

## Research Article

# AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF THE RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY FUAA, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to analyze the Availability and Accessibility of Information Resources for Effective Utilization of the Resources in Agriculture University Library by students of Federal University Agriculture Abeokuta. Three research objectives guided the study. 306 copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents in the university and in response only 217 were received from the student's community. Simply a stratified random sampling technique was employed for the study due to the largeness of the population. In the data analysis, frequency counts, simple percentages, and charts were used for the statistical analysis. The findings revealed that the availability of information resources such as newspapers, journals, text and reference books, theses and dissertations, E-journals, E-News papers, E-Books and CD-ROMs; It also indicated that the level of usage of information resources for research among students is relatively fair and textbook, journals, E-Newspapers and E-theses/dissertations are the most used information resource by the students. The findings show that many other primary and secondary information resources and as for as digital sources and the internet facilities concerned, connection speed is challenging reflects in the use of electronic information resources in the library. The non-availability and accessibility of digital and some printed information resources affects the student's creativity, own assignments and projects and further leads to copying and plagiarism. The research findings draw the attention of the Federal University of Agriculture Library (FUAA) Ogun State in collection developments in terms of both the print and digital information resources and also recommends to increase the speed of internet and free downloading and printing the digital contents. The study also advocates the library staff members to provide information guidance and training services to the students in utilizing the open databases such as AGORA, AGRIS AGRICOLA, PubMed, Biomed Central BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL, AGRICOLA.

**Keywords:** Library, information resources, accessibility, availability utilization, students, University and Agriculture.

### INTRODUCTION

The principle objectives of the library is to select, acquire, conserve, preserve and make available a wide range of printed, non-printed, and electronic materials relevant to the academic aims of the university, to facilitate and promote access to the rapidly expanding global collection of electronic sources of primary and secondary information, to deliver documents rapidly to its users, to collaborate with other libraries to maximize access to the knowledge base, to train researchers, academics and students in transferable information seeking skills, to manage its resources effectively, and activity to exploit and promote their use, to retain and recruit high quality staff and, through training and development, equip them to meet changing service needs, to provide and develop space of a high standard for collection, user facilities and library staff, to maintain a comfortable and secure environment conducive to study within its premises, and to extend longer opening hours, to evaluate developments in library and information service delivery, and adopt those benefits to the university library. (Iwhiwhu & Patience, 2012)

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Availability and accessibility of information resources

Availability of information resources plays a major role in teaching, research learning and community services. For effective teaching, research and learning to take place information resources must be provided and students and academics must have access to various

types of information resources, services and facilities in Agriculture University particularly in their areas of specialization. This will not only broaden their knowledge base but also prepare them ahead of the challenges that may face them in the course of learning and imparting knowledge. A variety of activities that are performed by academics and students in the course of carrying out their professional duties is hinged on close interaction with the various information resources in their areas of specialization

#### Utilization of information resources

Oriogu, Oluwatola, Ogbuyi, & Ogbuyi, (2015), Aba, Beetseh, Ogban, & Monica (2015) Owolabi, Oluwafemi, Foluke, & Atinuke (2016) (Onye, 2016) Kumar (2017) (Akpe, Gabriel, & Gbashinma, 2018) and (Aladeniyi & Temitope, 2018), noted that information resources such as CD-ROM databases, textbooks electronic journals, and electronic books. Cybercafés; E-mail service used the internet services Reports, Handbooks Seminar/Conference Maps/Atlas CeRA Journals India stat, CABI Abstract Horticulture Online Database, Agricultural Economics Database EBSCO Resource J-Gate Plus „Fortnightly“, FAO, Agricola Agric at students mainly utilized while Madu, Ibrahim, & Saratu, (2018) revealed the low level of ICTs utilization where they stated that computer utilization for information retrieval in the library is low, utilization of CD ROM was very low, low level of Internet utilization. Also, majority of the respondents do not use e-mail for information retrieval in the Library

#### Challenges

Kumar & Ashu, (2015) Mwanza, Michael, & Winnie, (2015) Chauhan, (2015) G.Veena & Prabhakara, (2016) Kumar & Rajan, (2016) Abubakar (2017) emphasized that many factors were affecting the provision and utilization of information resources in the library such as

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power outages, slow Internet services, access to current information databases. Low level of computer literacy, high cost of bandwidth, lending period is sufficient, Current Awareness Service is very poor

