

An Appraisal on Accessibility of Internet Resources by Undergraduate Students in Federal University Dutsin-Ma Library, Katsina State

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Abstract:- The purpose of this article is to evaluate the accessibility of Internet resources by undergraduate students in federal university Dutsin-ma library, Katsina State, Nigeria. Aims of the research were to discover student's evaluation on available Internet resources, to find out the extent of access to Internet resources, to determine the type of connectivity used to access Internet resources and to identify the point of Access point to the Internet services of the library by Federal University Dutsin-ma undergraduate students. The paper is based on a descriptive survey using questionnaires to collect data. The participants constitute 277 undergraduate students out of 1845 subjects from the Federal University Dutsin-ma Library, Katsina State, Nigeria. Descriptive statistics: frequency table and percentage were use to examine the facts. The results revealed that the majority of the surveyed found the Internet resources to be good. The extent to which the Internet resources accessed is high. The connectivity mostly used to access Internet resources is Fiber Optic Cable. Greater portion of the participants obtained Internet services in the library. The paper suggests that more mindful efforts should be made to introduce orientation, information literacy programmes, as well as supplementary assistance, awareness, exposure, user groups and guidance to students about ICT resources and services generally.

Keywords:- appraisal, Accessibility, Internet Resources, Undergraduate Students and University Library.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Internet is a network of networks that is not owned by anyone and is governed by the Internet community as a whole "the Internet Society" (IS). The Internet is a radically evolving entity. It is a global network of computers linked by telephone wires, optical fibers, wireless connections, satellites, and other technologies. This "network of networks" is used to disseminate information, search for information, communicate, teach and learn, and conduct business. According to the Dictionary of Library and Information (2004), the Internet is high-speed fiber-optic networks that use TCR/IP protocols to connect computer networks around the world, allowing users to communicate

via e-mail, and to transfer data and program files via FTP. and access remote computer systems such as online catalogs and electronic databases easily and effortlessly, using an innovative technology called packet switching. Since their widespread use in the 1990s and the information and services available on the Internet made a huge explosion, library staff must be able to guide patrons to their use efficiently. Critical appraisal of sources is particularly important. Because of the publicity around the Internet, some users think it is the best (or only) source for answering their questions. However, it did not replace all the sources used by the reference staff, and the printed sources. In many situations, particularly when answering ready reference questions, it may be faster to use several reference libraries for websites that are important to their users.

Many libraries bookmark websites that are important to their users. When a useful website is found, many librarians bookmark it so that staff and users can find it easily. Internet addresses change so bookmarks should be checked regularly. Some computers, such as the one at home, may connect to the Internet in order to send and receive e-mail and to search the World Wide Web. Other computers, permanently connected to the Internet, store information that Internet users may access. Computers that store information and make it available to external users are called servers.

The Internet is made up of several different technologies. The most common is email, or e-mail, closely followed by the World Wide Web (WWW), online social network, location-based services, job and employment, health and fitness, education and education services, entertainment, news, and radio broadcasts. Despite the many advantages associated with the Internet, some activities on the Internet are strictly prohibited and may result in the loss of computing privileges. Some other activities may be blocked by certain networks. Activities prohibited according to Ecological Computers Handbook include:

- Insertion illegal information on the system.
- Use of offensive or unacceptable speech

- Sanding messages that have the potential to lead to loss of recipients' work or systems.
- Send "chain letters" or "broadcast" messages.
- Any use that convey network congestion or otherwise interferes with the work of others.

The Internet has broken down barriers to access communications from anywhere in the world. It is fast, reliable and has no content or format restrictions (except for some countries). It also has an unlimited set of utilities that help users to access information virtually on the net. It has changed the nature of publishing. The Internet provides the opportunity to access the latest research reports and knowledge worldwide on topics as diverse as science and technology, business and finance, music and the arts. Thus, it has become an important component of electronic services in academic institutions and thus an invaluable tool for learning and research.

