



Information Communication Technology (ICT) Facilities and Information Resource Sharing Activities in Federal University Libraries in North Central, Nigeria

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Abstract

The research investigated the impact of Information Communication Technology (ICT) Facilities on Information Resource Sharing Activities in Federal University Libraries In North Central, Nigeria. The study was guided by four objectives and one null hypothesis. A descriptive survey was used with the target population of 121 librarians in the seven federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria. The questionnaire was used in data collection. 121 copies of the questionnaire were administered 102 were filled, returned and found usable representing an 87.2% response rate. Percentage, Means and standard deviation were used in data analysis and Pearson Product moment correlation was used to test the null hypotheses. The study found that the factors restricting the usage of ICT for information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria, were inadequate funding and lack of ICT infrastructure and connectivity. H01 showed that there was a relationship between ICT and information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria. The study found that the factors restricting the usage of ICT for information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria, were inadequate funding and ICT infrastructure and connectivity. The paper recommended amongst others that federal universities in North Central Nigeria should ensure that the funds allocated to the university library should be increased and also should endeavour to provide adequate ICT facilities that are lacking such as video conferencing and intranet to enhance information resource sharing activities.

Keywords: ICT, Information Resource Sharing, Federal University Libraries, North central, Nigeria.

Introduction

University libraries are the heart of the university it is situated; it is important that these libraries, provide information resources in all formats, to satisfy the learning, educational, recreational, cultural and research needs of its clientele. Owing to this assertion, libraries are obligated to partner with other libraries to share their information resources to fulfill these objectives, since the library can singly boast of having the capability to meet the needs of its clientele.

The term information resource sharing is synonymous with library networking, library connections, library consortia, document supply,

document distributions, access services, library partnership, library associations and library twinning. These terminologies are used to describe both formal and informal collaboration and partnership among various libraries in agreement. Information resource sharing is a cooperative agreement in which two or more libraries utilise each other's resources be it equipment, personnel, skills and proficiency, Information communication technology (ICT) facilities and information resources. It is a relevant tool in enhancing library collections because, without adequate, concise, useful information, no great progress can be made in all aspects of human endeavour. Thirunavukkarasu

(2017) stated the objectives of information resource sharing are to provide access to wider information resources irrespective of geographical location, reduce all-around cost, avoid duplication of many, manpower and material; satisfy a wider variety of users and develop a specialised area of information collection building.

Through the inception of library concepts, information resource sharing has been known to be part of a library's activities since no library can stand alone in terms of providing the information needs of its reader or users. Information resource sharing in recent times is seen as the key solution in combating the problem of insufficient information resources in the library.

The emergence of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Information resource sharing has been fast-tracked as it minimises the cost, collaborating libraries can undertake information-related tasks much more efficiently as libraries are now utilising the internet, electronic mail (e-mail), teleconferencing and social media. Aliyu (2016) described ICT "as the technology required for information processing, particularly the use of electronic computers and computer software to convert, store, protect, process, transmit and retrieve information from anywhere at any time." ICT is a generic term used to describe modern-day technologies for acquiring, preserving, retrieving, developing, analysing and transmitting the information. With the use of ICT and its application in library activities, new opportunities have been opened up for greater cooperation among libraries, at the global level, national and local levels.

Statement of Problem

How information resources are searched and retrieved in recent times is becoming more cumbersome and no library can have everything that is needed by its clients. Locating a source and purchasing the material takes a lot of time and effort, and the process involved is burdened with uncertainties.

Exponential growth in literature and limited library budget makes it impossible to acquire all the information resource needed both in electronic and paper format.

ICT facilities that will help in making Information retrieval and information sharing easier in today's University libraries are either old or underutilised. Where the needed ICT for information resource sharing, is lacking such libraries would probably be unable to fulfill the information needs of their clientele.

It is based on the aforementioned problems, the study seeks to find how information communication technology (ICT) facilities could enhance information sharing activities of libraries in Federal University Libraries in, Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nassarawa, Niger, Plateau States and Federal Capital Territory in North Central, Nigeria.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the influence of information and communication technology on information resource-sharing activities in federal university libraries in North Central, Nigeria. Specifically, the study intends to:

1. Identify the types of Information resource sharing activities among cooperative libraries in federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria.
2. Identify the ICT facilities available to enhance information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria.
3. Find out the extent of use of ICT facilities for information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North central, Nigeria.
4. Identify the factors restricting ICT facilities' usage for Information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North Central, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were asked thus:

1. What are the types of information resource sharing activities among cooperative libraries in federal university libraries in North central Nigeria?
2. What are the ICT facilities available to enhance information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North central Nigeria?
3. What is the extent of the use of ICT facilities for information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North central Nigeria?
4. What are the factors restricting ICT facilities' usage for Information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following hypothesis was tested at a 0.05 level of significance, thus:

H_{01} : there is no significant relationship between ICT facilities and information resource sharing in Federal university libraries in north-central Nigeria.