**Statement of the problem**

The objectives of libraries today are to meet the information needs of users by making information resources, available and accessible;. However in spite of the researcher observed that information resources available and accessible, services in Agriculture University library in FUAA, Nigeria are not sufficient enough to meet the user's needs for optimum utilization and satisfaction, may be due to paucity of funds, insufficient staff, decay of infrastructural facilities, lack of guiding principle in acquiring the materials, accommodation spaces, selection policy and procedure and improper organization of the resources, unskillful and competencies among library staff. In the light of the above therefore, the need for this study becomes imperative; it has become expedient to ascertain the level of provision, access and utilization of information resources in Agriculture University Library under study

**Research Objectives**

1. Find out the various types of information resources that are available and accessibility in agriculture university library FUAA in Nigeria
2. Determine the extent is library resources is utilized in agriculture university library under study
3. Challenges Associated with the utilization of the resources by the users in agriculture university library under study

The population for the study is all the students in university of agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria

**Table 1 population of the respondents**

S/N	Number of students	sampled	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire returned	Percentage %
	19883	306	306	217	70.91%

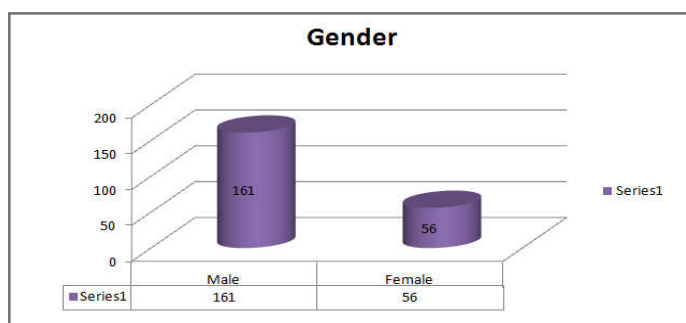
**Data analysis**

**Table 2 demographic of respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage %
Male	161	74.19%
Female	56	25.80%

Table 2 revealed that 306 students were selected as sample for this study by using research advisor table. Out of this number only 217 questionnaires were retrieved making 70.91%. Based on the gender distribution 161(74.19%) were male while the remaining 56 (25.80%) were female. The result from this table implies that there were more male among the students used for this study. Figure 1 below presents the result from the table in a bar chart.

**Figure 1**

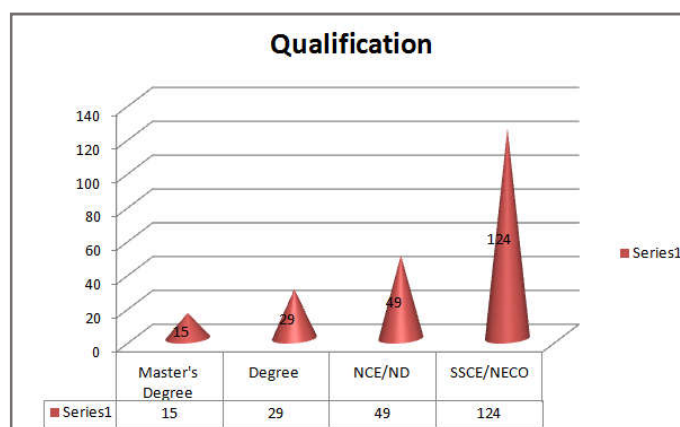


**Table 3 Highest Educational Qualification**

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Master's Degree	15	6.91%
Degree	29	13.36%
NCE/ND	49	22.58%
SSCE/NECO	124	57.14%

Table 3 above indicated the educational qualification distribution of the respondents. The study revealed that 124 (57.14%) of the respondents have SSCE/NECO as highest qualification, follow by 49 (22.58%) NCE/ND then 29 (13.36%) Degree and 15 (6.91%) have the least qualification with Master's Degree. Figure 2 below presents the result from the table in a Bar chart

**Figure 2**



**Results of the findings**

**Table 5 Information resources available**

S/N	Information resources	Yes	No
	Print collections		
1	Journals	✓	
2	Text books	✓	
3	Conference proceedings	✓	
4	Technical reports	✓	
5	Thesis/Dissertations/projects	✓	
6	Bulletins	✓	
7	Magazines	✓	
8	News papers	✓	
9	Maps	✓	
10	Government publications	✓	
11	Atlas	✓	
12	Dictionaries	✓	
13	Posters	✓	
14	Manuscripts		X
	E-Resources		
15	E-Databases	✓	
16	Radio Message		X
17	E-Books	✓	
18	E-Journals	✓	
19	E-Thesis/ Projects	✓	
20	E-Newspapers	✓	
21	Internet resources	✓	
22	CDROM	✓	
23	OPAC	✓	

