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The Impact of CD-ROM Usage in Some Selected University Libraries in South-South, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the impact of CD-ROM usage in some selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria. A descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. The population of the study consists of 112 librarians in all the federal universities libraries in South- South Nigeria. A total of 112 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 98 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved using descriptive statistics mean and percentage mean score of 2.5 and above and percentage score of 50% were considered as acceptable. The study revealed that the purpose of using CD-ROM in academic libraries in South-South university libraries was justified; the users were satisfied with CD-ROM usage in their libraries, there are challenges facing the usage of CD-ROM and as well strategies to overcome these challenges. The study recommends that training of staff regularly on CD-ROM usage is critical; provision of adequate infrastructures; and as well as improve on maintenance culture.

KEYWORDS: *CD-ROM Usage, University Libraries*

INTRODUCTION

University libraries are ones that are found at colleges and universities (Universities, College of Education, Polytechnics and monotechnics). University libraries, according to Reitz (2004), are libraries that are an inherent component of a college, university, or other post secondary education institution and are administered to meet the information and research needs of its students and employees. University libraries, also known as academic libraries, are affiliated

to tertiary institutions, according to Ifidon and Okoli (2002) in Oyedode (2004).

An academic library collects, maintains, and makes information available to library users. And, in order for this to happen, the library's use of CD-ROM is necessary. The acronym CD-ROM stands for 'compact disc - read only memory,' and it is one of the optical disc types. It stores and retrieves data using a digital audio compact disc (CD) system. CD-ROM is a supplement to current media such as print, microforms, and magnetic online, rather than

a replacement for them. It is currently a cost-effective and functional medium. It also has tremendous capacity and scope for mass data distribution, as well as reliability, permanence, and durability. It is immune to demagnetization and other forms of data loss caused by improper treatment of magnetic media. At the same time, unlike internet media, it does not necessitate any backup files for storage.

The application of computers to the production of abstracting of the producers of indexing and abstracting services have their data base available on CD-ROMs, which they compile from world literature on certain disciplines, according to Omekwu and Eruvwe (2014). CD-ROM can be used in libraries to hold a range of things, according to Crane and Lott (2004), including music directories, books, magazines, computer applications, and so on. It is of great quality and extremely resistant to harsh weather, making it more secure than printed materials.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of CD-ROM usage in academic libraries. CD-ROM is essential in academic libraries, according to Compton (1994), for the following reasons: The storage capacity of a CD-ROM is large. It has a storage capacity of 660 megabytes and can hold enough text to fill 330,000 pages of paper. It is extremely long-lasting and immune to computer viruses. The cost of mailing is quite inexpensive, and there is no additional price. The computer can access a CD-ROM disc without the use of telecommunications. The subscription remains the same no matter how long you use it, and it is renewed annually. The CD-ROM is simple to use. The capacity to play a wide range of resources, including books, journals, directories, movies, games, video, and instructional materials, is one of CD-most ROM's exciting characteristics. CD-ROM databases are long-lasting, have a large store capacity, and retrieval is simple, browsable, and quick. Because of its low cost of manufacture and maintenance, CD-ROM will remain relevant in our libraries.

The extensive usage of CD-ROM in academic libraries has increased information availability while also posing new issues for users and librarians. Researchers must now properly assess the wealth of information that they can access independently in order to make the greatest use of these technologies. As a result, libraries must deal with increased demands on collections, services, and employees as a result of making knowledge more available to a wider audience. The way library user's access material has changed dramatically thanks to CD-ROM. This issue, the impact of CD-ROM usage in some selected university libraries in South-South Nigeria, is essential due to the multiple benefits.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

CD-ROM has created new opportunities for librarians to interact with faculty and students. The complexity of CD-ROM searching requires librarians to become more involved in user research problems. Libraries have quickly and enthusiastically adopted the technology as an exciting alternative to print and online, appreciating the convenience, ease of use, and greater degree of control over the search process that the medium offers. It has been observed by the researcher that studies have been done on the impact of CD-ROM usage in university libraries. But none has been captured on the impact of CD-ROM usage in some selected university libraries in South-South, Nigeria. It is as a result of this situation that prompted the researcher to embark on this study in other to create the awareness of the impact of CD-ROM in the university libraries under study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study is to find out the Impact of CD-ROM Usage in Some Selected University Libraries in South-South, Nigeria. The specific objectives are:
1. Find out the purposes of CD-ROM usage in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria
2. To find out the challenges of using CD-ROM in academic libraries in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria
3. To suggest strategies to improve on the usage of CD-ROM in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria

