

Undergraduates' Awareness, Accessibility and Use of Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) in Federal Universities in South West, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study examines undergraduates' awareness, accessibility and use of Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) in federal universities in South West, Nigeria. The total population of this study was twelve thousand, eight hundred and fifty six (12,856) undergraduates of the federal universities understudy. A sample of 420 respondents was drawn from the total population using simple random sampling technique. Questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents. The data collected for this study was analyzed using simple percentage/frequency counts and weighted mean. Findings from this study revealed that undergraduates' in federal universities, to a very great extent, are aware of the types of electronic information resources that are accessible for use in their university libraries in South West, Nigeria, also the study found that the extent of undergraduates' accessibility of electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria is very high, that undergraduates' in federal universities in South West, Nigeria use electronic information resources for: Accessing useful and relevant databases not subscribed to by the library ; Access online/electronic news; Gaining access to information material not available in hard copies among others. The following challenges were faced by undergraduates' in their effort to use the library: Poor maintenance of electronic information resources; Lack of training for students on the use of electronic information resources and erratic power supply among others. The following were suggested to improve on accessibility and use of electronic information resources by undergraduates' in Nigerian universities: the library management should try as much as possible to acquire and make recent electronic books and journals available or students since their level of accessibility and use are very high in federal universities in South West among others.

KEYWORDS: Undergraduates, Awareness, Access, Use, Electronic Information Resources, University Libraries.

INTRODUCTION

In the past, libraries were known to provide access to information through printed materials as these resources were considered as the primary sources of information. But today, advances in Information Technology (IT) have changed the ways in which information for academic research is accessed and disseminated (Ndinoshiho, 2010). The access, use and dissemination of timely and up to date information are made easier with the advent of ICT which aid the transmission of electronic information resources. The academic world has reached an era where the use of printed resources by users of the library is being complemented with the use of Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) that can be accessed via the internet (Ndinoshiho, 2010).

Electronic information resources, interchangeably used in this study with “electronic resources” are information materials in the library that can only be accessed electronically, with the use of ICT facilities. According to the Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science as cited by Ferdinand, Ruth and Paul (2015), defined electronic information resources as materials consisting of data and or computer program(s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer, such as a CD-Rom drive or remotely via network such as the internet by the use of a peripheral device directly connected to the computer. In the same vein, Ashikuzzaman (2014) defined electronic information resources as a resources which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products which may be numerical, graphical or time based, and may be commercially available title that has been published with the aim of being marketed. Testifying to the importance of the use of electronic information resources in libraries, Dadzie (2005) posited that electronic information resources are valuable research tools that complement the print-based resources in a traditional library setting. However, the effective use of electronic information resources in academic libraries among undergraduates especially depends on their awareness of the EIRs and the access to the resources. It is often generally presumed that awareness promotes use. This is to say that, a system or resource cannot be used by someone who does not have any prior knowledge of it. EIRs awareness can be described as the state of being knowledgeable about their availability in libraries. Ruzegea (2012) also described awareness of EIRs such as the OPAC as the acknowledgment of its existence and availability while maintaining that, the awareness of electronic information resources is the first step towards the usage of the information bearing materials that are available electronically in the library and other information centers in this 21st century.

As in the case of awareness, for undergraduates to also be able to benefit from the availability of electronic information resources for education and academic purposes they must first have access to these resources. Access to information is the means by which a user locates desired information (Omolola, 2015). Information access is any means through which an information seeker gets required information to meet his/her information need. Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) noted that information resources may be available in the library and even identified bibliographically, as relevant to one's subject of interest, but it may be difficult to lay hands on them. Users of the library might be aware of the availability of electronic information resources in their university libraries but may not have access to them. Mohammed (2003) therefore, writes that there should be various tools and user education programmes on how to access electronic information resources so that students can access and make use of resources that can help them to develop academically. Electronic information resources open up the possibility of searching multiple files simultaneously, a feat accomplished more easily than when using print equivalents. Adeyinka, Tella, Ayeni and Omoba (2007) emphasized that electronic information resources have many functions and benefits that are capable of positively influencing the academic performance of both students and researchers in the university as well as other higher educational institutions. Furthermore, the use of electronic resources aid students in keeping abreast with current developments in their respective subject fields, in contrast with print media which are not regularly updated (Ukachi, 2013). Despite the many benefits associated with the deployment of electronic information resources, their deployment in the library will amount to waste of resources and time should the potentials users become unaware of their availability and usefulness in the library or lack access to these resources. This study, therefore, seeks to examine