From Table 5: It can be seen that out of the twenty three (23) information resources fourteen (14) are prints and nine (9) are electronic resources (items) considered. Therefore out of fourteen (14) print resources thirteen (13) were available is only one (1) were not available. Those print resources that are available includes Journals, Text books, Conference proceedings, Technical reports, Thesis/Dissertations/projects, News papers, Maps and Government publications others are Posters, Dictionaries, Atlas, Magazines and

Bulletins the only one (1) that is not available is Manuscripts. Hence the total number of information resources available in FUAA. More than those are not available. It also revealed that out of the nine (9) electronic information resources (items) considered, eight (8) were available while one (1) is not available. The available electronic information resources are: E-books, E-Journals, E-Newspaper, Internet resources, CDROM E-Theses and E- Databases and OPAC while Radio Message, is the only e-resources that is not available. Also, the electronic information resources available are more than those that are not available. Base on the LRCN guideline radio message and manuscripts is almost necessary in the University of Agriculture Library due to its importance attached to them

**Table 4 Extent of utilization of information resources**

S/ N	Utilization of information resources	Rarely used		fairly used		mostly used			
		Fre q	%	Fre q	%	Fre q	%		
1	Journals	6	2.7	17	7.8	75	3	11	54.
2	Text books	8	3.6	11	5.1	73	3	12	56.
3	Conference proceedings	76	35.	12	56	12	5.	8	3.6
4	Technical reports	18	8.2	6	2.8	11	5	81	37.
5	Thesis/Dissertations/ projects	7	3.2	10	4.6	76	3	12	57.
6	Bulletins	90	41.	10	50	12	5.	7	3.2
7	Magazines	88	40.	11	53	6	2.	8	3.6
8	News papers	8	3.6	6	2.8	91	4	11	51.
9	Maps	86	39.	93	43	15	6.	23	10.
10	Government publications	83	38.	11	54	6	2.	11	5.0
11	Atlas	23	10.	45	21	78	3	71	32.
12	Dictionaries	48	22.	14	6.5	79	3	76	35.
13	Posters	75	34.	11	54	16	7.	9	4.1
	E-Resources		56	7		4		5	
14	E-Databases	14	6.4	8	3.7	12	5	72	33.
15	E-Books	23	10.	17	7.8	11	5	66	30.
16	E-Journals	16	7.3	7	3.2	10	5	85	39.
17	E-Thesis/ Projects	13	5.9	18	8.3	12	5	65	29.
18	E-Newspapers	14	6.4	16	7.4	10	4	80	36.
19	Internet resources	12	5.5	19	8.8	10	5	73	33.
20	CDROM	22	10.	12	5.5	10	5	81	37.
21	OPAC	32	14.	18	8.3	10	4	67	30.
			75			0		6	88

Table 4. the data collected from respondents' revealed that books, journals, News papers and theses/dissertation were the most utilized information resources by 123(56.68%), 119(54.8%), 112(51.61%), 124(57.14%) respectively, while the most utilized E-resources were E-Journals, E-News papers, and CDROM by 85 (39.17%), 80 (36.87%) 81 (37.33%) The rating of items on Library Information Resources utilization by Students of FUAA is as follows: Theses/dissertation 124(57.14%) ranked highest in the frequency score rating and was followed by Books 123(56.68%), journals 119(54.8%), News papers 112(51.61%), others are Technical

Reports 81(37.33%), Dictionaries 76(35.02%), and the highest most used E-Resources includes E-Journals85 (39.17%), E-News papers 80 (36.87%) and CDROM 81 (37.33%) while the least information resources that are not utilized both print and E-resources were conference proceedings 8 (3.69%) Bulletins 7 (3.23), Magazines 8 (3.69), posters 9 (4.15), and Government publication 11 (5.07), E-resources such as E-books 66 (30.41), E-theses 65 (29.95), and OPAC were the least utilized resources The implication of this finding is that despite the availability of some of the information resources in the FUAA Library it indicate that information resources were made available to students but some resources were less utilized. This could be tied to the fact that majority of the resources were not even avail themselves for the use of the library as expected which can cause majority of them will not utilized the opportunities of getting the latest information and be connected globally with the available information resources that can make them better on their academic programmes

