

Assessment of ICT Utilisation Among Legal Practitioners in Kwara State

YAHAYA Ibrahim Olarewaju
LLB, LLM, MLIS, (Unilorin)
Law Librarian, University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria
Yahaya.io@unilorin.edu.ng
08032251418

ALIYU Mahmud
B Tech. {FUT Minna}, MLIS, (Babcock)
E-Library, University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria
aliyu.mk@unilorin.edu.ng
08030642635

ABDULLAHI Ibrahim Mohammed
BLIS, (BUK) MLIS (Unilorin)
University library, University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria
Abdulndaguye123@gmail.com
08066184489

NUHU Silifat Ranti
BLIS (Unimaid), MLIS (Unilorin)
University library, University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria
Silifatnuhu@gmail.com
08038188957

Abstract

This study examines the utilization of ICTs among legal practitioners in Kwara State. The study adopted a descriptive survey design, the population of the study was 772 consisting of all the registered legal practitioners in the Ilorin and Offa branches of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). Total enumeration was adopted and a stratified sampling technique was applied. The study used a questionnaire as a data collection instrument and the data collected were analyzed. The study found out the available ICT resources include mobile phones, laptops, desktops, scanners, electronic court records, Internet and CD-Rom, which legal practitioners use on daily bases purposely to further knowledge on legal issues, for the work in progress and to defend their client in the court of law. The study also reported that revamping the nature of ICT resources, poor internet facilities, and epileptic power supply are some of the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using ICT resources. The study concludes that ICT utilization is ponderous in the legal profession. Among the recommendations given is that a standby generator/inverter should be provided to curb the issue of power failure.

Keywords: Assessment, ICT Utilisation, Legal Practitioners, Kwara State.

Introduction

The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is in dire need of the advancement of the legal profession. It is very critical because of its use in diverse ways and the momentum in which it is transforming the world. Murray (2011) defined Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as often used as an extended synonym for information technology (IT), but it is more of specification and the integration of telecommunications (telephone line wireless signals), computers as well as necessary enterprises software, storage and audio-visual systems, which enable users to access, store, transmit and manipulate information.

However, the world is undergoing a transition from a paper to a digital economy, and technological advances have brought many changes in the world today. Electronic resources have placed themselves at the top, primarily in academic and research institutions especially in developing countries. This term is considered in its simplest form to mean Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Information has always formed the bedrock of human life and human existence and ICT has come into being as a result of social progress and the vigorous development of science and technology. Abdulkareem et.al {2022} opine that ICT holds the key to modernising information services.

The role of legal practitioners such as lawyers, judges, and magistrate among others in any society is essential. In the early days, before the coming of the Europeans, each country especially Nigeria had its system of rules and practices regulating human behavior (Owoeye, 2011). Therefore, with the advent of colonial masters, the common law of England was introduced and customary law with some modifications was retained. It is the common law and customary law that have developed into the court systems which are now termed the Nigerian legal system (Gerbert, 1998).

One of the roles of the legal system in Nigeria is to settle fundamental human rights, disputes and clashes. People operating in this system are referred to as legal practitioners. Legal practitioners in Nigeria are barristers as well as a solicitor whose primary duties are; advocacy, litigation, counselling, and preparation of legal documents among others. In addition, they defend their client(s) in the court of law by applying the principles of law to the evidence available, and by providing relevant facts. Similarly, they enlighten the public about their constitutional rights and ensure that people are not deprived of their fundamental human rights such as freedom of association, speech, opinion, religion and so on (Owoeye, 2011).

However, the advent of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), has brought tremendous changes to the way libraries operate and the way information users access the information. Because of this modern trend in librarianship, law libraries are also shifting from the traditional form of manual service to electronic delivery systems through Internet connection to computer workstation networks, for effective and efficient service deliveries (Olorunfemi, 2015). Consequently, the applications of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have played a major part in reshaping the legal profession and addressing contemporary expectations about fairness, efficiency effectiveness in the administration of justice. Coker

(2014) observed that three stages can be identified in the development of ICT and their effect on organisations especially in the legal profession these include; the automation stage, information stage, and transformation stage. Therefore, legal practitioners can use ICT tools to perform their job effectively.

