (2004), libraries have undergone a significant metamorphosis from traditional system delivery to a more dynamic technological driven system. There is no doubt that digital libraries play an important role in the supply of information services in Nigerian higher institutions. Marchionini and Maurer (1995) show how digital libraries may play an important role in formal education by providing instructors and students with knowledge bases in a variety of media. In addition, digital libraries provide access to more information than most people or schools. It may be accessed from schools, residences, and central library facilities, where specific access, display, and usage tools can be shared. In the classroom and at home, remote access allows for virtual field trips, virtual guest lecturers, and access to rare and unusual items. Students from various higher institutions can collaborate and share information through a digital library (Fishman & D'Amico, 1994). Observations have revealed that some current and contemporary materials are becoming increasingly difficult to get in Nigerian tertiary institutions. Many publishers have been reported to favor internet publication to print creation. Many library users appear to favor online libraries due to the vast amount of information available in online databases. Despite this, there appear to be various barriers to the efficient use of e-library at tertiary institutions, including a lack of knowledge, expensive maintenance costs, particularly in the area of power backup, insufficient internet facilities, and qualified personnel. Similarly, while it appears that establishing a digital library was very simple, the following issues appear to be impeding the smooth operation of tertiary institutions: Issues with exchange rates, the high cost of building a digital library, the high cost of databases, epileptic power supply, a bad internet network, and a lack of knowledge about the many databases for accessing information are all factors to consider.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

The study employed descriptive design of the survey type. The population comprised all 100 level and 200 level students in tertiary institutions in Ekiti State while the sample consisted of 150 students drawn from three tertiary institutions in Ekiti State using proportionate sampling techniques. A self-constructed questionnaire titled “Students’ awareness and use of e-library to enhance learning effectiveness” was used to collect relevant data for the study. The instrument was validated by experts from library and information science, BOUESTI and Department of Vocational and Technical Education, EKSU and experienced library expert. A reliability co-efficient of 0.75 was obtained through test re-test method to ascertain its reliability. Data collected were analysed using frequency count and simple percentage.

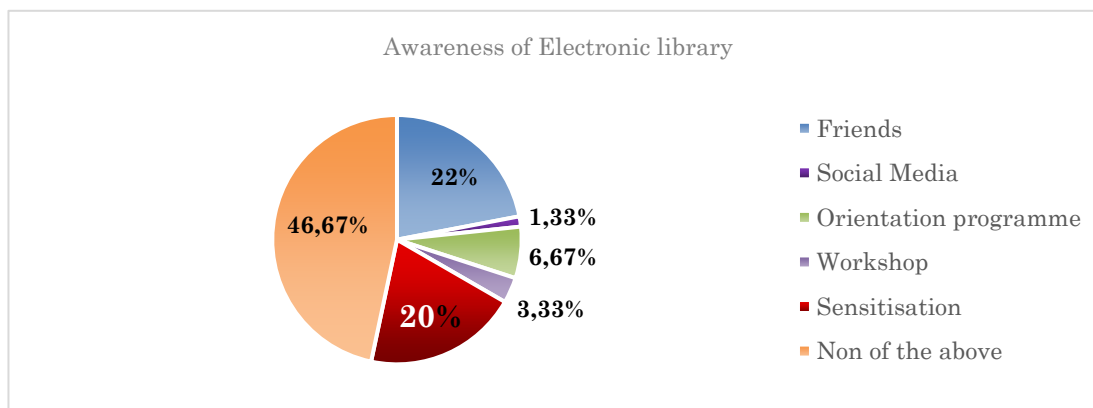
## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Research Question 1: What is the source of the students’ awareness of electronic library resources

**Table 1.** Sources of the students’ awareness of electronic library resources

S/N	Variables	No of Respondents	
		Freq	%
1	Friends	33	22.00
2	Social Media	2	1.33
3	Orientation programme	10	6.67
4	Workshop	5	3.33
5	Sensitisation	30	20.0
6	Non of the above	70	46.67
Total		150	100

From the above table, it was clear that 22% of the total respondents got the awareness about digital library through friends, 1.33% from social media, 6.67% from orientation programme, 3.33% from workshop, 20% from sensation while 46.67% of the total respondents had no any information about digital library.