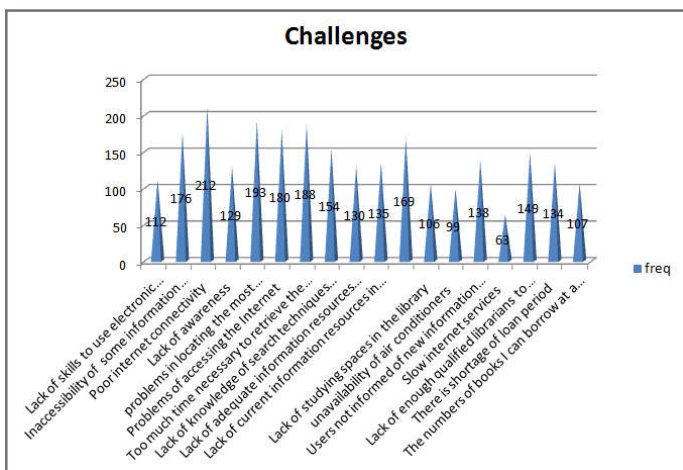
**Table 7. Challenges associated with the use of Information Resources, services and facilities**

No=217			
S/N	Challenges	freq	%
1	Lack of skills to use electronic information Resources	112	51.61
2	Inaccessibility of some information services	176	81.11
3	Poor internet connectivity	212	97.69
4	Lack of awareness	129	59.45
5	problems in locating the most appropriate information resource	193	88.94
6	Problems of accessing the Internet	180	82.95
7	Too much time necessary to retrieve the needed information	188	86.64
8	Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively	154	70.97
9	Lack of adequate information resources in my area of research	130	59.9
10	Lack of current information resources in the library	135	62.21
11	Many materials in the library are not relevant	169	77.88
12	Lack of studying spaces in the library	106	48.85
13	unavailability of air conditioners	99	45.62
14	Users not informed of new information resources	138	63.59
15	Slow internet services	63	29.03
16	Lack of enough qualified librarians to provide library inform resources and serv	149	68.66
17	There is shortage of loan period	134	61.75
18	The numbers of books I can borrow at a time are inadequate	107	49.31

Table 7 shows the factors underlying the students' predicaments or challenges with utilization of information resources. The most crucial of the underlying factors include: Too much time necessary to retrieve the needed information 188 (86.64) respondents. Poor internet connectivity with majority of the participants 212 (97.69%): This study revealed that problems in locating the most appropriate information resource have the number of respondents of 193 (88.94). This was supported by Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively with 154(70.97) (92.5%) of the participants. 3. Students have shortage of loan period Greater percentage of the participants 134(61.75%). The study revealed that (84%) of the participants indicated that Lack of current information resources in the library this indicate that the library were yet to provide the needed information resources. the study showed that 112 (51.61%) of the

respondents do not have the Lack of skills to use electronic information Resources. Majority of the students 176 (81.11%) agreed that there is predicaments of Inaccessibility of some information services even though lack of awareness information resources is crucial with 129 (59.45). The findings showed that 130 (59.9%) of the students were in agreement that there are Lack of adequate information resources in area of research: Results showed that 169(88.77%) of the respondents agree that many materials in the library are not relevant, it also revealed that 138 (63.59%) Users not informed of new information resources Finally, a greater percentage of the respondents revealed that the library do not have enough qualified librarians to provide available library information resources and services with 149 (68.66) while Lack of studying spaces in the library, unavailability of air conditioners, Slow internet services and The numbers of books students can borrow at a time are inadequate are the least challenges facing the library with 106 (48.85), 99 (45.62), 63 (29.03) 107 (49.31) respectively. The students are really having challenges in utilization of information resources in FUAU Library. The most disturbing of these challenges are Poor internet connectivity, too much time necessary to retrieve the needed information, many materials in the library are not relevant and problems in locating the most appropriate information resource. This situation is affecting students in several ways particularly on Electronic information resources on their academic pursuit

Figure 3



**Summary of the findings**

The study examined the Availability and Accessibility of Information Resources for Effective Utilization of the Resources in Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta Ogun State, Nigeria FUAU The result of demographic variables shows that majority of the respondents 161(74.19%) were male. and 56 (25.80%) are females this indicated that male get more admission in the University. The Qualification distribution of the respondents showed that 124 (57.14%) of the respondents have SSCE/NECO Certificate follow by 49 (22.58%) NCE/ND then 29 (13.36%) Degree 15 (6.91%) have the least qualification with Master's Degree this majority figure in favor of SSCE/NECO is an indication that the respondents were first degree students. Their highest educational qualifications had a direct relationship with provision of information resources and services utilization in the library The finding revealed that despite the availability of some of the information resources in the FUAU Library it indicates that information resources were made available to students but some resources were less utilized. This could be tied to the fact that majority of the resources were not relevant to the students and as well it is evident that students do not even avail themselves for the use of the library as expected which can cause majority of them will not utilized the opportunities of getting the latest information and be