undergraduates' awareness, accessibility and use of electronic information resources (EIRs) in federal university in South West, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The usefulness and importance of electronic information resources to the educational development of undergraduates in higher institution of learning cannot be overemphasize. However, personal observation by the researchers has showed that a good number of electronic information resources in university libraries seem to be grossly under-utilized by users of academic libraries particularly the undergraduates. Corroborating the a fore mentioned, Otulugba and Mamudu (2014) asserted that numerous challenges such as lack of awareness, difficulty in identifying relevant database to meet information needs, lack of access to electronic information resources, persistent power failure and limited bandwidth etcetera seem to be affecting the full access and use of electronic information resources in the university libraries by students. Achieving greater utilization of electronic information resources by undergraduate students therefore is dependent on their awareness of the resources and their ability to access them. The issue of awareness and access to these valuable resources raises concern in the mind of the researchers prompting them to examine undergraduates' awareness, accessibility and use of electronic information resources (EIRs) in federal university in South West, Nigeria

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine undergraduates' awareness, accessibility and use of electronic information resources (EIRs) in federal university in South West, Nigeria, and the specific objectives are to:

1. know the extent of undergraduates' awareness of the types of Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) available in federal universities in South West, Nigeria;
2. know the extent of access to electronic information resources by undergraduates in federal universities in South West, Nigeria
3. know the puposes for the use of electronic information resources by undergraduates' in federal universities in South West, Nigeria and
4. Ascertain the challenges of the access and use of electronic information resources in by undergraduates in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions have been raised to guide this study:

1. To what extent are undergraduates' aware of the types of electronic information resources available in university libraries in South West, Nigeria?
2. What is the extent of undergraduates' accessibility to electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria?
3. What are the purposes for which undergraduates use electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria?
4. What are the challenges of accessing and use of electronic information resources by undergraduates' in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Electronic information resources are convenient to search and access vast amount of information within the shortest possible time. These electronic information resources are available on the Internet, which can be accessed free of cost or through university's subscriptions which provides free online database access to their customers to support academic activities especially in the area of teaching, learning and research. According to Negahban and Talawar, (2009) electronic information resources, in-reality has become the backbones of many academic institutions. They serve as motivating factor to students as they provide them opportunity to transmit, acquire or download process and disseminate information on any subject of interest. Electronic information resources open up the possibility of searching multiple files simultaneously, a feat accomplished more easily than when using print equivalents. The usefulness of electronic information resources for the academic achievement of undergraduates is enormous as it avail them the opportunity to have timely access to materials not

available in print media. In the same vein, electronic information resources help to expand access, increase usability and effectiveness and establish new ways for students to use information to be more productive in their academic activities. Furthermore, use of electronic resources aid students in keeping abreast with current developments in their respective subject fields, in contrast with print media which are not regularly updated (Ukachi, 2013).

