Electronic Database Resources and Digital Literacy Skills as Determinants of Nigerian Undergraduates' Library Use

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Abstract

The university is the birthplace of life changing ideas which are further concretized to benefit the rest of the universe. Prominent member of the university community are undergraduates who are saddled with numerous course works relating to their disciplines. The heavy workload makes them search for information in electronic database resources in the university libraries. To benefit from their search, they require digital literacy skills. This prompted the study on the availability of electronic database resources and digital literacy skills as determinants of library use by undergraduates of Federal Universities in Southwest, Nigeria. The research design employed for this study was the descriptive survey design. The population for this study was constituted by 60,997 undergraduate students of Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Ibadan and University of Lagos. However, multiple stage sampling technique was used to arrive at 595 sample size for the study.The instrument used was a questionnaire. The data was analyzed using frequency distribution tables; percentage, mean scores and standard deviation on Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The result of multiple regression indicates that the availability of electronic database resources and digital literacy skills of undergraduates have joint influence on library use, $R^2 = .882$, $F(1.949E3)$, $p < 0.05$. The result also indicates that 40.2% variance of library use among undergraduate students is accounted for by level of digital literacy skills and availability of electronic database resources. The study concluded that institutions should make efforts to improve access to the Internet and continue to provide constant electricity supply within the school premises and greater publicity should be given on the credibility of information from electronic database resources in the university libraries so that more undergraduates become an*d make use of them, likewise, trained personnel should be on ground to assist students and educate them on library base electronic resources usage and library services within the university, especially computer laboratory and library*, thus *increasing student's library use and level of digital literacy skills.*

Keywords: Electronic Database Resources (EDR), Digital Literacy Skills, Library Use, Undergraduates.