connected globally with the available information resources that can make them better on their academic programmes The study revealed that books, journals, News papers and theses/dissertation were the most utilized information resources by 123(56.68%), 119(54.8%), 112(51.61%), 124(57.14%) respectively, while the most utilized E-resources were E-Journals, E-News papers, and CDROM by 85 (39.17%), 80 (36.87%) 81 (37.33%) The rating of items on Library Information Resources utilization by Students of FUAU The study revealed that Poor internet connectivity, Lack of awareness, irrelevant materials, Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively, Lack of skills to use electronic information Resources, shortage of loan period and Lack of studying spaces in the library were the major constraints to access and utilize library information resources

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings of the study, it could be expressed that information resources are available in the library but students are not utilize them due the fact that some of the resources are irrelevant to their area of specialization therefore. Accessibility is dependent on availability. If information resources are not available or irrelevant the users would not find anything to lay hands on. In order to improve accessibility to information resources in the library therefore, other measures should be taken in account, providing relevant information materials to the students, make them aware of the new arrivals of the resources, orientation programs on how to access information in the internet However there is the need to improved by taking into cognizance on the challenges facing the library utilization of the resources so as the country potential resources on agriculture will be improve and high level of creativity must be achieved in the country to meet the challenge of man, food and hunger and to make for a sustainable development and economic growth in the country by provide information resources, services and facilities that will determine the anticipation and clear vision and mission of establishing the university to achieve a hunger free country and to move the country as an agricultural-industrialized economy, create wealth, jobs. The researcher was the viewed that improvement of library information resources, services and facilities will no doubt guarantee the continuous patronage of the library by the students in the university. To achieve this, library as an ocean of information must also be properly funded to address major constraints such as Poor internet connectivity, Lack of awareness, irrelevant materials, search techniques to retrieve information effectively, , shortage of loan period and Lack of studying spaces Slow internet services

**Recommendations**

As evaluation means assessing or judging, the accessibility and utilization of agricultural information resources by students in agriculture university, it has been done considering two aspects viz., accessibility and utilization, by students in FUAU relating to the available information resources in Agriculture library. The following are the recommendations made by the researcher on the basis of the data analysis the results obtained from this study clearly indicate that the student's' priorities and the areas for improvement need to be taken care of As the Availability refers to the physical presence of information resources while utilization is to have the opportunity to get close to and use information resources, therefore, the Agriculture university library should provide the relevant information resources to the student based on their area of specialization and by taking into consideration of the university curriculum The Nigerian University Commission (NUC) and Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) should find means of reducing the mark of university entry for females at least 120 marks as against the 180 marks for both male and female so that the number of female will be increase and support

them to be enrolled in the university It is suggested that the University library should arrange various user awareness programme /orientation and training programmes, display of new materials arrived in the library to educate the students how to identify, access and utilized the available information resources to achieve their educational goals Agriculture Library Consortium should be established or joined by the library; this may help in providing adequate information resources in different area of specialization and expand their digital resource to meet the user needs. Many full-text online databases AGORA, AGRIS AGRICOLA, PubMed, Biomed Central BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL, AGRICOLA some are quite expensive, but through consortium access can be provided to the students. This will help students have uninterrupted access to digital information The Agriculture Library should provide the Electronic Resources Librarian who will provide digital information resources available in the library and ensure that e-resources are downloaded in the library for use by all students Constraints to students for effective utilization of Information Resources in the Agriculture University Library are Poor internet connectivity, Lack of awareness, irrelevant materials, Lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively, Lack of skills to use electronic information Resources, shortage of loan period and Lack of studying spaces the researcher recommended that the university management of Federal University of Agriculture Library (FUAA) Ogun State should look into the development and growth of the information resources in the library as a matter of urgency through the process of free downloading and subscription of online databases. Some of the free databases include AGORA, AGRIS AGRICOLA, PubMed, Biomed Central BEAST CD, VET CD, TEEAL, AGRICOLA. It was argued that lack of skills to access DIRs hinder undergraduate students to make use of e-resources therefore, the researcher suggests that management of the university library should try to train their students in up-to-date 21st century skills of Information Communication technologies (ICTs)

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