In a study conducted by Owolabi, Idowu, Okocha and Ogundare (2016) finding reveal that all the respondents 188(100%) used the electronic resources for academic purposes/course works and for online application/registration. About 170(90.4%) of the respondents used the electronic resources for assignments, 96(51%) respondents used it for research purposes, 142(75.5%) used it to communicate with friends and colleagues, while 122(64.9%) used it as sources of information for project writing and 132(70.2%) of the respondents used the electronic resources for other personal purposes. Some of the most frequently used electronic information resources in university libraries as highlighted by Konapa (2014) are: E-journals, E-books, Full-text (aggregated) databases, indexing and abstracting databases, Reference databases (biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias etc.), Numerical and statistical databases, E-images, E-audio/visual resources. Also, Kumbar, Kotabagi and Lamani (2014) conducted a study on use pattern of electronic information resources by the research scholars of Science Departments, Karnatak University, Dharwad, findings revealed that E-Journals, E-Books, E-Theses and Dissertation, E-Database, E-Content, E-Magazine and Newspaper are all types of electronic information resources made available for users in their library. In the same vein, Tariq and Zia (2014) found that 86.96% of respondents in their study use Website resources, 34.78% uses Electronic Books, 30.87% relies on Electronic Prints, 22.17% use Electronic Journals, 13.91% use Databases, and 6.52% use Electronic Theses & Dissertations and the rest 6.09% thinks television informational programs, electronic newspapers and magazines are also an Electronic Information Resource.

Regardless of the usefulness and the numerous benefits associated with the use of electronic information resources, research has shown that electronic information resources available in university libraries seem to be marginally utilized due to poor awareness of their existence and availability in the library and poor accessibility of the resources. Commenting on the awareness of electronic information resources by users of the library, Onwueme and Lulu-Pokubo (2017) conducted a study on awareness and use of electronic information resources among academic staff and students of Port Harcourt Polytechnic, Rumuola, Port Harcourt, findings revealed that database was mostly used with 30 (41.1%) responses followed by the E-book which had 18 (24.7%) responses. E-journal comes next with 12 (16.4%) responses while the CD- ROM and Institutional repository had 5(7%) and 3(4%) responses. Also, Bamberg and Möser (2007) posited that awareness is an important requirement for the development of moral norm. Unfortunately, there is inadequate awareness in developing countries, especially with respect of e-resources services (Abubakar & Ahmed, 2013).

Beside awareness, access is another major predictor of the use of electronic information resources. According to Bedi and Sharma (2008), access to resources is now considered more important than collection building. The access to electronic information resources in academic libraries and among Undergraduates is rapidly increasing as a result of the massive adoption of information communication technology (Ferdinand, Ruth & Paul, 2015). The study of Fyneman and Ebhomeya (2014) revealed that in the Niger Delta University, the level of accessibility to the electronic information resources available in the library is high as students get access to electronic resources free of charge in the main library and faculty libraries (Law, College of Health Sciences and Engineering) but pay for the cost of printing. In a related study, Asemi and Riyahiniya (2007) surveyed access and utilization of e-resources by the students (postgraduates and undergraduates) of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences in Iran. The findings revealed that 69% of the respondents are using the electronic resources (online databases) in their learning with Ovid Journals as the most widely used database. The students expressed satisfaction with the information they accessed through these e-resources.

In spite of the availability of these electronic resources in academic libraries, a lot of factors are militating against the access and effective use of these resources by undergraduates' especially. Akpojotor (2016) opined that poor telecommunications infrastructure, poor user skills in navigating e-

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resources, high cost of Internet subscription and restricted access to e-resources are also major challenges plaguing the use of electronic information resources by postgraduate students' in Nigeria universities. Similarly, Ozoemelem (2009) studied use of electronic resources by post graduate students of the department of library and information science of Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria. The findings of the study revealed that the challenges affecting the access and use of electronic information resources are large mass of irrelevant information, the need to filter the results from search, download delay, failure to find information, inadequate/inadequate search skills, high cost of access, power outages, and difficulties in navigating through electronic resources and so on. Also, Madondo, Sithole and Christa (2017) studied use of electronic information resources by undergraduates in the faculty of Management and Administration at Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe, findings showed that respondents encountered various challenges when accessing and using electronic resources at the University such as inadequate Information Communication Technology skills, insufficient number of workstations in the library, irrelevant information in databases and dawdling or unreliable internet connection affects the use of Electronic Information Resources.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. The target population for this study comprises all the undergraduate students who are registered library users of the seven federal universities in South West Nigeria. The federal universities covered by this study are Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Ondo State, Obafemi Awolo University, (OAU) Ile Ife, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State and University of Lagos, Lagos State, Federal University Oye Ekiti, (FUOYE) Ekiti State and National Open University of Lagos, Lagos State. The total population of this study was twelve thousand, eight hundred and fifty six (12,856) undergraduates who, as at the time of this study, were eligible library users in the 2019/2020 academic session of the universities under study. The sample size for this study comprised of 400 male and female undergraduates of the selected federal university libraries in South West. For the fact that the population of this study was large, the use of sample becomes very necessary. Krejcie and Morgan (1970) asserted that the ever increasing demand for research has created a need for an efficient method of determining the sample size that is needed to be representative of a given population.