Research Methodology

Research Design

This study utilised a descriptive survey design to investigate the ICT Facilities and information resource sharing activities in Federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria. A survey method is a type of descriptive research that uses sample data in explaining what is the existence or non-existence of the phenomenon being studied (Oyedum et al, 2015).

Population of the Study

The targeted population for this study was one hundred and twenty-four (121) this comprises librarians in Francis Suleiman Idachabe library University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State, Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia library, University of Abuja, FCT, Federal University Lokoja Library, Kogi State, University of Ilorin Library, Kwara State University of Lafia Library, Nassarawa State, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida Library, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State and University of Jos Library, Plateau State.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The entire 121 population of Librarians in federal university Libraries in North Central, Nigeria was sampled. Babbie (2013) asserted that, when a population is of manageable size that is less than 200, it is advisable to conduct a census of the entire population, instead of just a sample. This method has a great level of precision and total statistical coverage.

Research Instrument

The research instrument used for the study was a self-designed closed-ended structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was the research instrument. Ibrahim (2016) asserted that a questionnaire is the most appropriate instrument used for the study because it is easy to administer and collection can be achieved within a short time. A closed-ended questionnaire titled "ICT facilities and information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria". The questionnaire has 4 sections and was designed to include (YES, NO), a four-point Likert scale (SA, A, D, SD), (Available, Not Available).

Validation of Instrument

The face and content validity of the instrument has been determined with the help of four lecturers in the Department of Library and Information Technology, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria and

a statistician for necessary inputs, observations and comments to arrive at a suitable measure on all the relevant concepts of this study.

Reliability of Instrument

The instrument "ICT facilities and information resource sharing activities in Federal university libraries in North Central, Nigeria" was tested using Cronbach's Alpha method of reliability measure through a pilot study test that was administered to ten (10) Librarians of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) library Ile-Ife, Osun State, South-West Nigeria to determine its reliability co-efficient. The co-efficient of 0.81 was obtained. Tavakol & Dennick (2011) asserted that, if the average Cronbach Alpha Coefficient of a research question is <0.5 , the instrument is unacceptable. The co-efficient of 0.81 was obtained and this shows that the instrument was reliable.

Method of Data Analysis

Data gathered was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, the mean and standard deviation were used to analyse the data, and results were presented in tables. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the null hypothesis.

Results and Discussion

Response Rate

A total of one hundred and twenty-one (121) copies of the questionnaire were administered to librarians at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi Benue State, Federal University of Lokoja, Kogi State, University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State, University of Jos, Plateau and University of Abuja, Federal Capital Territory. One hundred and two (102) copies of the questionnaire were filled, returned and found usable; representing an 87.2% response rate.

The table below showed the breakdown of the response rate by various Federal Libraries in North Central, Nigeria.

Table 1 presents the response rate. Federal University Lafia, Nassarawa State had 100.0%, Federal University Lokoja, Kogi State had 83.3%, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State had 71.4%, University of Abuja, Abuja had 100.0%, University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State had 90.9%, University of Ilorin, Kwara State had 79.2% and

University of Jos, Plateau State had 85.7%. However, the overall response rate was 87.2%.

Table 2 presents the responses of the respondents that indicated the different types of resource-sharing activities. From table 2, on Inter-library loans, 92 (90.2%) of the respondents indicated yes, Co-operative acquisition 28 (27.5%) respondents indicated yes, Co-operative storage 21 (20.6%) respondents indicated yes, Co-operative references services 38(37.3%)

respondents indicated yes, Co-operative processing of library resources and 17(16.7%) respondents indicated yes, 89 (87.3%) respondents indicated yes on Human Resource building, 97 (95.1%) respondents indicated yes on Document delivery, 87 (85.3%) respondents indicated yes on Consortia resource sharing. From the analysis above, it can be deduced that many of the types of information sharing still need to be improved upon.