**Figure 1.** Awareness of Electronic library

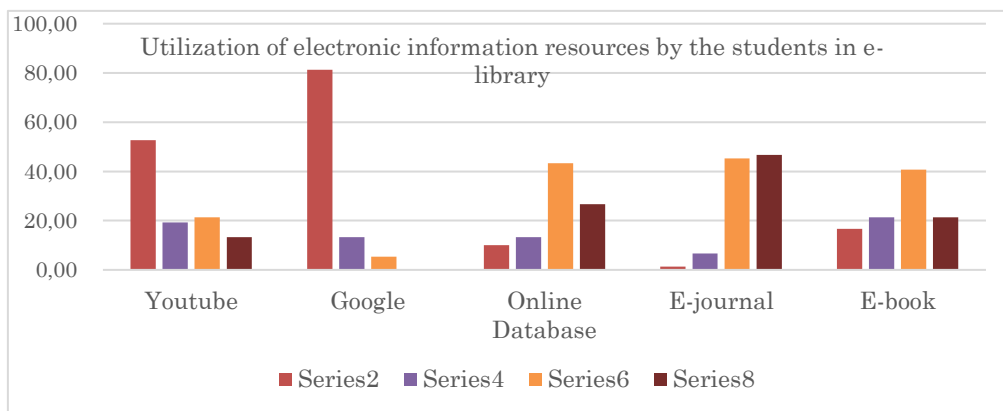
Figure 1 depicts the source of awareness of students on e-library. It is evident that friends (22%), social media (1.33%), orientation programme (6.67%), workshop (3.33%), sensitization (20%), non of the above (46.67%).

#### 3.1.1 Research Question 2: How often do the students use electronic information resources available in the library?

**Table 2.** Utilization of Electronic information resources by the students in e-library

S/N	Items	Always		Sometime		Rarely		Never	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
1	Youtube	79	52.67	29	19.33	32	21.33	20	13.33
2	Google	122	81.33	20	13.33	8	5.33		0.00
3	Online Database	15	10.00	20	13.33	65	43.33	40	26.67
4	E-journal	2	1.33	10	6.67	68	45.33	70	46.67
5	E-book	25	16.67	32	21.33	61	40.67	32	21.33

From the table above, It was indicated that students access Youtube always with 52.67%. Item 2 shows that 81.33% access google always while sometimes 13.33% use to access google. In item 3, shows that students that make use of database in the e-library always are just 10% while students that rarely access database has the highest percentage of 43.33% and 26.67% never access any database such as Proquest, Agora, JSTOR, Elsevier’s, Nigerian virtual library and EBSCOHOST in the e-library. Item 4 shows that 68% of the total respondents rarely access e-journal in the e-library while 46.67% never access e-journal. Item 5 shows that 40.67% of the total respondents rarely uses e-book in the e-library while 21.33% never use e-book in thee-library at all.



**Figure 2.** Utilization of electronic information resources by the students in e-library

Figure 2 depicts types of electronic information used by the users in the e-library. It is evident that students access youtube always than others (52.67%), Google (81.33%), online database (43.33%) rarely used online database, E-journal (46.67%) never use e-journal, while e-book (40.67%) rarely used e-book. Plans (3.45%), laboratory protocols (3.45%), research articles (6.03%) and all types of digital resources used by faculty members, students and research scholar (30.18%).

### 3.1.2 Research Question 3: What are the problems hindering the use of electronic information resources in the library by students?