Accordingly, Krejcie and Morgan (1970) reported that for a study that has a population of up to 10,000 and above, the minimum sample size should be 364. In this light, the researcher selected 60 undergraduate students each from the total population of the seven federal universities under study, using probability sampling technique. Hence, a sample of 420 respondents was drawn from the total population of the study. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire which was distributed to the respondents face to face at their various libraries. 420 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondent, 368 were duly completed and found usable. Therefore, there was 88% response rate. The data collected for this study was analyzed using simple percentage/frequency counts and weighted mean.

FINDINGS

Table 1: Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	196	53
Female	172	47
Total	368	100.0

Table 1 shows that 196(53%) of the respondents are male and 172(47%) of them are female. This means there are more male undergraduates than their female counterparts in federal university in South West, Nigeria.

Table 2: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-22 years	102	28
23-27 years	161	44
28-32 years	89	24
33 years and above	16	4
Total	368	100

Table 2 revealed the age bracket of the respondents. From the table, 161(44%) representing majority of the respondents are within the age bracket of 23-27 years of age followed by 102(28%) of them who are within the age bracket of 18-22 years of age while 89(24%) of them are within the age bracket of 28-32 years of age and only 16(4%) of the respondents are 33 years and above. This means majority of the respondents are within the age bracket of 23-27 years of age.

Research Question 1: To what extent are undergraduates' aware of the types of electronic information resources available in university libraries in South West, Nigeria?

Table 3: Extent of undergraduates' awareness of the types of electronic information resources accessible for use in university libraries

S. N.	Awareness of Electronic Information Resources among Undergraduates	VGE	GE	LE	VLE	Weighted Mean
1	I am aware of the availability of E-books in my library	255	98	15	--	3.7
2	I am aware of the availability of E-journals in my Library	197	151	17	3	3.5
3	I am aware of the availability of CD ROMs in my Library	342	22	4	--	3.9
4	I am aware of the availability of Printers in my Library	321	43	3	--	3.9
5	I am aware of the availability of Scanners in my Library	289	55	19	5	3.7
6	I am aware of the availability of UPS in my Library	167	178	14	9	3.4
7	I am aware of the availability of Computers (Desktops and Laptops) in my Library	322	34	12	--	3.8
8	I am aware of the availability of Projectors in my Library	121	89	136	22	2.9
9	I am aware of the availability of Databases and Online resources in my Library	21	146	178	23	2.5
10	I am aware of the availability of Internet facilities in my Library	205	101	46	16	3.3
	Aggregate Mean					3.5
	Criterion Mean					2.50

Table 3 shows a weighted of 3.5 which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.5, it can be concluded that, undergraduates' in federal universities, to a very great extent, are aware of the types of electronic information resources that are accessible for use in their university libraries in South West, Nigeria.

Research Question 2: What is the extent of undergraduates' accessibility to electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria?

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Table 4: Extent of undergraduates' accessibility to electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria

S.N.	Extent of Access to Electronic Information Resources	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Weighted Mean
1	I access electronic information resources daily from the library	166	192	10	-	3.4
2	I access electronic information resources daily from my hostel	98	151	89	30	2.9
3	I access electronic books, journals, magazines, news from daily from classroom.	121	173	69	5	3.1
4	I access electronic books and journals of the library more than once in a day	201	93	51	23	3.3
5	I access electronic books and journals anytime I need information for assignment.	281	64	19	4	3.7
6	I access electronic books and journals anytime I need information for seminars and research purpose	244	81	26	17	3.5
7	I access electronic news-sites for current news many times a day	294	63	11	-	3.8
8	I access electronic books and journals of my university library even when I am on holidays	47	22	158	141	2.4
9	I access electronic maps anytime I am travelling.	14	31	189	134	1.8
10	I access information resources on CD ROMs and flash drives many times a day.	112	154	82	20	3.0
11	I access electronic books more compared to printed texts.	109	151	92	16	3.0
12	I access electronic journals more compared to printed journals.	124	161	64	19	3.1
Aggregate Mean		2.50				
Criterion Mean		3.1				