The development in ICT has led to the availability of a range of primary and secondary legal information resources connected through the Internet, rather than on other storing devices like compact discs and print publication media. Similarly, ICT has also impacted the availability of legal information resources, and the effects are equally seen in many law-related subjects like legal practice management, legal education, corporate governance and the law per se (Du Plessis, 2008). In line with this, Echono (2014) postulated that the recognition and use of ICT in the Nigerian legal system will make the profession to be effective and also contribute to the sustainable development and delivery of justice in Nigeria. Therefore, to effectively search for information using ICT, legal practitioners need to inculcate the required ICT skills which would differentiate average legal practitioners from effective legal practitioners in this 21st century.

This study traces the status and access to the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the legal realm. Electronic resources have placed themselves at the top primarily in academic and research organisation, especially in developing countries. It is however to be noted that technology is just gaining ground in this part of the world and in particular the legal profession, one of which the newly amended Evidence Act (2011) recognizes the use of electronic devices in giving evidence in a court of law.

Statement of the Problem

Undoubtedly, it is a known fact that legal practitioners cannot exercise their work without the use of adequate information (Dada, 2007). This is because information is indispensable for the effective practice of their profession. Therefore legal practitioners and information are like Siamese twins that are inseparable (Coker, 2014). The world is moving towards an information age in which information has become a valuable resource. These information resources are stored and housed in the law library which provides an avenue through which such information sources are accessed

In this 21st century, and with the introduction of ICT, legal practitioners now have access to the vast amount of current and timely legal sources which help them to reshape their profession. All the information resources needed are now available online (internet). Many researchers such as Amusa and Atinmo (2016); Onwudinjo, Ogbonna and Nwadiogwa (2015); Olorunfemi (2015); Uluocha and Mabawonku (2014); Owoeye (2011) have carried out studies on the use of library and ICT by legal practitioners. The majority of these findings show that legal practitioners understudy were using ICT resources to some extent. To the best of researchers' knowledge and available literature at their disposal, there is a dearth of studies on the use of ICT among legal practitioners in Kwara State. In view of the forgoing, if this study is not carried out, the legal practitioners will not perform well in practice and they will not be able to compete favourably with their colleagues in the field of legal professions in this digital age which will lead to loosing

of cases and client. This is the identified gap in the previous studies that this study aims to fill. It is in light of this that this study was designed to examine the utilization of ICT among the legal practitioners in Kwara State.

Objectives of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to assess the utilization of ICT among legal practitioners in Kwara State. The study will specifically:

1. Identify ICT resources available to the legal practitioners in Kwara State;
2. Determine the extent to which legal practitioners in Kwara State use ICT resources; and
3. Identify challenges that legal practitioners in Kwara State encountered while using ICT resources.

Research Questions

The study would provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the ICT resources available to legal practitioners in Kwara State?
2. To what extent are legal practitioners in Kwara State use ICT resources?
3. What are the challenges that legal practitioners in Kwara State encountered while using ICT tools?

Literature Review

ICT Resources available to Legal Practitioners

The concept of ICT is used to describe a group of technological gadgets ranging from computers to modern media gadgets which are primarily used to share and communicate information (Okechukwu, 2014). In other words, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the catchphrase used to describe an array of technologies for gathering, storing, retrieving, processing, analyzing and transmitting instruction (Uroko, 2006)

Therefore, the term legal information sources refer to formal source, historical source, literary or material source and other law sources (Asein, 2005). According to Olorunfemi (2014), formal sources are the ultimate origin of the whole body of a legal system which in the abstract sense is the source from which a political, social or economic authority derives its power while historical sources of law consist of chains of circumstances and events that brought about or lead to the evolution of legal rules over a specific period. Tuyo (2007) stated that a law library that intends to be relevant in any institution must ensure that its collections are adequate.

Materials source of law is the physical law books (constitution, law reports and law journals), where written laws can be accessed. According to Otike and Matthews (2000), legal information sources range from print to electronic, and the usage of these information resources varies among legal practitioners depending on their areas of specialization. Deakin University (2014) stated that legal information sources are in two categories namely primary and secondary information sources. The primary sources are the actual text of the law, that is, legislation and case law, as created by the parliaments and the courts (Deakin University Australia, 2014). In other words,

Makri (2008) opined that the primary sources are authoritative records of the law made by law-making authorities.