The Internet is a vast and wide network that connects so many networks of computers of all nations around globe with a few expectations. It links computers of different types, sizes and capacities. The Internet facilitated communication among people of different location that uses the Internet to communicate (Yusuf, 2013). To use Internet resources effectively, students and scholars are required to develop a range of new skills that include strategies for searching for relevant material, skills in assessing the quality of existing documents, knowledge of web design, skills for using discussion forums and chat rooms, as well as a basic understanding of how to send mail attachments.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A. Availability of Internet Services in Academic Libraries

University libraries provide different services through Internet. The Internet provides opportunity for easy communication between diverse groups of people. Some of these services offered through the Internet in academic libraries was highlighted by Zainab and Gama (2012) that Bayero University Kano library provides Internet services like: E-mail; Electronic Resources services; Selective dissemination services; Current awareness Services.

Many library users have found that the common and available ICTs facilities use by researchers include but not limit to computers, Internet, audio-visuals, video conferencing, DVD, DC, digital camera etc. (Olaajo, Akinwumi and Ladipo 2013). Their research shows that the available ICT facilities in research institution in Oyo State is computers (98%) was the most available, followed by mobile telephone (96.2), copier and Printer (86%), Internet (75.9%) Scanner (68.4%) and the least is telex with (15.8%).

Outcome analysis on factors that motivated Internet use Bola and Ogunlade (2012) revealed that 44.5% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed that the following did not motivate them to use the Internet such as availability of Internet in the university. This clearly shows that 55.5% agrees that the Internet facility available in the library and is one of the major factors that motivated library users to use the Internet provided by the university.

B. Access to Internet Facility

Several researches were image to evaluate the accessibility of Internet and its' resources by users of academic libraries at different levels. Chinwe M.T. (2009) analyzed the question on whether the students are allowed to have access to and use Internet services (including e-mail and the web). The results in the library showed that the majority of the 700 respondents (93.3%) reported that they did. Only 50 (6.7 %) students out of 750 replied no. This finding is contrary to those of Odesanya and Ajiferuke (2000) who reported that not many have ever used e-mail because only a few of the organizations sampled have e-mail connections. Even in the case of those that have connections, the usage was restricted to certain individuals while some of the library personnel could not even operate the computers. But the authors were writing many years ago and the situation regarding the provision, access and use of computers, telecommunications, and networks has greatly changed with time.

In related issue, Emwanta (2012) reveals that Internet and other ICT facilities listed are available and accessible to users in John Heris Library, University of Benin, Benin City. The result indicated that Internet facilities were accessed by more than 90% of the respondents. While the daily use of the Internet by the respondents reached 61%. Also in his research on ICT applications in teaching agricultural science based causes through lectures in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Olabisi Onabanjo Adekunmisi University Library (2009) shows that more than 87% of the respondents have access to Internet facilities and 81% used it three times a week.

Oketunji (2001) states that the Internet gives us access to a vast wealth of knowledge and access to tools that facilitate research. The Internet offers the opportunity to conduct classes remotely, allowing access to remote libraries, and creating an environment for innovative and collaborative learning experiences. Similarly, Aina (2006) chose that university libraries are expected to provide informational materials in all kinds of formats, providing wider access to information in the form of electronic journals, books, full-text journals, CD-ROMs, databases and the Internet. In addition, the Popoola mentioned in Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) contend that the inability of university libraries to meet the information requirements of

some library users may force them to use personal collections including Internet resources when conducting research. Francis (2012) states that the Internet can replace expensive paper libraries, by giving students access to scholarly information resources. Today, survival in academics cannot be imagined without the Internet.

Habib Enite and Aworo (2015) indicated that (96%) from academic library, (62%) from special/research library, (24%) from national library, (8%) from public library and (2%) from school library asserted that Internet was very accessible while (97%) from school library, (59%) from public library, (21%) from national library and (1%) from academic library reveals that Internet was not accessible whereas (20%) from national library never decided.

The study by Anyira (2011) on Internet services in Nigerian private universities: a case study. (42%) of the respondents reported that the Internet was a little accessible to them, and another (42%) of the respondents said that the Internet was not within their reach. However, (96%) of the respondents agreed that the Internet is very accessible to them.

Bukky (2006), who worked on a survey of Internet access and use among undergraduate students in an African university, his findings revealed that out of 664 participants, 596 (90%) had access to Internet facilities. Only 68 of the respondents do not have access to internet facilities. Only (11%) of the respondents did not use internet facilities at the time of conducting this study.

