



# JEWEL JOURNAL OF LIBRARIANSHIP

*Published by the Nigerian Library Association, Gombe State Chapter*

**Vol. 6, No. 1 2014**



**ISSN: 2141 - 3908**

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*Jewel Journal of Librarianship*

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## **EDITORIAL**

It is gratifying to note that the volume 5 of Jewel Journal of Librarianship is being published. This volume contains Eighteen (18) articles in different aspect of library and Information Science that serves as basis for educating and enlightening readers. It also serves as basic reference tool to practicing librarians. Among the articles, five of them are on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and related s articles. Other articles deals with Retention of Archival Records, Managing of Academic Libraries, Analysis of Library and related job advertisement, Continuing Education for public libraries, Library Use of part time student and Social Media as tool for effective library services and above all is the new research area in librarianship which is on Cloud Computing Opportunities for Academic libraries. The Contributors have extensive knowledge and experiences in library and Information Science, therefore the pieces of Information that have been put together in the article addresses major issues of library and Information professional that will prove to be worthwhile for all practicing librarjans and those on training. It is my pleasure to introduce this volume of Jewel Journal of Librarianship to the general public for patronage and use.

**Abubakar Umar**  
Member Editorial Board.

## **NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS**

Jewel journal of Librarianship is an annual publication of the Nigerian Library Association, Gombe State Chapter. The journal is devoted to the dissemination of research findings and general knowledge in the following subject areas:-

Library,

Archives,

Records management, and

Any related subjects

The Editorial Board therefore advises interested contributors to submit articles for publication as follows:

- (a) All papers are to be submitted online, typed double-spacing and should not be more than 15 pages, including abstract, references, figures, tables, graphs, and diagrams.
- (b) Each article should bear the author's name, rank, and place of work, e-mail address and GSM numbers.
- (c) Citations must be fully reflected using the current American Psychological Association (APA) Style. The referencing shall be arranged alphabetically at the end of each article in the following format:-

### **Journal Article:-**

Toyoye, N.O. (2007). Library and academic performance. *Yankari Journal*, 4(1), p.100-102

### **Text Book:-**

Elijah, O.O. and Dominic, A. O. (2007). *Basic Principles and Practice of Librarianship*. PSG- France Publications. p.17-20

All articles submitted for publication should be accompanied with N3, 000.00 assessment fees. All assessed articles will be mailed back to the owners to know whether their articles are accepted for publication or not. Thereafter, authors will be expected to pay the sum of N10, 000.00 only for the publication of accepted articles. However, this amount is subject to changes due to prevailing market changes of cost of publishing.

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## EVALUATION OF E- RESOURCES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES.

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### Abstract

*This study examined evaluation of e- resources in academic libraries. Survey research design was used which involved the use of questionnaire as the major instrument. Data was analyzed using frequencies and percentages. The study found that the libraries have in their collections e- resources, it was also discovered that there is need for evaluation of e- resources. Among the criteria used in evaluation are: authority, cost, relevant, coverage, currency, etc. it was also found that the librarians identify relevant e- resources through vendors, online reading, other librarians, academic staff, and students. Among the challenges of using E- resources are finance, lack of technical knowhow, power outage and low bandwidth. It is recommended that libraries and librarians should take evaluation of e- resources very seriously because there is explosion of e- resources. Evaluation will enable the libraries to acquire the relevant and necessary e- resources in order to satisfy users.*

**Keywords:** E-resources, Academic Libraries, Evaluation, Evaluation Criteria, E-resources evaluation.

### Introduction

Evaluation implies the process of obtaining, and providing useful information for decision making. It is a process of making value judgment as to the possession of desirable attributes (Gesinde, Adejumobi and Komolafe 2007). The main purpose of evaluation is for decision making. Benneth (2003) supported this assertion and stressed that evaluation is a process of gathering information for decision making, it helps to determine the effectiveness or otherwise of a new programme (e-resources). In the same way, Ugodulunwa, (2008) posited that evaluation is the process of making value judgement about the worth of a thing. It includes obtaining information for use in

judging the worth of a programme, product, procedure or objective in education. Evaluation is the process of obtaining information to judge the merit or demerit of any item, product or programme.

Woolfolk (2004) explained that the heart of evaluation is judgments, making decisions based on values; it is the process of comparing information with criteria for decision making. The need for evaluation of e-resources cannot be over emphasized especially in this era when Library budget is dwindling. Rossi, Lipsey and Freeman (2004) stated that evaluation of programmes or product is inevitable especially in this era and may even be expected to grow, there is concern over the allocation of scarce resources and this makes it more essential to

evaluate any programme, product or services.