In the same vein, primary legal information resources are the statements of the law itself. These materials include acts of parliament, subordinate legislation and reputed decisions of courts and tribunals. In the view of Dina, Akintayo and Ekundayo (2013), the constitution, statute and case law are the primary law sources that are referred to as the Law. Conversely, the Library of Congress (2014) postulated that the primary law sources are the laws made by government or public organizations, courts, the legislature and administrative entities.

Furthermore, the primary sources frequently consist of two categories of material, this includes; legislation (the law made by the legislature or parliament), and the decisions of the Courts of Laws: case or judge-made law. Sometimes there is a third category of primary material these include: codes, principles and standards of practice, possibly approved by bodies outside the legislature, parliament or Courts which are recognized as guides to practice. Therefore, practising lawyers need access to statutes, acts and decrees that are legislation passed by the government and are arranged according to years accompanied by an index. In the same vein, Tuhumwire and Okello-Obura (2010) postulated that many of the rules that govern everyday life are contained in instruments made under powers granted by statutes. The legislation includes statutory instruments, orders in the council and local bylaws. In their opinion, Tuhumwire and Okello-Obura (2010) opined that the most common forms of primary legislation are acts of parliament also known collectively as the statutes. The researchers explained further that before these resources have been approved by parliament and received royal assent, Acts are known as Bills of parliament.

There are also casebooks, which summarized key cases and other law material on a topic (Tuhumwire & Okello-Obura, 2010). According to Todd (2007) and Makri (2008), law publishers are starting to provide texts in electronic format such as Butterworth who launched books on screen in which selected paper texts have been placed on CD along with electronic versions or related legislation and case law. Users can search for information quickly, annotate the text with personal notes and create bookmarks making it possible to return quickly on another occasion to a particular part of the text. In the same vein, another example of secondary sources of legal information includes periodicals.

In order to find commentary in law periodicals, Tuhumwire and Okello-Obura (2010) stated that the best way is to use the available periodical indexing services. The best are in electronic format. The legal journals index established in September 1986, is the pre-eminent index in the English jurisdiction. It indexes over 400 journals and is available in CD and Internet versions. Clinch (2000) affirmed that there are other secondary sources of legal information such as judgments, newspapers, the Internet and others. A wide variety of other electronic legal resources are also available to lawyers, often for specialized purposes. The current extent of digital access to legal resources is vast. Some sources for example in United States law including court opinions, legislative enactments and administrative agency actions are available from

LexisNexis and Westlaw, and other vendors and free public Web sites provide access to resources as well (Todd 2007; Makri 2008).

The work of lawyers is limited with time and space and the legal process is largely relied upon the physical carriage of information from one party to another (Coker, 2014). In light of this, the legal practitioners were able to exert considerate control on the legal process. The introduction of Information and Communication Technologies in the legal profession has played a major part in reshaping the legal profession and addressing contemporary expectation of fairness, and efficiency effectiveness in the administration of justice (Coker, 2014). The researcher explained further that three stages can be identified in the development of ICT and their effect on organizations especially in the legal profession. These include: Automation stage; Information stage; and Transformation stage. Many developed countries have made use of ICT in particular the Internet in providing a complete range of legal information and material.

David (2004) opined that the internet is a more powerful tool than just another way of marketing the firm or another form of automating how the office also automates the lawyer. The researcher explained further that despite that lawyers are deal brokers and clients now want their deals brokered on the internet, there is a movement towards virtual deal rooms. The legal information retrieval systems were designed to guide the lawyer through the various possible issues in a case and also help to build up a profile of the case at hand. In most legal information retrieval systems, the full text of documents is stored or an abstract of the full documents in which the index to the database is built, an example of this is the LexisNexis (Coker, 2014).

Searching is commonly carried out by using some keywords and Boolean operators. Therefore, users may have the option of searching for specific fields such as data, the jurisdiction of the presiding judge. Different tools are also used to limit the search space by legal topic. Usually, all the words in the full text are indexed which means that during retrieval relevant documents may be returned on a keyboard search as well as a lot of irrelevant materials and the user must sift through these to reach useful materials (Coker, 2014). However, the rapid growth in the volume of legal materials also increases the number of random and meaningless association made on the keyword search. Furthermore, Eckes (2000) observed that the impact of improved access to legal materials by modern legal information systems is weakened by the exponential growth in the number of materials. This therefore gives rise to the development of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques and Expert System (ES) to emulate the substantial legal jobs performed by the legal professionals and to provide solutions to all legal problems.

