



Awareness and Use of Open Access Scholarly Publications among Post- Graduate of Faculty of Education in Bayero University, Kano State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study, the population of the study comprise of all the Postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero University, Kano (BUK). A sample of 291 were purposely selected from the entire departments in the Faculty. Questionnaire was administered to the respondents, 280 were filled and returned to the researcher and were analyze using descriptive statistics. The findings of the study revealed that Majority of the postgraduate student of Faculty of Education are not aware of Open Access publications, majority of them became aware of the OA publications by self /exploration on the Internet. Also Majority of the respondent use Open Access publication to support their researches. Hence, it is recommended that Adequate Internet Bandwidth should be provided by Internet service providers so as to encourage effective Internet exploration, Workshops, conferences and seminars should be organize by academic libraries for their students on OA Publications so as to help in sensitizing them on the importance of OA publications and also facilitators of postgraduate students of Faculty of Education should encourage postgraduate students to be publishing their research work in Open access mediums especially journal articles.

Key words: Awareness, Open access, Bayero university, Kano, Postgraduate

1.1 Introduction

Awareness is considered a central determinant of user attitude and behavior towards technology, it raises consciousness and knowledge about certain technology and its personal and social benefits (Obuh and Bozimo, 2012). One might be right to say that awareness could be acknowledged an important factor or element in determining actual use of a technology, and particularly Open Access literature as regards to the subject of this study. Free exchange and

use of information especially research based information forms the basis for economic, cultural, social and scientific development, yet this has been compromised by restricted access model of publishers and the dependency of researchers on research works published in qualitative but restricted access journals (Canada, 2009). He further opined that Open Access is capable of fostering information and knowledge sharing within research, educational and scientific communities especially in traditionally or

economically disadvantaged regions.

Therefore, Open Access to knowledge has become essential for a country's educational, socio-cultural, and scientific development. Since the emergence of Open access initiative, the concept has been defined in different ways by numerous authors. The concept of Open Access was first defined globally by Budapest Open Access initiative (BOAI) cited in Swan (2012) as the free availability of information resource on the public Internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.

The ability to digitize information to a common standard has allowed scholarly research to be made available, to anyone in remote locations so long as they have access to a computer linked to the World Wide Web. It is this that has catalyzed the development of the emerging scholarly publication model known as Open Access publication. This model of publishing is used by a wide variety of users with different backgrounds and as such they have different perceptions of its nature. Several studies have identified several factors influencing the use of Open Access scholarly publication channels by scholars in carrying out their research. Obuh and Bozimo (2012) in their study, have found that researchers' awareness of open access publication influences their choice of publishing in an Open Access outlet. By categorizing perceived reasons for users' interaction with Open Access and by identifying common patterns, we can gain a

more realistic understanding of those interactions.

Open Access is now a subject of much concern among academics, librarians, university administrators, government officials, commercial publishers and learned society publishers. This is because Open Access products have become important sources for scientific research and development. It has also been found to be beneficial to academic, researchers, librarians, publishers and students, most especially, the postgraduate students because they are being trained to become future researchers and scholars. But despite the benefit of OA publications the study of Mohammed and Garba (2013) indicated that majority of post graduate students in Faculty of Science of science in Ahmadu Bello university, Zaria are not aware of major sources of Open Access publications. Awareness is a prerequisite to subsequent use of open access publications unless an individual use it unknowingly. As a result of such gap, this study will examine the awareness and use of Open Access scholarly publications among postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero university, Kano.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The value of knowledge to an economy comes from sharing it with others the efficient use and sharing of this knowledge can be affected by systematic managing of the said knowledge. However a basic challenge that affects the academia is the rising price of scholarly publications especially the ones published in international journals and books published by publishers and unavailability of relevant information resource in the library has put students personal and individual search for knowledge and understanding at stake among others. Open access publication has come to stay with its numerous benefit and opportunities to many stakeholders in the University community. Yet, postgraduate

students are suppose to be beneficiaries of this initiative because they are trained to be researchers and they ought to be aware of the various channels to search for relevant information and disseminate their research findings, but the general awareness of OA resources among Postgraduate in private university in Nigeria was very low (Ajibili and Emmanuel, 2017). This is the motive behind carrying out this research to investigate whether such gap exist on awareness and use of open access scholarly publications among postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero University, Kano state, Nigeria

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To determine the extent of awareness of postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero university on Open Access publication
2. To determine the channels through which postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero University get awareness of Open Access publication
3. To determine the major sources consulted of Open Access publication among postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero University, Kano
4. To determine the purpose for using Open Access publication among postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero University, Kano
5. To determine the challenges encountered in using Open Access publication among postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero University Kano

2.1 Literature Review

Ajibili and Emmanuel (2017) investigated the extent of awareness of open access resources in libraries of private universities by postgraduate students in Nigeria. The major findings of the study were that the overall availability of open access

sources in the libraries was poor. Also, the general awareness of Open Access resources amongst postgraduate students was also low. Some major challenges that led to the preceding were that libraries did not organize seminars and workshops to sensitize students on open access resources, there was little or no information materials on open access resources in the library among others.