LITERATURE REVIEW

An academic library is a warehouse of information resources, processed and accessible for research works and human

resources development. They are established in an institution of higher learning to cater for the research problems of students and researchers (Onwurah and Ifeka, 2012). Academic libraries are at the forefront of providing information services to their respective communities which comprises of students, lecturers, and researchers in order to support their teaching, learning and research needs. Scholars have emphasized on the crucial role of academic libraries in research and scholarship in institutions of higher learning. Many a time's academic libraries are referred to as the heart or nerve centres of institutions of higher learning where all academic activities revolved. Academic libraries are libraries attached to tertiary institutions such as universities, polytechnic institutions, colleges of education, colleges of agriculture, colleges of technology and also research institutes (Akporhonor, 2005). Singh and Kaur (2009) stressed that preservation and access to knowledge and information is the main mandate of academic libraries alongside supporting the mission of their parent institutions which is teaching and research. Libraries are now expected to provide to users a range of information and communication technologies necessary for retrieving information quickly from both immediate and remote databases, as well as creating a need for library cooperation and consortium initiatives (Okiy, 2005). Also, ALA World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services (1986) describes a university library as an integral part of the institution it serves, it designs its collections and services to meet the instructional programmes of the particular institution. It goes further to say that in some countries, particularly in the Third World, university libraries have a responsibility to serve as national libraries in addition to the role service to the faculty and students of the institutions and they play leading roles in national library development.

The present-day academic libraries in the 21st century is focusing more on the area of digital, ICT facilities, virtual or libraries without borders all of which have transformed academic libraries and led to transition and transformation in the academic library environment. The transition and the transformation are accompanied with sophistication in the changing pattern in the information needs of users which is growing rapidly. Singh and Kaur (2009) observed that there is a paradigm shift from stand alone libraries to library and information networks; from printed publications to digital documents; and from ownership to access. The transition according to them is as a result of the impact of ICTs facilities such as computers, CD-ROM, flash drives internet and the web which is affecting all types of libraries.

CD-ROM

Compact Disc-Read-Only Memory (CD-ROM) is used for the permanent storage of data or audio or video recordings. This document covers discs (or disks in the case of computer disks) that contain data. The discovery of CD-ROM provided a major change in the process of the storage, retrieval and dissemination of information (Anisur, Hanif and Ragina (2014). Libraries have already reported substantial increases in the use of journal collections, inter-library loan services, and microfiche collections, all tied to CD-ROM availability. According to Ogusola (2017) CD-ROM is found to be a more efficient medium of storage for publishing large amount of information. Its use offers unlimited access to databases at a fixed cost, interactive searching in comparison to hard copy or microfiche (Ramalah, 2015).

Michalak (2010), opined that the widespread use of CD-ROM in academic libraries has improved access to information while creating new challenges for users and librarians. The author asserted that CD-ROM has significantly changed the way in which library users access information; patrons have quickly and enthusiastically adopted the technology as an exciting alternative to print and online appreciating the convenience, ease of use, and greater degree of control over the search process that the medium offers. Libraries have already reported substantial increases in the use of journal collections, inter-library loan services, and microfiche collections all tied to CD-ROM availability. According to Ray and Day (1998) the importance and wide ranging scope of electronic resources for general communication, information retrieval and instructional delivery to support teaching and research activities in tertiary educational institutions is acknowledged worldwide. The literature also shows that a number of relevant studies have been carried out on the use of

electronic resources by lecturers, research scholars and students worldwide. Generally, user opinion towards the use of electronic resources, in particular CD-ROM, has been positive, with students enjoying the use of these resources and finding relatively few problems while using them. The study according to Ray and Day (1998) found out that 83% of students surveyed felt that using this source saved them time, and found it relatively easy to use. Two thirds of those surveyed stated that if the CD-ROM was busy, they would wait for it to become free rather than use the print tool. However, a study of online searching of scientific information in science and technology libraries of Delhi reveals a sizeable number of users (almost 60%) are facing numerous problems while browsing electronic information, such as lack of knowledge about the resources, lack of trained staff and inadequate terminals, (Ali, 2005).