Extent of Use and Purpose for Using ICT Resources by Legal Practitioners

The advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the legal profession like other public services providers has seen an increasing role in the use of computers in connection

with the delivery of judicial services. For example, the use of certain technologies to store paper documents in an electronic format gives birth to Electronic Court Records (ECR). The empirical studies that were carried out by different researchers also show how legal practitioners use ICTs for their profession. For example, Coker (2014) examined the use of ICTs among legal practitioners in the Ibadan metropolis to determine how often the lawyers used ICTs for their information needs and ascertain the extent to which they were satisfied with the services provided by ICTs. The analyses were based on data from a questionnaire survey of the legal practitioners in the metropolis. The findings revealed that due to a lack of awareness, the majority of the lawyers were yet to take advantage of the huge potential benefits that can be derived from using ICTs. The study revealed that legal practitioners used some ICTs more than others; for instance, mobile phones and computers were the most frequently used ICTs. Furthermore, young legal practitioners embraced ICTs more than older lawyers.

In addition, about 75.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that the application of ICTs in the legal profession would go a long way in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the profession. The major problems and constraints identified to the use of ICTs among lawyers are the unfavourable economic situation of the country, excessive cost of procurement of ICTs facilities and inadequate infrastructure such as telecommunication and electric supply.

In line with the above, Moruf and Olajojo (2017) also investigated the influence of virtual library use in legal practice and its contributions to the quick administration of justice. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, and a simple random sampling technique was used in selecting thirty (30) Law library personnel across the state, but all the 26 judges of Oyo State High Court, Ibadan were covered. From the self-constructed different questionnaires, data collected were analyzed and presented in tables using percentages, mean and standard deviation. Legal practitioners who used Virtual Law Library indicated that using electronic legal information resources provided via the virtual library increases efficiency in the adjudicatory process and guarantees the speedy administration of justice. It was concluded that the adoption of Virtual Law Library use in the legal practice in Nigeria would assist in eradicating the problem of accessibility, retrieval and dissemination of legal information in the state thereby solving the problem of delay in justice delivery.

Similarly, Makri, Blandford and Cox's (2007) study reveals that lawyers, like many user groups; regularly use Google to find information for their work. The researchers present the results of a series of interviews with academic and practising lawyers where they discuss the situations they use various electronic resources and the reason. The paper finds lawyers use Google due to a variety of factors, many of which are related to the need to find information quickly. The lawyers also talk about Google with a certain affection not demonstrated when discussing other resources. Also, the lawyers can design the legal resources to emulate Google or design them based on factors perceived to make Google successful, the paper suggests this is unlikely to better support legal information-seeking. Instead, the paper suggests the importance of taking several inter-related trade-offs, related to the factors identified in this study, into account when designing electronic legal resources to help ensure they are useful, usable and used.

Also, Reach, Whelan and Flood (2003) reported the results of a research study on the feasibility and viability of the digital library. Using information derived from surveys of law librarians, legal publishers, and attorneys, they provide a snapshot of the current state of the digital library in a private law firm setting. While a digital library appears to be feasible, all three survey groups are lawyers, law librarians, and legal publishers, still see barriers to the medium. Legal publishers still note a strong attachment to print products, law librarians see digital materials as more costly, and attorneys, while they are slowly embracing fee-based online research, continue to have a strong attachment to print. It certainly appears that federal case law, statutes, and regulations in a law firm collection can be entirely digital, but practice-specific resources, state resources, and treatises still need refinement in the digital world to be viable. The digital library remains more a vision than a reality.

Challenges Legal Practitioners Encountered while Using Library and ICT Resources

Tahir et al. (2008) identified seventeen possible problems legal practitioner face in acquiring information for their profession and research activities. They reported that respondents ranked "Required material is not available" as the number one problem they encountered while searching for information materials in the library, followed by "information is scattered in too many sources" and "information sources are very expensive". Other challenges as stated by the researchers were information sources located far away, lack of time, lack of training in information literacy skills, lack of knowledge in using the ICT, language barrier and erratic power supply.