In a related work, Mohammed and Garba (2013) investigated the awareness and use of open access scholarly publications by postgraduate students of Faculty of Science in Ahmadu Bello University (A.B.U.) Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study found that majority of the postgraduate of Faculty of Science in A.B.U., Zaria became aware of Open Access publications by surfing or searching through the Internet haphazardly, majority of the respondents were not aware of the major sources of Open Access publications, the respondents predominantly used Open Access publications to support their theses/dissertations work, among others. Ivwighreghweta and Onoriode (2012) study on awareness and use of open access journals by library and information science students (LIS) at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The study disclosed that students' use of open access journals was still far from expectation. Majority of the students were not aware of the existence of *Library Philosophy and Practice*, *Libri* and several others as being open access journals. This situation might have been due to lack of sensitizing students in orientation programme on open access and its significance as well poor Internet exploration skills.

Another study Conducted by Arosanyin and Ajibili (2014) on the awareness and utilization of open access resources in Asom Bur Learning Resource Centre, University of Mkar by undergraduate students. Result of their study revealed that the undergraduate students of University of Mkar

were moderately aware of the existence of open access resources (OARs). Majority of the students who used open access resources did so to supplement the library's inadequate relevant information material. Erratic power supply disrupted the flow and stability of Internet service, and lack of Internet searching skills affected the maximal utilization of open access resources

The study of Oyedipe, Adekunmisi, Akinbode (2017) on awareness and usage of open access among universities lecturers in Nigeria revealed that lecturers had high level of awareness of Open Access and used them for conducting and publishing their scholarly works; however their level of awareness of Open Access content were higher than their actual use of the contents. Moreover, the study of Oyedipe, Adekunmisi, Akinbode (2017) has revealed the use of OA by internal and foreign institutional faculties, despite the existence of digital divide. For example Nigeria has publication of only four hundred and sixty five articles with Biomed central a science, technology and medicine international open access journals (Unesco, 2016). Likewise one hundred and nineteen (119) articles have been publish By Nigerians in Public library of Science (PLOS) OA

journals(UNESCO,2016). Similarly, in the directory of Open access journals (DOAJ) Nigeria only have thirty eight open access journals that were indexed out of ten thousand five hundred and forty seven journals (10,547) as of May 2015(UNESCO,2016) .Thus, the findings above implied that Nigeria has low rate publication in Open access journals

3.1 Research Method

The study adopted survey research design, the population of the study. Comprises of all postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero University, Kano. The total population of the study according to Bayero University Kano annual report (2019) is 1329 PG students. The sample size according to research advisers (2009) is 291 postgraduate students, and were purposely selected from the entire population, purposive sampling was adopted so as to ensure that information will be collected from the respondent that are crucial to the study. A total of 291 questionnaires were distributed to the respondent, 280 copies were filled and returned to the researcher. The data were analyze using descriptive statistics, percentage and frequency table where use to analyze the data collected.

4.1 Results and Discussions

The following responses were elicited from postgraduate students of Faculty of Education in Bayero University Kano, in response to their awareness and usage of Open Access scholarly publications.

Table 1: Response rate

	Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
1	Number of Questionnaires administered	291	100
2	Number of questionnaires returned	280	96
3	Number of questionnaires not returned	11	4

Table 1 above shows that 291 questionnaires were administered to the respondent of which 280(96%) were filled and returned to the researcher and were found useful, while 11(4%) were not returned to the researcher

Table 2: Demographic Information of the respondent

	Demographic Information	Frequency	Percentage
1	20-24	21	7
2	25- 29	46	16
3	30- 34	53	19
4	35- 39	87	32
5	40 years and above	73	26
	Total	280	100
	Gender		
1	Male	165	59
2	Female	115	41
	Total	280	100
	Educational Qualification		
1	Bachelor Degree	155	55
2	Postgraduate diploma	55	20
3	Master degree	70	25
	Total	280	100

Table 2 above indicates the age of the respondent. It shows that less than Half of the respondent 87 ((31%) were between the ages of (35-39), followed by 73 (26%) were 40 years and above. Then 53(19%) between the ages of (30-34), while 46(16%) between the ages of (25-29) and lastly 21(8%) between (20-24) years.