Table 1. Response Rate

S/No	Names of University Library	No of Administered Questionnaire	No of Returned Questionnaire	Percentages (%) of Returned Questionnaire
1	Francis Suleiman Idachabe library University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State.	11	10	90.9
2	Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia University of Abuja, F.C.T	13	13	100.0
3	Federal University of Lokoja library, Kogi state	12	10	83.3
4	University of Ilorin library, Kwara State	24	19	79.2
5	Federal University Lafia library, Nasarawa State	12	12	100.0
6	Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida library Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State	28	20	71.4
7	University of Jos library, Plateau State	21	18	85.7
	Total	121	102	87.2

Table 2. Frequency and Percentage of Types of Information Resource Sharing Activities in the Library

S/N	Types of Information Resource Sharing	YES	NO
1.	Inter-library loan	92(90.20%)	10(9.8%)
2.	Co-operative acquisition	28(27.5%)	74(72.5%)
3.	Co-operative storage	21(20.6%)	81(79.4%)
4.	Cooperative reference service	38(37.3 %.)	64(62.7%)
5.	Cooperative processing of library resources	17(16.7%)	85(83.3%)
6.	Human resource building	89(87.3%)	13(12.7%)
7.	Document Delivery	97(95.1%)	5(4.9%)
8.	Consortia resource sharing	87(85.3%)	15(14.7%)

Table 3. Frequency and Percentage of Types of ICT Facilities Available for Enhancing Information Resource Sharing Activities in the Library

S/N	ICT facilities	AV	Not AV
1	Computers	102(100%)	0(0.0%)
2	Mobile phones	97(95.1%)	5(4.9%)
3	Scanner	95(93.1%)	7(6.7%)
4	CD-ROM	89(87.3%)	13(12.7%)
5	Online public access catalogue (OPAC)	59(57.8%)	43(42.2%)
6	Facsimile (FAX) Machine	13(12.7%)	89(87.3%)
7	Photocopy Machine	87(85.3%)	15(14.7%)
8	Internet	98(96.1%)	4(3.9%)
9	Social media platforms	80(78.4%)	22(21.6%)
10	Printers	94(92.2%)	8(7.8%)
11	Video Conferences	10(9.8%)	92(90.2%)
12	Intranet	25(24.5%)	77(75.5%)

KEY: AV = Available, NOT AV = Not Available.

Table 3 presents the count frequency and percentages of respondents that indicated availability and non-availability of ICT facilities/equipment in their university libraries. From the table, all the respondents, 102 (100%) indicated the availability of Computers in their university libraries, 97 (95.1%) of the respondents signified the availability of Mobile phones, 95 (93.1%) of the respondents indicated the availability of scanners, 89 (87.3%) of the respondents indicated the availability of CD-ROMs, 59 (57.8%) of the respondents indicated the availability of OPAC, 89 (87.3%) of the respondents indicated the non-availability of Fax Machines, 87 (85.3%) of the respondents indicated the availability of Photocopy Machines, 98 (96.1%) of the respondents indicated the availability of the Internet, 80 (78.4%) of the respondents indicated the availability of Social media platforms, 94 (92.2%) of the respondents indicated the availability of Printers, 92 (90.2%) of the respondents indicated the non-availability of video conferences, 77 (75.5%) of the respondents indicated the non-availability of Intranet. From the analysis above, it can be deduced that the various ICT facilities are relatively available in the various libraries.

Table 4 showed the responses on the extent of use

of ICT for information resource sharing Activities in the library. The items listed with a mean score (3.08) greater than the benchmark mean of 2.5 on a 4-point Likert scale signifies the extent of use of ICT for information resource sharing. These are item 1; I use e-mails and social media platforms to document delivery and inter-library loans electronically (\bar{x} = 3.33, SD=0.83) followed by item 2: Co-operative acquisition of library resources is done via video conferences, e-mails and social media platform (\bar{x} = 1.98, SD=0.52) followed by item 3: Co-operative storage of large documents done is through the use of CD-ROMs, computers and cloud computing among cooperating member libraries (\bar{x} = 1.97, SD=0.53) followed by item 4: My library and cooperating libraries use telephones, social media and OPAC in rendering references services to library clientele (\bar{x} = 3.08, SD=0.58) followed by item 5: Document search and retrieval are done electronically via OPAC (\bar{x} = 2.91, SD=0.41) followed by item 6: I use e-mail, telephone, social media platforms to disseminate information among cooperative libraries (\bar{x} = 3.18, SD=0.68). This shows that there is a high level of use of ICT for Information Resource Activities in the Library.