Coker (2014) examined the use of ICTs among legal practitioners in the Ibadan metropolis to determine how often the lawyers used ICTs for their information needs and to ascertain the extent to which they were satisfied with the services provided by ICTs. The analyses are based on data from a questionnaire survey of the legal practitioners in the metropolis. The findings revealed that due to a lack of awareness, the majority of the lawyers were yet to take advantage of the huge potential benefits that can be derived from using ICTs. The study revealed that legal practitioners used some ICTs more than others; for instance, mobile phones and computers were the most frequently used ICTs. Furthermore, young legal practitioners embraced ICTs more than older lawyers. The major problems and constraints identified to the use of ICTs among lawyers are the unfavourable economic situation of the country, excessive cost of procurement of ICTs facilities and inadequate infrastructure such as telecommunication and electric supply. Similarly, it is also noted that email is the most popular Internet application, whereas other Internet-based services and applications are only used by a limited number of respondents. This is a matter of concern, as presently, electronic information sources and the Internet are considered extremely important tools for effective teaching and research. Therefore, the Central Law College library might like to review its electronic information resources.

Methodology

A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study consists of all the registered legal practitioners in the Ilorin and Offa branches of the Nigerian Bar Association(NBA). The total number of registered legal practitioners in the Ilorin and Offa branches of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) is 717 and 55 legal practitioners. Total enumeration was adopted and a stratified sampling technique was applied. The study used a questionnaire as a data collection instrument and the data collected was analyzed through percentage and central tendencies, using the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (IBM-SPSS) version 22.0.