The finding indicated that majority of the respondent are between the ages of (35-39). Table 2 above also indicate the gender of

the respondent of which 165(59%) of the respondent were male, while 115(41%) respondent were female. This indicated that majority of the respondent were male.

Table 2 above indicated the educational qualifications of the respondent of which 155(55%) of the respondent are bachelor degree holders, 55(20%) of the respondent are postgraduate diploma holders and 70(25%) respondent are master degree holders. The findings indicated that majority of the respondent are master degree holders

Table 3: Awareness of Open Access publication

Awareness	Freq	Percentage
Yes	120	45
No	160	55
Total	280	100

The table above revealed that 120(42%) of the respondent were aware of Open Access publications, while 160 (58%) of the respondent were not aware of open access publications. The findings revealed that Majority of the postgraduate students were not aware of Open Access publications,. The study is in conformity with Ajibili and Emmanuel (2017) that the general awareness of Open Access resources among postgraduate students was also low. It is apparent from the revelation that low awareness of Open Access publication may contribute to low rate of engagement with Open Access activities.

Table 4: Channels of OA Awareness

S/N	Awareness Channels	Frequency	Percentage
1	Self Exploration on the internet	70	58
2	Through Colleagues	15	13
3	Through Conferences Workshop and seminars	16	13
4	Through the university library services	9	8
5	Through Journals	10	8
	Total	120	100

The table above revealed the channels that the respondent became aware of Open Access publications. 70((58%) indicated that they got the awareness through exploring the Internet, 15 (13 %) got the awareness through their colleagues, 16(13%) indicated that they got the awareness through conferences, workshops and seminars , 9(8%) indicated they got their awareness through their university library , 10(8%) indicated that they got their awareness through journals. The finding revealed that majority of the postgraduate students became aware of Open Access publications through Internet exploration. The findings is in conformity with Mohammed and Garba (2013) findings that large number of postgraduate students became aware of Open Access by surfing/searching through the internet haphazardly, it is also apparent from the revelation that library and its staff are not sensitizing their users on Open Access publications.

Table 5: Respondent response on awareness of Open Access publication sources

	Open access sources (OAS)	Yes	No
1	Directory of open access journals	50 (42%)	70 (58%)
2	Directory of open access books	0	120(100%)
J	Journal storage	0	120 (100)
4	Bentham science publishing	22(18%)	98 (78)
5	Hindawi Open access journals	0	120 (100)
6	Biomed Central	0	120 (100)
7	High wire press	0	120(100%)
8	African journals Online	30(25%)	90(75%)
9	Bioline international	0	120 (100%)
10	Online access to research in the environment (OARE)	0	120 (100%)
11	Health Internetwork access to Research initiative	0	120 (100)
12	Library philosophy and practice/ digital commons	25(20%)	95(80%)

Table 5 above revealed the percentage distribution of respondent on awareness of sources of OA publications. The responses shows that directory of Open Access journals has 50 (42%), Bentham science publishing has 22(18%) while African journals online has response of 30 (25%) and the library philosophy has response of 25(20%). The findings revealed that only four items which are directory of OA journals, Bentham science publishing, Africa journals online and the library philosophy and practice were the OA publication sources the postgraduate students were aware of and the awareness is not up to average. This is in conformity with the findings of Mohammed and Garba (2013) that majority of postgraduate students in the faculty of science in Ahmadu Bello University Zaria were not aware of majority of sources of Open Access publication. It is also apparent from the revelation that the postgraduate students were unfamiliar with most sources of OA publications and they are not aware of book directory as Open Access publications/mediums.

Table 6: Purpose for using the OA publications

	Purpose of using OA Publications/mediums	Yes	%	No	%	Total
1	Research Conduct	100	83	20	17	120(100)
2	Research Publication	22	18	98	82	120(100)
3	Theses and Dissertation	95	79	25	21	120(100)
4	General knowledge update	40	33	80	67	120(100)
5	To write Assignment	91	76	29	24	120(100)
6	Forming lecture notes	70	58	50	42	120(100)