Bola and Ogunlade (2012) citing Jagdoro (2004), confirmed that 45.2% of postgraduate students accessed the internet in the university's internet café where only 8.2% used the internet facilities of the library. Moreover, they revealed that 62.4% of the respondents who were university employees said that the Internet was easily accessible to them, 16.2% said that the Internet was slightly accessible to them, while 16.2% and 2.8% of the employees said that the Internet was not accessible to them at all. However, on the side of the students who responded to the items, 27.7 and 12.1% said that they vary and slightly access the Internet while 34.1 and 23.1% of them said that the Internet was not accessible to them at all. Meanwhile 2.8% of the students never decided.

According to Francis (2012) Internet Access in Nigeria: National Open University Perception of Nigeria, on accessibility choices, the study revealed that participants had mixed feelings about Internet access due to the high cost of access and epilepsy services and in most rural communities, broadband Internet services not available. Some students who reside in rural areas have to travel to urban centers

in order to access the internet for their works. Bola, and Ogunlade (2012), revealed that except for the computer, mobile phone and Internet connectivity, the level of access to ICT was found to be negative. The highest response is 197(96%) and 159(77%) had access to computer and Internet connectivity respectively. All other resources reported to have less than 50% of the respondents. The Internet access rates nationwide shows that 3.6 percent with only 0.5 percent of people truly owning a communication device. According to the formula included in the NBS data, this means that more than 158 million Nigerians do not have access to the Internet. With the above background in mind, a study was conducted to assess the accessibility of Internet resources in university libraries: the case of the Federal University Dutsin-ma Library.

III. AIMS OF THE RESEARCH

- To discover student's evaluation on available Internet resources in the Dutsin-ma Federal University Library.
- To find out the extent of access of the Federal University Dutsin-ma Library undergraduate students to Internet resources.
- To determine the type of connection used to access Internet resources by Federal University Dutsin-ma Library undergraduate students.
- To determine the point of access to the Internet services of the library by Federal University Dutsin-ma undergraduate students.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The survey descriptive research method was adopted in order to collect adequate, relevant and reliable data needed for this research. It was used to obtain empirical knowledge and opinions from the target population. The data collection method for this research work is a self-developed questionnaire distributed to the respondents (students). The research work community mainly consists of undergraduate students of the Federal University, Dutsin-ma. The total number of students enrolled is 1845 subjects. Ifidom (2007) citing the Nwanas formula asserted that if the study population is in the hundreds one needs a sample size of 20% or less. So 15% of the total subjects were sampled using a simple random sampling Method. The questionnaire was used as a data collection method for this research. The instrument was designed in two parts. Basic information was collected for Section A (gender, qualifications and age group) and Section B were items on the evaluation of available Internet resources, the extent of access to Internet resources, the Internet connection used, and the point of access to Internet resources and services offered by the library. A total of 277 questionnaires were administered to the respondents with the assistance of three research assistants of which 270 questionnaires representing 97.47% were returned

for analysis. The method used in data analysis was frequency and percentage table.

V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Respondent profile

277 numbers of the questionnaires distributed to the respondents, 270 copies were filled in correctly and returned with a response rate of 97.47%. Table 1 shows the personal data under the following sub-headings: gender, qualifications and age group.

Profile	Options	Frequency	Percentage
Sex of the Respondents	Male	176	65.2
	Female	94	34.8
	Total	270	100
Entry Qualification of the Respondents	HND/ HD	04	1.5
	ND/ OND/ NCE	84	31.1
	WEAC/ NECO	182	67.4
	Total	270	100
Age Category of the Respondents	16-20	113	41.9
	21-25	96	35.5
	26-30	42	15.6
	31 and above	19	7.0
	Total	270	100

Table 1: Respondents Profile

The response in the above table shows that the males are majority with 176(65.2%) while Females with 94(34.8%) of the responses. With regard to entry Qualification of the Respondents HND/ HD has 4(1.5%), ND/ OND/ NCE has 84(31.1%),