Data Presentation and Interpretation of Results

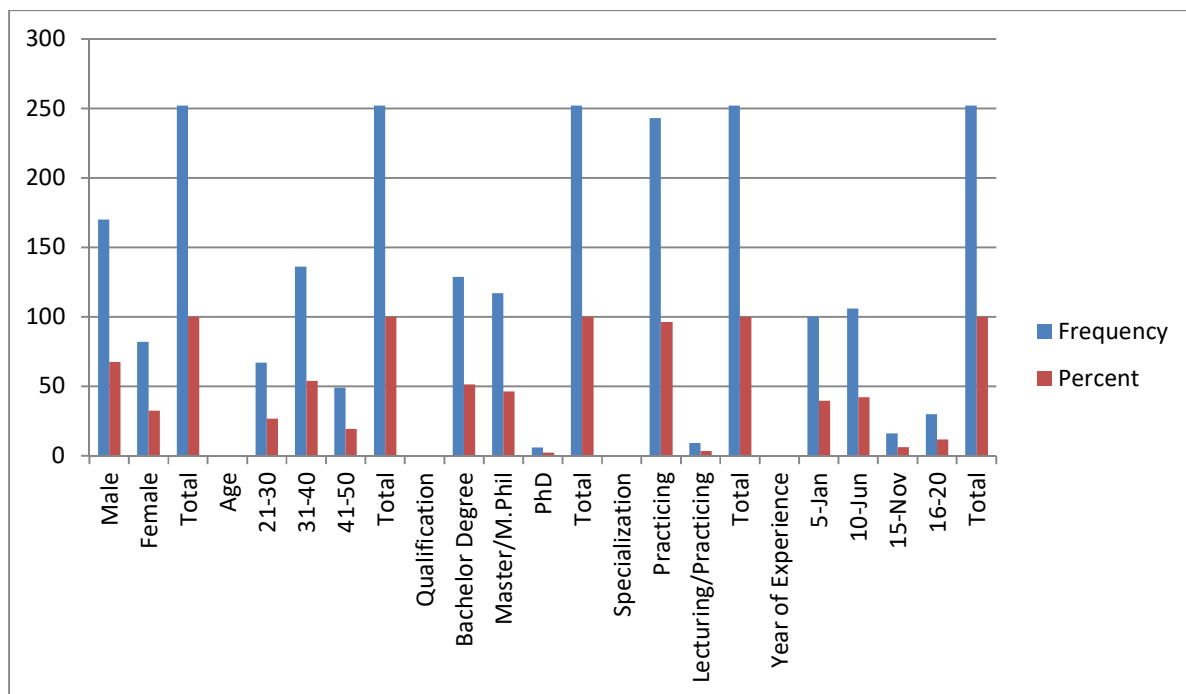


Figure1: Demographic Information of the Respondents

The result in Table 1 showed the demographic information of the respondents. The table showed that out of 252 respondents, 170 (67.5%) were male while 82 (32.5%) were female. This shows that the majority of the respondents were male. Furthermore, the result revealed that 67 (26.6%) fall between the ages of 21-30 while 136 (54.0%) fall between the ages of 31-40 and 49 (19.4%) fall between the ages of 41-50. This shows that the majority of the respondents fall between the ages of 31-40. In the same vein, the result revealed that 129 (51.2%) had Bachelor's Degree while 117 (46.4%) had a Master/M. Phil Degree and 6 (2.4%) had a PhD. This means that the majority of the respondents had a Master/M.Phil. Furthermore, the result showed that 243

(96.4%) were practising lawyers while 9 (3.6%) combined both lecturing and practising together. Based on the year of experience of the respondents, the results confirmed that 100 (39.7%) had 1-5 year of experience while 106 (42.1%) had 6-10 year of experience. On the other hand, 16 (6.3%) had 11-15 year of experience while 30 (11.9%) had 16-20 year of experience. In summary, it can be deduced that the majority of the respondents had 6-10 years of experience.

Table 1: ICT Resources Available to Legal Practitioners

S/N	ICT Resources	Available	Not Available
1	Mobile phones	252 (100.0%)	-
2	Laptops and Desktops	250 (99.2%)	2 (0.8%)
3	Internet	216 (85.7%)	36 (14.3%)
4	CD-Rom and Flash drive	201 (79.8%)	51 (20.2%)
5	Electronic court records	230 (91.3%)	22 (8.7%)
6	Scanners	234 (92.9%)	18 (7.1%)
7	IPAD and Tablets	210 (83.3%)	42 (16.7%)
8	Legal databases	101 (40.1%)	151 (59.9%)

The result in Table 2 revealed the ICT resources available to legal practitioners, it revealed that out of 252 respondents, 252 (100.0%) stated that mobile phones were available to them. 250 (99.2%) affirmed that laptops and Desktops were available to them while 2 (0.8%) were against this. In the same vein, 216 (85.7%) claimed that they have access to the internet while 36 (14.3%) declined this. Also, the results showed that 201 (79.8%) stated that CD-Rom and flash drives were available to them while 51 (20.2%) were against this. Similarly, the result revealed that 230 (91.3%) stated that electronic court records were available to them while 22 (8.7%) were against this. In addition, the result showed that 234 (92.9%) agreed that Scanner was available to them while 18 (7.1%) disagreed with this. Furthermore, the result showed that 210 (83.3%) claimed that IPAD and tablets were available to them while 42 (16.7%) were against this. Lastly, the result confirmed that 101 (40.1%) claimed that they have access to legal databases while 151 (59.9%) were against this. In summary, it can be deduced that mobile phones, laptops, desktops, electronic court records, Internet, IPAD and Tablets, and CD-Rom and flash drives are the ICT resources available to legal practitioners.

Table 2: Extent to which Legal Practitioners Use ICT Resources

ICT Resources	Daily	Twice a week	Once a month	Yearly
1 Mobile phone	177 (70.2%)	75 (29.7%)	-	-
2 Laptop and Desktops	173 (68.7%)	19 (7.5%)	57 (22.6%)	3 (1.2%)
3 Internet	212 (84.1%)	38 (15.1%)	2 (0.8%)	-
4 CD-Rom and Flash drive	136 (54.0%)	30 (11.9%)	68 (27.0%)	18 (7.1%)
5 Electronic court record	105 (41.7%)	87 (34.5%)	27 (10.7%)	33 (13.1%)
6 Scanners	133 (52.8%)	34 (13.5%)	52 (20.6%)	33 (13.1%)
7 IPAD and Tablet	129 (51.2%)	33 (13.1%)	71 (28.2%)	19 (7.5%)
8 Legal Database	117 (46.4%)	64 (25.4%)	34 (13.5%)	37 (14.7%)

The results in Table 3 showed the extent to which legal practitioners use ICT resources.