Table 5 reveals the factors restricting the usage of ICT for information resource sharing in libraries. The seven items listed to examine the extent of the adequacy of these factors provided have a mean score (2.78) greater than the benchmark mean of 2.5 on a four-point Likert scale. These are item 1: Lack of sufficient funds (\bar{x} = 3.27, SD=0.77) followed by item 2: Erratic power supply (\bar{x} = 2.94, SD=0.44), item 3: Lack of technical know-how (manpower) (\bar{x} = 2.55, SD=0.05), item 4: Lack of ICT infrastructure and connectivity (\bar{x} = 3.03, SD=0.53) and item 5: Lack of coordination/ co-operation (\bar{x} = 2.60, SD=0.1) followed by item 6: Inadequate library collection (\bar{x} = 2.84, SD=0.34) followed by item 7: Lack of adequate training for staff (\bar{x} = 2.90, SD=0.40). This shows that some factors are restricting the use of ICT for Information Resource Activities in the Library.

Hypothesis Testing

H₀₁ There is no significant relationship between the influences of ICT on information resource sharing in Federal University Libraries, North-Central, Nigeria.

Table 6 showed the relationship between the two variables

Table 4. Descriptive Statistics of Result on the Extent of Use of ICT Facilities for Information Resource Sharing Activities in the Library

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	X	STD	Decision
		4	3	2	1			
1	I use social Media Platforms For document delivery	56	30	10	6	3.33	0.83	Agreed
2	Cooperative acquisition of Library resources video conference, e-mail & social Media platform	0	14	72	16	3.33	0.83	Disagreed
3	Cooperative storage of large documents is done via the use of CD-ROMS, Cloud computing.	2	12	69	19	1.97	0.53	Disagreed
4	My Library and Cooperating libraries use telephones, social media And OPAC in rendering Reference service to Library clientele.	29	57	11	5	3.08	0.58	Agreed
5	Document search and Retrieval are done Via OPAC	13	59	18	2	2.91	0.41	Agreed
6	I use e-mail, telephone, social Media Platforms to Disseminate information among cooperative library	19	82	1	0	3.18	0.68	Agreed
Grand mean						3.08		

Key: SA = Strongly Agreed, A=Agreed, D= Disagreed AND SD = Strongly Disagreed. (Bench mark 2.5)

Table 5. Analysis on the Factors Restricting the Use of ICT Facilities for Information Resource Sharing in Libraries

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	x	STD	Decision
		4	3	2	1			
1	Lack of sufficient Fund	50	34	14	4	3.27	0.77	Agreed
2	Erratic power supply	15	70	13	4	2.94	0.44	Agreed
3	Lack of technical Know-how (manpower)	17	40	27	18	2.55	0.05	Agreed

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	x	STD	Decision
		4	3	2	1			
4	Lack Of ICT Infrastructure and Connectivity	36	39	21	6	3.03	0.53	Agreed
5	Lack Of co-ordination/ co-operation	16	39	37	10	2.60	0.1	Agreed
6	Inadequate library Collection	15	60	23	4	2.84	0.34	Agreed
7	Lack of adequate training for staff	31	41	19	11	2.90	0.40	Agreed
Grand Mean						2.78		

Key: SA = Strongly Agreed, A=Agreed, D= Disagreed AND SD = Strongly Disagreed. (Bench mark 2.5)

Table 6. Relationship between ICT and Information Resource Sharing among Federal University Libraries, North-Central, Nigeria.

Variable	No. of Samples	Correlation	Sign. Level (p)	Remark
Use of ICTs	102			
Information Resource Sharing	102	0.548*	0.000	Significant

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 6 presents the Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient on the relationship between the influence of ICTs and information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria. The Correlation result indicated that there is a significant relationship between the influence of ICTs and information in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria at a 0.05 level of significance. (Correlation = 0.548; $p < 0.05$). Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected. Hence showing that there was a significant relationship between the Influence of ICTs and Information resource sharing in Federal University libraries in North Central Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The research investigated Information Communication Technology (ICT) Facilities and Information Resource Sharing Activities in Federal University Libraries In North Central, Nigeria. The study was guided by four research questions and one null hypothesis. The study found out that the majority of the universities engage in all of the types of information resource sharing activities but are mostly active in some more than others as the above analysis shows namely inter-library loans, document delivery,

consortia resource sharing, human resource building, while activities such as cooperative references services are moderately facilitated in libraries. Activities such as cooperative acquisition, cooperative storage and cooperative processing of library resources have little effect on information resource sharing. This clearly shows that there is a great need for improvement in the highlighted activities that are lacking behind, to facilitate fast and effective information flow and resource sharing.