Table 4 shows a weighted mean of 3.1 which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50; it can be that the extent of undergraduates' accessibility of electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria is very high.

Research Question 3: What are the purposes for which undergraduates use electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria?

Table 5: Purposes of the use of Electronics information Resources by Undergraduates

S.N.	Purpose of the Use of Electronic Information Resources	Agree		Disagree		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	To gather information for writing and defending seminars	289	79	79	21	368	100.0
2	To gather information for writing and defending project	289	79	79	21	368	100.0
3	To gather information for assignments	281	76	87	24	368	100.0
4	To gather information in preparation for test	276	75	92	25	368	100.0
5	To gather information in preparation for exams	284	77	84	13	368	100

6	To access online/electronic news	301	82	67	18	368	100.0
7	To gain access to information material not available in hard copies	297	81	71	19	368	100.0
8	To access useful and relevant databases not subscribed to by the library	306	83	62	17	368	100.0

Table 5 shows that majority 306(83%) of the respondents agreed that the purpose for the use of electronic information resources is to access useful and relevant databases not subscribed to by their library while 62(17%) of them disagreed followed by 301(82%) of them who agreed to using electronic information resources for to access online/electronic news while 67(18%) of them disagreed to that. Also, 297(81%) representing majority o the respondents agreed to using electronic information resources to gain access to information materials not available in hard copies while 71(19%) of them disagreed to that.289(79%) of the respondents agreed to using electronic information resources to gather information for writing and defending seminars and to gather information for writing and defending projects respectively while 79(21%) of the respondents disagreed respectively.284(77%) of the respondents agreed to using electronic information resources for the purpose of gathering information in preparation for exams while 84(13%) of them disagreed. 281(76%) of the respondents agreed to using electronic information resources for gathering information for assignment purposes while 87(24%) o them disagreed and 276(75%) of the respondents agreed with using electronic information resources for the purpose of gathering information for test while 92(25%) of them disagreed. This means that undergraduates' in federal universities in South West, Nigeria use electronic information resources to: Access useful and relevant databases not subscribed to by the library ; Access online/electronic news; Gain access to information material not available in hard copies; Gather information for writing and defending seminars; Gather information for writing and defending project; Gather information in preparation for exams; Gather information for assignments and Gather information in preparation for test among others.

Research Question 4: What are the challenges of accessing and use of electronic information resources by undergraduates' in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria?

Table 6: Challenges of Accessing and use of Electronic Information Resources by Undergraduates

S.N.	Challenges of Accessing and Use of Electronic Information Resources	Agree		Disagree		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Poor searching skills	140	38	228	62	368	100.0
2	Lack of training for students on the use of electronic information resources.	289	79	79	21	368	100.0
3	Erratic power supply in the library to make use of electronic information resources.	281	76	87	24	368	100.0
4	Inadequate computer systems to access and use electronic information resources.	211	57	157	43	368	100.0
5	Lack of adequate electronic information resources in my library	239	65	129	35	368	100
6	Poor awareness of electronic information resources available in the libraries.	87	24	281	76	368	100.0
7	Poor network problem to access and use electronic information resources.	277	75	91	25	368	100.0
8	Poor maintenance of electronic information resources available in libraries.	302	82	66	18	368	100.0
9	Poor ICT skills.	103	28	265	72	368	100.0