In another development, Bhatnagar, Anjana (2004), examined search techniques for accessing CD-Rom Databases. This study have attempt in details about what are the CD-ROM Databases, why we use them and why we don't want to use them in academic libraries are discussed briefly. Types of databases are explained by illustration. Search features commonly available in four selected CDROM databases such as keyword search, phrase search, Boolean search etc are discussed briefly. The selected CD-ROM databases are Ulrich's on disc from Directory, Ei Compendex Bibliographic database, and Emerald full-text database of journal article. Some of the general issues related to the searching and retrieval of information from CD-ROM databases are briefly discussed.

Some common points have been identified that the user must consider in order to quickly accessing information on CD-ROM databases in an effective way. Abdul (2011), also examines the utilization of CD-ROM Databases by the users of Indian institute of technology-Kharagpur. The study reveals that most of the users consult CD- ROM databases not only for updating their knowledge but also for collecting relevant information for the study and research purposes. A majority of the users have become aware of CD-ROM databases through library staff, discussions with colleagues and from observation. The most popular search method for searching CD-ROM databases is keyword followed by Boolean operators and phrases. In addition, Okpala and Igbeka (2005), analysis of users' searches of CDROM databases in the Kenneth Dike Library of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The result shows that logical operators "AND "and "OR" are significantly used for searching by end-users; that search results are dependent on search strategy employed by the user.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the descriptive survey design. The population of the study consists of 112 recruited librarians in all the federal universities libraries in South- South Nigeria. A total of 112 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 98 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved using descriptive statistics mean and percentage mean score of 2.5 and above and percentage score of 50% were considered as acceptable by the respondents while below 2.5 mean score below 50% score is considered as not acceptable by the respondents.

Table 1: Purposes for CD-ROM use in academic libraries usage of in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria

S.N.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	-x	Decision
1	Ease of use	49	40	5	4	3.3	Accepted
2	permanent storage of data	54	36	1	7	3.3	Accepted
3	Reliability	64	23	5	4	3.4	Accepted
4	Durability	57	31	7	3	3.4	Accepted
5	Extremely cheap	55	25	10	8	3.2	Accepted
6	Dissemination of information	65	23	7	3	3.5	Accepted

The data presented in table 1 revealed that six (6) identified items on the purpose for CD-

ROM usage in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria are: Ease of use (3.3),

permanent Storage of data (3.3), Reliability (3.4), Durability (3.4), extremely cheap (3.2) and Dissemination of information is (3.5)

respectively. This implies that the purpose of using CD-ROM in academic libraries in South-South university libraries was justified.

Table 2: Challenges of using CD-ROM in academic libraries usage of in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria

S.N.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	-x	Decision
1	Lack of trained staff	43	41	8	6	3.1	Accepted
2	Inadequate infrastructure	34	43	11	10	3.0	Accepted
3	Lack of maintenance	54	31	8	4	3.3	Accepted
4	Lack of interest	43	29	14	11	3.0	Accepted

The data in table 2 revealed four (4) identified items on the Challenges of using CD-ROM in academic libraries usage of in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeriaare lack of trained staff on the use of CD-ROM (3.1), inadequate infrastructure (3.0), lack of maintenance (3.3) and lack of interest (3.0).

Table 3: Strategies to improve on the usage of CD-ROM in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria

S.N.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	-x	Decision
1	Training of Staff regularly on CD-ROM usage	64	27	5	3	3.5	Accepted
2	Provision of adequate infrastructures	45	34	10	9	2.9	Accepted
3	Improve on maintenance culture	44	40	10	4	3.2	Accepted
4	Positive Interest to use	48	32	16	2	3.3	Accepted

The table 3 revealed four (4) identified items on the Strategies to improve on the usage of CD-ROM in academic libraries in South-South, Nigeria are training of staff regularly on CD-ROM usage (3.5), provision of adequate infrastructures (2.9), improvement on maintenance culture (3.2) and a positive interest to use (3.3) respectively.

CONCLUSION

CD-ROM usage in academic libraries has been heavily-used by librarians. CD-ROM titles showthat it has a big future and its collections in the libraries are getting thicker day by day. Concept of 'paperless library' is now equated with CD-ROM Library. Its role in digital library will become more prominent with the spread of DVDs in coming years. CD-ROM has significantly changed the way in which library users access information. Patrons have quickly and enthusiastically adopted the technology as an exciting alternative to print and online, appreciating the convenience, ease of use, and greater degree of control over the search process that the medium offers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends the following:
➢ Training of Staff regularly on CD-ROM usage
➢ Provision of adequate infrastructures
➢ Improve on maintenance culture
➢ Positive Interest to use

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