Table 6 revealed the purpose for using the Open Access publications/mediums by postgraduate students in BUK as shown above it indicated that 100(83%) of the respondent use OA publications for research conduct, 22(18%) of the respondent use open access mediums to publish their research articles, 95(79%) of the respondent use OA publications to support their theses and dissertations, 40(33%) respondent use OA publication for general knowledge update, while 91(76%) respondent use OA publications to write assignment, while 70(58%) of the respondent use OA publications to form lesson note. The finding revealed that the use of OA publications by the postgraduate students have majority of positive responses from the list of items on the table. This is in conformity with the findings of Mohammed and Garba (2013) that indicated that 91(98.8%) of the respondent use OA to support their theses and dissertation, 58(61.1%)use it to write assignment, 21(22.1%) respondent indicated they use Open Access mediums to publish their journal articles. It is apparent from the revelation that most of the postgraduate students don't use the Open Access medium to publish their research works, this may lead to inadequate resources in the area of research interest in the Open Access outlet.

Table 7: Respondent response on challenges of using Open Access publications /mediums

S/N	Challenges of Open access publication	Yes	No
1	Lack of skill to use internet and ICT tools for publishing my work in Open access medium	80(67%)	40(33%)
2	Poor availability of internet technologies	70(58%)	50(42%)

3	Inadequate knowledge of Open access sources	80(67%)	40(33%)
4	Incessant power supply	115(96%)	5(4%)
5	Insufficient internet bandwidth and delay in download	110(92%)	10(8%)
6	Poor awareness of existence of journals and other database in Open access medium	100(83%)	20(17%)
7	Insufficient journals in the field of interest	70(58%)	50(42%)
8	Poor internet exploration skills	50(42%)	70(58%)

Table 7 revealed the challenges encountered by postgraduate students in BUK while using the open access publications, 80 (67%) respondent indicated that they encountered the challenge of lack of skills to use internet and ICT tools for publishing their research work in open access medium, 70 (58%) respondent indicated that they encountered the challenge poor availability of internet technologies, 80(67%) of the respondent revealed that they have inadequate knowledge of OA sources, 115(93%) of the respondent indicated that they are faced with challenge of incessant power supply, 110(92%) respondent revealed that they are provided with inadequate internet bandwidth and delay in download challenge, 100(71%) respondent revealed that they have poor awareness of existence of journals and other database in OA mediums, 70(58) revealed that there are insufficient journals in their area of interest in the Open Access publications/mediums, 50(42%) indicated that they are faced with challenge of poor internet exploration skills to access the Open Access.

The challenge of lack of skills to use internet and ICT tools for publishing in Open Access outlet and poor availability of internet technologies are contrary to Oyedipe, Adekunmisi & Akinbode (2017) which in their study that revealed responses of lack of skills to use Internet and other ICT tools for

publishing in open access medium were (48.1%), poor availability of Internet facilities (44.4%) which were less than average; It is apparent from the revelation that the item from the table above that have high response rate is the challenge of incessant power supply, and insufficient internet bandwidth and download delay which may lead to ineffective surfing of the Open Access publications..

Conclusion

The study investigated the awareness and usage of open access publications among postgraduate students in faculty of education, Bayero University, Kano state, Nigeria. The study revealed that majority of the postgraduate students are not aware of open access publications, majority of the respondents are not aware of majority of the sources of QA publications, through internet self exploration is the major source that the postgraduate students became aware of the open access publications, the postgraduate students use open access to conduct researches. The postgraduate students revealed that they encounter the challenge of incessant power supply and provision of inadequate internet bandwidth and download delay as well as inadequate knowledge of OA sources of publication. However, Open access have been put to various uses such as to establish and confirm facts, reaffirms the

result of previous work, solve new or existing problems and to support theorems or develop new theories, amongst others.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were proffered based on the findings of the study

- 1 The university management should ensure that they provide adequate internet Bandwidth so as to encourage effective internet as well as OA exploration by the PG students.
- 2 The university management should provide the departments and faculty libraries with facilities such as computers and internet facilities to enhance Open Access exploration.
- 3 Lecturers and librarians in the faculty should encourage the PG students to be publishing their thesis and journal articles in open access mediums
- 4 Workshops, Conferences and seminars should be organized by Academic libraries for the Faculty students so as to sensitize them on benefit and challenges of open access publications.
- 5 Faculty of education library through information literacy trainings should sensitize the PG students on techniques for exploring the internet as well as how to publish a journal article and thesis in the Open access mediums.
- 6 Academic libraries should promote/ create the awareness of open access sources among the faculty postgraduate students through library orientation programme amongst others
- 7 Nigerian Government should provide the economy with stable electric power supply, which may help the Faculty PG students to have an

uninterrupted and effective Open Access exploration.

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