Table 6 revealed that majority 302(82%) of the respondents agreed with poor maintenance of electronic information resources available in libraries while only 66(18%) of them disagreed followed by 289(79%) of them who agreed to lack of training for students on the use of electronic information resources while only 79(21%) of them disagreed to that. Also, 281(76%) of the respondents agreed

with erratic power supply in the library to make use of electronic information resources while 87(24%) of them disagreed. This was followed by 277(75%) of them who agreed with poor network problem to access and use electronic information resources while 91(25%) of them disagreed to that. 239(65%) of the respondents agreed with lack of adequate electronic information resources in the library while 129(35%) of them disagreed. Also, 211(57%) of the respondents agreed with inadequate computer systems to access and use electronic information resources while 157(43%) of them disagreed. However, only 140(38%) of the respondents agreed with poor searching skills as a challenge of the use of electronic information resources why 228(62%) of them disagreed followed by 103(28%) of the respondents who agreed with poor ICT skills as a challenge why majority 265(72%) of them disagreed. Only 87(24%) of the respondents agreed with poor awareness of electronic information resources in the library while majority 281(76%) of them disagreed. This means that the challenges of the use of electronic information resources in by undergraduates in university libraries in South West, Nigeria in top flight are: Poor maintenance of electronic information resources available in libraries; Lack of training for students on the use of electronic information resources; Erratic power supply in the library to make use of electronic information resources; Poor network problem to access and use electronic information resources and Lack of adequate electronic information resources in my library and inadequate computer systems to access/use electronic information resources.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study revealed in that there are more male 196(53%) than female 172(47%) respondents which means that there are more male undergraduates' than their female counterparts in federal universities in South West, Nigeria. Also, the study revealed that majority of the undergraduates 'in federal universities in South West, Nigeria are within the age bracket of 23-27 years of age. This study clearly revealed that undergraduates' in federal universities, to a very great extent, are aware of the types of electronic information resources that are accessible for use in their university libraries in South West, Nigeria. This finding agrees with that of Onwueme and Lulu-Pokubo (2017) who found that database, E-books, E-journal and other electronic information resources such as the CD- ROM and Institutional repository were mostly being used by staff and students of Port Harcourt Polytechnic, Rumuola, Port Harcourt due to timely awareness of these resources in their library. Also, this study glaringly revealed that the extent of undergraduates' accessibility of electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria is very high. This finding corroborates that of Fyneman and Ebhomeya (2014) who found that in the Niger Delta University, the level of accessibility to the electronic information resources available in the library is high. To further corroborate the finding, Asemi and Riyahiniya (2007) surveyed access and utilization of e-resources by the students (postgraduates and undergraduates) of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences in Iran. The findings revealed that 69% of the respondents are accessing and using the electronic resources (online databases) with Ovid Journals the most widely used database. The study also revealed that the students expressed satisfaction with the information they accessed through these e-resources.

This study also shows that undergraduates' in federal universities in South West, Nigeria use electronic information resources for the purpose of: Accessing useful and relevant databases not subscribed to by the library ; Access online/electronic news; Gaining access to information material not available in hard copies; Gathering information for writing and defending seminars; Gathering information for writing and defending project; Gathering information in preparation for exams; Gathering information for assignments and Gathering information in preparation for test among others. This finding is in agreement with that of Owolabi, Idowu, Okocha and Ogundare (2016) whose findings reveals that undergraduates' used electronic resources for academic purposes/course works and for online application/registration. About 170(90.4%) of them used electronic resources for assignments, 96(51%) used it for research purposes, 142(75.5%) used it to communicate with friends and colleagues, while 122(64.9%) used it as sources of information for project writing. The study further revealed that the challenges of the use of electronic information resources by undergraduates in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria in top flight are: Poor maintenance of electronic information resources available in libraries; Lack of training for students on the use of electronic