**Table 3.** Problem militating against the use of libraries

S/N	Items	Yes	%	No	%
1	Slow Internet browsing	125	83.33	25	16.67
2	Attitude of library attendant to students	94	62.67	56	37.33
3	Non availability of printing material	83	55.33	67	44.67
4	Lack of searching capacity	53	35.33	97	64.67
5	Epileptic power supply	140	93.33	10	6.67
6	Non subscription of relevant database	102	68.00	48	32.00
7	High cost of accessing online database	142	94.67	8	5.33
8	Inadequate internet facilities	92	61.33	58	38.67
9	Lack of access to relevant database	98	65.33	52	34.67
10	Poor funding	82	54.67	68	45.33

Table 3 above shows that 83.33% of the total respondents agreed that the internet is too slow while 16.67% disagreed. The attitude of the library attendants was positive to the students with 62.67% while 37.33% disagreed. Item 3 shows that 55.33% of the total respondents agreed that no enough printing material in the e-library while 44.67% disagreed. 35.33% of the total respondents agreed that there is lack of searching capacity while 64.67% disagreed. Item 5 shows that 93.33% of the total respondents agreed that there is epileptic power supply while 6.67% disagreed. Item 6 shows that 68% of the total respondents agreed that there is no subscription of database while 32% disagreed. Item 7 shows that 94.67% of the total respondents agreed that there is high cost of accessing online database while 5.33% disagreed. Item 8 shows that 61.33% of the total respondents agreed that there is inadequate internet facilities while 38.67% disagreed. Item 9 shows that 65.33% of the total respondents agreed that they lack access to relevant database while 34.67% disagreed. Item 10 shows that 54.67% of the total respondents agreed that there is poor funding while 45.33% disagreed.

The study reveals that the main source of awareness of information about the electronic library resources is through sensitization. This is consonance with the finding of Lolade (2020) who discovered that significant proportion of the respondents were not well-informed of the available electronic information resources which largely resulted to low awareness and usage. The study further revealed that the students visit to the e-library are more encouraging despite the fact that they do not have good knowledge of how to make use of online database in the e-library but prefer to use the e-library network for download from youtube than accessing the database and other electronic books and journal. The study recorded low percentage of students in online database e-journal. The study is supported with the finding of Ibrahim (2004) who attributed the reason to low patronage of the online databases to lack of awareness to electronic resources, lack of time to access the electronic databases and the use of too many passwords which are difficult to remember.

The study revealed online databases have not been equally patronized by students. The study revealed the impeded factors that hinder the effective utilization of digital library such as slow internet browsing, high cost of accessing online database, inadequate internet facilities, lack of access to relevant database, poor funding, epileptics power supply, non-subscription of relevant database. The study is in line with the finding of Bashorun, Isah and Adisa (2011) and Adomi (2005) who found in their study that irregular supply of electricity and irrelevancy of search results from database and lack of adequate ICT skills are impeded factors.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, many students prefer the use of electronic material to the traditional forms. Digital library has lot of advantages over the traditional library where information can be easily found. Awareness of how to use digital library can be done by organising workshop for the students to be better informed. Students prefer to download other things in youtube with the network in the e-library than searching information from the online database. Many factors are also impeded the smooth running of e-library in the university such as poor internet browsing, poor funding, lack of subscription for database, lack of awareness campaign, cost of access and use of online databases and irregular power supply among others.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the finding of the study, the study therefore recommended the followings:

1. The students should be encouraged to be using e-library. Emphasis must be made in the class during the lecture on the use of e-library and students must be exposed to the practical usage of e-library
2. Students should be encouraged to be using e-library.
3. Making digital library accessible from anywhere in Nigeria
4. Digital library awareness program/workshop should be organized for students
5. Government should make provision for necessary facilities needed for digital library.

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#### AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The study revealed that many students did not have much knowledge of electronic library while some students got information through their friends about e-library, some also got information about e-library through friends and sensitisation. The study revealed that students are more familiar with the use of google than using library database, many students also fun of downloading from youtube when visiting library. The major problem that inhibit the students from using e-library effectively as found from the study are high cost of accessing online database, epileptics power supply and poor internet browsing. The finding of the study would help tertiary institutions in Ekiti State to improve the level of students awareness in using electronic library. The study would help to find solution to challenges of using e-library by the students in tertiary institutions. The study would help Government to identify areas of problems and what to do to solve the problem. Also, students would be encouraged and sensitised to make use of e-library rather than watching film and other irrelevant information from the youtube.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It is declared that there is no any conflict of interests on this study.

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