The study revealed that the majority of the federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria have all the types of ICTs facilities required for enhancing information resource sharing. The ICT facilities include Computers, mobile phones, scanners, CD-ROMs, online public access catalogue (OPAC), facsimile (Fax) machine, photocopy machine, internet, social media platforms, printers, video conferences and intranet. This agrees with the findings of Oghenetega et al. (2015) in their study on global tools and information resource sharing among Academic Libraries in Nigeria. The study indicated that all the selected institutions had the following ICTs as computers, VCD/DVD, Internet accessed ICT facilities are available and are utilised by academic librarians for resource sharing.

The study analyzes the extent to which the use

of ICT for information resource sharing activities, it tackles some key components when disseminating information, such as ICT equipment like e-mails and social media platforms document delivery and inter-library loan electronically which are registered as very high from the survey, cooperative acquisition of library resource is done via video conferences, e-mails and social media platforms etc. In summary, the study shows a high extent of use of ICT for information resource sharing given the availabilities of the ICTs equipment or tools. This supports the findings of Saleem et al. (2013) in their study application and use of ICT in academic libraries. Analysis of the results revealed that, ICT is being applied to the libraries as ICT tools are available and utilised and that e-mails are used by the library patrons.

Research question four, the question depicts the limitations, restriction of the usage of ICT for information resource sharing in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria. The government needs to take more responsibility to improve information resource sharing in-between libraries. Some of the restrictions like lack of sufficient funds should be top of the list that should be addressed. A steady power supply should also be paramount in information resource sharing, the government should also hire more potent manpower (librarians). There should be an improvement in ICT infrastructure and connectivity, coordination and cooperation should be at the forefront as a major factors of restriction that should be addressed properly. Inadequate library collection and lack of adequate staff training also restrict usage of ICT for information resource sharing. This supports Adamu and Usman (2013), in their study, Information resource sharing in academic library services in Bauchi, which revealed that lack of cooperation among academic libraries was the major factor militating against the use of information resource sharing facilities.

H_{01} there is No Significance Relationship between ICT Facilities and Information Resource Sharing among Federal University Libraries in North Central Nigeria.

H_{01} revealed that there is a significant relationship between the influence of ICT facilities and information resource sharing activities in federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria. This depicts that the provision of adequate ICTs facilities in the federal university library will lead to effective and high information resource sharing activities in library service and a decrease in ICTs will lead to

low or limited information resource sharing. Thus rejecting the null hypothesis. This is in line with the finding of Krubu and Osawuru (2011) in their study, on the impact of ICT in Nigerian university libraries. The study revealed that ICT has undoubtedly enabled the most effective information resource sharing in university libraries.

Conclusion

It is clear from the findings of this study that, federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria have many types of ICTs facilities needed to deliver a resounding top-class information resource sharing program between libraries, from the analysis of ICT equipment available there are three (3) notable facilities or equipment lacking which are video conferencing, intranet and fax machines. This equipment should be made available to the libraries to enhance proper and adequate information resource sharing activities in libraries. The study also shows that the librarians are adequate when it comes to the level of ICT skills. The extent of use of ICT for information resource sharing in libraries is greatly encouraging as long as the facilities and or equipment are made available for use, the staff is willing to use ICT tools in disseminating and sharing information. Through the study and detailed analysis, it must be stated that some factors are restricting the usage of ICT for information resource sharing, lack of sufficient funds been one of the leading factors and among others, this listed factors in this research study and other unmentioned factors should be addressed to improve the standard of federal university libraries in North Central, Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made;

1. Federal university in North Central Nigeria should ensure that the funds allocated to the university library should be increased
2. Federal university library management in North Central, Nigeria must ensure the supply of alternative power by providing standby generators, UPS and inverters to combat the issue of erratic power supply.
3. Management of federal university libraries in North Central Nigeria should endeavour to provide adequate ICT facilities that are lacking such as video conferencing and intranet, to enhance information resource sharing.
4. Management of federal university libraries in

North central Nigeria should be well coordinated to create a cooperative network to enhance information resource

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