The rapid growth of information and communication technology has given rise to the evolution of several new jargons like paperless society, e- resources, portal / gateway and global digital library. The traditional functions of libraries and librarians have undergone radical changes in the present day context of ICT. (Sinha, Singh., and Sinha 2011.) Twenty years ago, common use of the internet and such formats as CD-ROM was still in the future; many academic libraries still did not have integrated library systems, though most were using every means they had to acquire them. In the writings of collection developers in the late 1970s and early 1980s, one sees little awareness of the revolutionary changes ahead except for recognition of financial difficulties (Miller, 2000). Now libraries and information centres have incorporated/ adopted various electronics resources for its collection developments to fulfill the requirements of different categories of library users in a better way. Some of the E-resources are freely available to anyone over Internet access but many are commercially available.

According to Sinha, Sinha.& Sinha (2011) E-resources can also be defined as those resources which include documents in electronic formats that can be accessed via Internet in a digital library environment. E-resources are those electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text, image collection, other multimedia products like numerical, graphical mode which are commercially available for library and information centers. These may be delivered on CD-ROM / DVD, over the internet and so on. Providing access to e-resources is a service to help library users to find e-Databases, e-Journals, e-Magazines, e-

Books/ E-Audio/ E-Images, Data/ GIS, Digital Library Projects, Electronic Exhibitions, e-Subject Guide, e-newsletters, e-White papers, e-conferences proceedings and Web search tools on a range of topics.

No library can survive in this age without the collection of e- resources to supplement the print collections. Agboola (2009) posits that the Library provides relevant print and E- resources for undergraduate students, postgraduate students, lecturers, non academic staff, and members of the public for academic work as well as for personal self-development.

E-resources have been incorporated to the library collections all over the world, and this has affected the library budget dedicated to library for acquisition. Younghee, (2010) believed that as a result of dwindling budget, university libraries have also established their own evaluation criteria for e-resources.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The dawn of the 21st Century witnessed the introduction of ICT in Libraries, and prior to this period, libraries were equipped with printed materials. The introduction of ICT in libraries brought about e-resources in libraries. There are a lot of e-resources available but as a result of the libraries dwindling budget, there is need to evaluate e-resources so as to include the relevant e-resources to their collection for effective service delivery.

### **Purpose of Study**

Prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> century there existed print materials in Academic libraries. And these print materials have always undergone an evaluation process before acquisition. The dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century brought about

Information Communication Technology which gave birth to the use of e-resources. The question is what is the criteria considered by librarians before subscribing to e-resources. Presently there is an explosion of e-resources in different subject areas such as databases, e-books, e-journals e.t.c.

**The objectives of the study are to find out:**

1. Availability of e-resources in Academic Libraries
2. How the Librarians identify relevant E- Resources
3. The need for evaluation of E-resources
4. Methods of evaluation of E-resources
5. Challenges of E-resources

**Research Question**

1. Are e-resources available in your library?
2. What types of e-resources does your library subscribe to?
3. How do librarians identify relevant e-resources?
4. Is there a need to evaluate e-resources before acquisition?
5. What is the criterion for evaluating e-resources?
6. What are the challenges of using e-resources in libraries?

**Methodology:**

Survey research method was used for the study. Questionnaire was the instrument for collection of data. The population of the study consists of all the librarians (Total enumeration method) in the Centre for Learning Resources Covenant University (18 Librarians) and the Bells University of Technology Library (9 Librarians). Data was analysed using descriptive statistics. Out of

the 27 questionnaires administered to all the librarians in the two University Libraries, 25 were returned and used for data analysis this represents 92.6 % response rate.

**Data Analysis and Interpretations**

**Table 1. Name of Library**

Name of Library	Frequency	Percentage
Centre for Learning Resources (CLR) Covenant University	17	68%
Bells University of Technology Library	8	32%
Total	25	100%

Table 1 above shows the number of respondents from the two Universities. 17 (68%) respondents are from Covenant University Library, while 8 (32%) respondents are from the Bell University of Technology Library.

**Table2: Sex of respondents**

Sex of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Male	6	24%
Female	19	76%
Total	25	100%

Table 2 above indicates the sex of respondents. 6 (24%) respondents are male. While 19 (76%) of the respondents are female.

**Table 3: Availability of E-resources in the library**

Are e-resources available in your library?	Freq	%
Yes	25	100%
No	-	-
Total	25	100%

Table 3 reveals the availability of E resources in the Libraries under study. All the respondents 25 (100%) responded positively that they have E resources in their Libraries.

**Table 4: Types of e-resources subscribe by the library**

What are the available E resources in your library	Freq	%
Electronic Databases	25	100%
E- Books	19	76%
E- Journals	18	72%
CDs	22	88%
Others	12	48%

Table 4 above represents the types of E-resources that are available in Libraries under study. It shows that 25 (100%) that is all the respondents agreed that they have Electronic Databases in their libraries, 19 (76%) of the respondents stated that they have E-Books in their libraries, 18 (72%) of the responded stated that they have E-Journals in their libraries, 22 (88%) of the respondents also said that they have CDs in their libraries. While 12 (48%) respondents agreed that they have other E resources in their libraries.