WEAC/ NECO 182(67.4%). Age Category of the Respondents 16-20 years 113(41.9%), 21-25 years 96(35.5%), 26-30 years 42(15.6%), 31 and above 19(7.0%)

B. Student's assessment of Internet resources available in federal university Dutsin-ma library

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Fair	36	13.3
Good	94	34.8
Very Good	83	30.7
Excellent	57	21.1
Total	270	100

Table 2: Assessment of Internet Resources Available

The responses in the above table shows that, majority found Internet resources available in federal university Dutsin-ma library good with 94 (34.8%), of the respondents, very good with 83 (30%),

excellent with 57 (21.1%), while 36 (13.3%) respondent indicated fair. This shows that students are gaining tremendously from the Internet resources provided by the university library.

C. Extent Internet resources accessed by students of federal university Dutsin-ma library

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Low	25	9.3
High	147	54.4
Very High	98	36.3
Total	270	100

Table 3: Extent of Internet Resources Accessibility

The table 3 shows that the level of Internet accessibility in the library by student is high with 147(54.4%), very high with 98(36.3%) and 25(9.3%) of the respondents indicated low. The result of this study endorses study on Nigerian private universities: a case study, on internet services by

Anyira (2011) shows that (42%) of the respondents reported that Internet was easily accessible to them and another (42%) of them said that the Internet was not within their reach. However, (96%) of the respondents agreed that the Internet is very accessible to them.

D. Type of connectivity used to access Internet resources by students of federal university Dutsin-ma library

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Modem	61	22.6
Mobile Phone	59	21.8
Fiber Optic Cable	150	55.6
Total	270	100

Table 4: Internet Connectivity Used

Table 4 shows the high use of fiber optic cable with frequency and percentage of 150 (55.6%) respectively, Modem had 61(22.6%) and Mobile Phone had 59(21.8%) of the respondents. This result implies that some students had their own personal Laptops that use to connect the cable for access to

Internet resources. This greatly supplement the over use of workstation available in the library, but still a significant number 120 (44.4%) of student that not taking advantage of using Internet resources provided by the library.

E. Access Points Internet resources and services by students of federal university Dutsin-ma

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Library	165	61.1
Class	31	11.5
Hostel	23	8.5
Outdoors	51	18.9
Total	270	100

Table 5: Access Point of Internet Resources and Services

The responses from table 5 shows that majority 165(61%) accessed Internet in their library, then outdoors with 51(18.9%) respondents; this category are probably those using MODEMS and Wi-Fi, class has 31(11.5%) and hostel 23(8.5%). The results of this research correlates with the findings of Francis (2012) research which revealed that the main Internet access points for young people in Nigeria are the commonly cited e-library, cafes in cities, others are offices, homes, through computers, Mobile and wireless modems.

F. Conclusion

This paper focused on assessing the accessibility of Internet resources and services by undergraduates in university libraries: the case of the Federal University Library Dutsin-ma, Katsina State, Nigeria. It dealt extensively with the important themes and variables related to this research such as assessment on Internet resources available, Internet resources access, type of connectivity used to access Internet resources and access point to library Internet resources and services. The results indicated that the Internet resources and services available in the Dutsin-ma Federal University Library were rated good with 94 (34.8%). This is something for the administrators of those institutions to write down and encourage students to look up materials and resources on the Internet. The university aims to provide convenient and uninterrupted access to internet services as well as to allow privately owned internet cafés around campus, enabling the university library to provide efficient service to students. Though a significant number 120 (44.4%) of student were not patronizing library for Internet services, this means that there are some few shortcomings probably awareness, proper guide to students and constant power

supply on the library side or lack of technical skills on students side.

G. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

- The university management should collaborate with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to provide them with electronic libraries.
- The library should train and retrain librarians in information and communication technology so that they can possess skills relevant to today's business requirements and to be able to instruct students on how to access Internet services and resources.
- There should be more training, awareness, exposure, user groups, tips and forums to use other search engines that are rarely or never used on the Internet to developing and enhancing their literature search of their students' work. This is to enable them to conduct research and improve the quality and efficiency of service delivery.
- Governments and universities should increase funding for the library, so that users can enjoy the services of the Internet.

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