information resources; Erratic power supply in the library to make use of electronic information resources; Poor network problem to access and use electronic information resources and Lack of adequate electronic information resources in my library and inadequate computer systems to access/use electronic information resources. This finding agrees with that of Madondo, Sithole and Christa (2017) who found that various challenges undergraduates' encounter when accessing and using electronic resources at their University libraries are inadequate Information Communication Technology skills, insufficient number of workstations in the library, irrelevant information in databases and dwindling or unreliable internet connection. Also, Akpojotor (2016) opined that poor telecommunications infrastructure, high cost of Internet subscription are major challenges plaguing the use of electronic information resources by postgraduate students' in Nigerian universities.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is clear from this study that undergraduates' in federal universities, to a very great extent, are aware of the types of electronic information resources that are accessible for use in their university libraries in South West, Nigeria. Also, the extent of undergraduates' accessibility of electronic information resources in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria is very high. Most of the undergraduates uses electronic information resources for the purpose of Accessing useful and relevant databases not subscribed to by the library ; Access online/electronic news; Gaining access to information material not available in hard copies; Gathering information for writing and defending seminars; Gathering information for writing and defending project; Gathering information in preparation for exams; Gathering information for assignments and Gathering information in preparation for test among others. The challenges the use of electronic information resources by undergraduates in federal university libraries in South West, Nigeria are: Poor maintenance of electronic information resources available in libraries; Lack of training for students on the use of electronic information resources; Erratic power supply in the library to make use of electronic information resources; Poor network problem to access and use electronic information resources and Lack of adequate electronic information resources in my library and inadequate computer systems to access/use electronic information resources. In view of the foregoing, the following recommendations were made:

1. The library management should try as much as possible to acquire and make recent electronic books and journals available or students since their level of accessibility and use are very high in federal universities in South West, Nigeria.
2. The library management should subscribe to more databases on the major subject area of their university as this will encourage the undergraduates to patronize their university libraries more.
3. The government should allocate more funds to academic libraries especially for the purchase of more electronic information resources such as laptops and desktop computers so that the university libraries will have more terminals to accommodate good number o students who wishes to make use of the electronic information resources of the library almost at the same time.
4. The Library management should upgrade their network subscription to unlimited high frequency bandwidths which will allow the students unlimited download of electronic information resources that will be o use to them and also encourage them to make use o the internet facility of the library because of the high network speed.

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Electronic information resources are information sources that are available and can be accessed electronically through such computer networked facilities as online library catalogues, the Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW), CD-ROM databases, etcetera. The electronic information resources could either be subscribed to or be digitised in-house (Ekwelem, Okafor and Ukwoma, 2009). The study explored the state of electronic information resource sharing among university libraries in Southern part of Nigeria, highlighting the prospects and the challenges. The study was an empirical research which adopted the descriptive survey as the design. The study focused on ten universities in Nigeria. The descriptive research design was adopted and multistage sampling technique was used for the study. Three faculties were purposively selected from the universities while two departments each were randomly selected from the faculties. However, the optimal use of electronic resources by students may depend on their information retrieval skills. Information retrieval skills are crucial for retrieving information in this era of technology that most of the information needed for research can be retrieved from electronic sources. electronic resources are higher than the one required for searching printed sources and that students need to master certain skills to exploit and use the growing range of e-resources. private universities in South-West, Nigeria; 4) determine the relationship between information literacy skills and e-resources. use by postgraduate students in private universities in South-West, Nigeria. 4. Research Questions. The study provided answers to the following research questions: 1) For what purpose do postgraduate students in private universities in South-West The study of [23] investigated information retrieval skills and use of library electronic resources by university undergraduates in Nigeria. The survey design was adopted for the study that attempted to find out the validity of the assumption that there is no significant relationship between retrieval skills and undergraduates' use of electronic resources in university libraries. Keywords: Electronic Information Resources, EIRs Categories, Availability, Awareness, Postgraduate library users, Federal universities, Nigeria. Cite this paper: Chimah Jonathan N., Nwokocha Udo, Categories, Availability and Awareness of Electronic Information Resources by Postgraduate Library Users in South East Nigerian Federal Universities, International Journal of Library Science, Vol. 4 No. 1, 2015, pp. 7-12. doi: 10.5923/j.library.20150401.02. Figure 1 presents percentage data on the available Electronic Information Resources (EIRs) in the four universities under study. Figure 1. EIRs Availability in the Universities under study.