**Table 5: Relevant E- resources in the library**

Ways through which the Librarians identify relevant E resources	Freq	%
Through Vendors	21	84%
Through the Academic Staff	12	48%
Other Librarians	17	68%
On line Reading	22	88%
Students	21	84%
Others	7	28%

Table 5 above represents the different ways through which the librarians identify relevant E -Resources. 21 (84%) of the respondents identify E-Resources through Vendors, 12 (48%) of the respondents through academic staff, 17 (68%) of the respondents identify E resources through other Librarians, 22 (88%) of the respondents identify E resources through online reading, 21 (84%) respondents identify e resources through students, while 7 (28%) of the respondents stated that they identify relevant e resources through others sources.

Table 6 below represents the opinion of the respondents on whether E- Resources should be evaluated or not. 21 (84%) of the respondents strongly agree that E-Resources need to be evaluated before subscription, in the same way, 4 (16%) of the respondents also agree.

**Table 6: Need to evaluate e-resources before acquisition**

E Resources need to be evaluated before subscribing to them	Frequency	Percentage

Strongly Agree	21	84%
Agree	4	16%
Un Decoded	-	-
Disagree	-	-
Strongly Dis Agree	-	-
Total	25	100%

**Table 7:Criteria considered when evaluating E-resources in your library**

Criteria for Evaluation of e resources	Frequency	Percentage
Relevance	24	96%
Cost	25	100%
Popularity	19	76%
Open Access	12	48%
Authority	22	88%
Accuracy	24	96%
Coverage	25	100%
Objectivity	16	64%
Currency	25	100%

Table 7 above reveals the criteria that the librarians put into consideration before subscribing to E- Resources. 24(96%) of the respondents stated that they considered the relevance of the E – Resources, 25 (100%) that is all the respondents said that they consider the cost of the E Resources, 19 (76%) of the respondents consider popularity of the E-Resources, 12 (48%) of the respondents consider open access of the E-Resources, 22 (88%) of the respondents

stated that they consider authority of the E-Resources, 24 (96%) of the respondents consider accuracy, 25 (100) that is all the respondents consider coverage of the E-Resources , 16 (64%) of the respondents consider objectivity of the E-Resources. While 25 (100%) that is all the respondents consider currency of the E-Resources before subscription or inclusion in their library collections.

**Table 8:Challenges of using E-Resources in your library**

Challenges of E resources in Libraries	Frequency	Percentage
Low Bandwidth	22	88%
Poor ICT Infrastructures	24	96%
Lack of Technical Knowhow	18	72%
Finance	25	100%
Explosion of E-resources	23	92%
Power outage	22	88%

Table 8 above represents the challenges of E-Resources in Libraries. 22 (88%) of the respondents stated that low bandwidth is the major challenge to E Resources, 24 (96%) of the respondents pointed out that poor ICT infrastructures is the major challenge, 18 (72%) of the respondents agree that lack of technical knowhow is the major challenge, 25 (100) that is all the respondents posits that finance is a serious challenge to E-Resources . 23 (92%) of the respondents agree that explosion of E-Resources is also a challenge to libraries while 22 (88%) of the respondents sated that power outage is a major challenge to E resources.

### **Discussion of findings**

Availability of e-resources in this study shown that all the libraries studied 100 percent had E- resources in their collections . Gwazah (2011) also find out in his research that all the selected institution for his study had varieties of e- resources. Okoye and Ugwuanyi (2012) also discovered in their research that the libraries they investigated had so many E- resources in their collections.

The findings shows that libraries investigated strongly agree that there is need to evaluate e-resources before acquisition. Rosenberg (2008). Explained that in the past decade there have been significant move from paper based to electronic access to information, She further stressed that for proper integration, monitoring and evaluation are essential.

The study also reveals that the libraries under investigated had criteria for evaluating e-resources such as currency, accuracy, authority, objectivity, coverage. Benneth (2013) and Science Libraries (2013) they all listed evaluation criteria to support this findings.

This research work also discovered that among the challenges for effective e-resources use in libraries are cost, lack of adequate bandwidth, poor ICT infrastructures, power outage to mention but a few. Manda (2008) supported this finding.

### **Recommendations**

1. Libraries and information centres should take E-resources acquisition and management very seriously.
2. Libraries and information centres should also be at the fore front of

technologies that will help to resolve some of the challenges of E-Resources.

3. Nigerian Library Association should always organize training /seminar to sensitize and train librarians and their parent organization on the use of E-Resources.
4. Libraries and information centres should think of consortium so as to make E- resources acquisition easier.

### **Conclusion**

21<sup>st</sup> century libraries cannot render services that will satisfy users without the availability of E-resources in their collections and these E- Resources are numerous that libraries cannot afford to have all in their collections, therefore there is need for evaluation. E-Resources are veritable tools in the hand of the librarian; therefore more effort should be put in place to acquire them for the benefit of the users and the librarians.

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