The result showed that out of 152 respondents, 177 (70.2%) use mobile phones daily while 75 (29.7%) use them twice a week. Furthermore, the result revealed that 173 (68.7%) use laptops daily while 19 (7.5%) use them twice a week. Contrary to this, the result showed that 57 (22.6%) use a laptop once a month while 3 (1.2%) use it yearly. In the same vein, the result confirmed that 212 (84.1%) use the Internet daily while 38 (15.1%) use it twice a week, and 2 (0.8%) use it once a month. Similarly, the result revealed that 136 (54.0%) use CD-Rom and flash drives daily while 30 (11.9%) use them once a month. On the other hand, 68 (27.0%) use CD-Rom and flash drives once a month while 18 (7.1%) use them yearly. Also, the result confirmed that 105 (41.7%) use electronic court records daily while 87 (34.5%) use them twice a week. Contrarily, the result showed that 27 (10.7%) use electronic records once a month while 33 (13.1%) yearly.

In addition, the result showed that 133 (52.8%) use Scanners daily while 34 (13.5%) use them twice a week. On the other hand, 52 (20.6%) use a desktop once a month while 33 (13.1%) use it yearly. Furthermore, the result showed that 129 (51.2%) use IPAD and tablets daily while 33 (13.1%) use them twice a week. In contradiction to this, 71 (28.2%) use IPAD and tablets once a month while 19 (7.5%) use them yearly. Lastly, the result revealed that 117 (46.4%) use legal database daily while 64 (25.4%) use them twice a week, and 34 (13.5%) use it once a month while 37 (14.7%) use it yearly. In summary, it can be noted that the majority of the respondents use the Internet, mobile phones, laptop, CD-Rom and flash drives, desktops, IPAD and tablets, legal databases and electronic court record daily.

Table 3: Challenges that Legal Practitioners Encountered while Using ICT Resources

S/N	Items	Yes	No
1	Lack of adequate ICT resources	182 (72.2%)	70 (27.8%)
2	Information resources are always revamping	147 (58.3%)	105 (41.7%)
3	Electronic information resources are not easily accessible	15 (6.0%)	237 (94.0%)
4	The devices are expensive	240 (95.2%)	12 (4.8%)
5	Poor internet facility	219 (86.9%)	33 (13.1%)
6	Epileptic power supply	203 (80.6%)	49 (19.4%)

The result in Table 4 showed the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using ICT resources. From the table, the result revealed that out of 152 respondents, 182 (72.2%) claimed that lack of adequate ICT resources is one of the major challenges they encountered while 70 (27.8%) against this statement. Furthermore, the result revealed that 147 (58.3%) stated that information resources are always on revamping while 105 (41.7%) disagreed with this. In the same vein, the result confirmed that 240 (95.2%) affirmed that ICT devices are expensive while 12 (4.8 %) declined this. Also, the result showed that 219 (86.9%) agreed that poor internet facility is another challenge they encountered while using ICT resources. On the other hand, 33 (13.1%) were against this statement. Lastly, the result showed that 203 (80.6%) claimed that epileptic power supply is another challenge they encountered when they are using library and ICT resources while 49 (19.4%) were against this statement. In summary, it can be deduced that

inadequate ICT resources; poor internet facilities; epileptic power supply; and revamping the nature of ICT devices are some of the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using ICT resources.

Discussion of Findings

The study found that the majority of the respondents use the Internet, mobile phones, laptops, CD-Rom and flash drives, desktops, IPAD and tablets, legal databases and electronic court records daily. This finding contradicts the work of Olorunfemi (2014) who found that law students frequently use ICT resources for their research and learning activities. The study is also not in congruent with the finding of Onwudinjo, Ogbonna and Onwumbiko (2015) who found that law students use library and ICT resources twice a week. The reason for this may be subject to the fact that Olorunfemis' study was carried out among the law student while this present study was carried out among legal practitioners.

Based on the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using library and ICT resources, the ICT resources are expensive; poor internet facilities; epileptic power supply; and lack of adequate ICT resources are some of the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using library and ICT resources. This finding corroborates the work of Olorunfemi (2014) who reported that lack of adequate law materials; erratic power supply among others are the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using library ICT resources

Also, the study found that the majority of the legal practitioners had positive perceptions about the usefulness of the ICT resources. Similarly, the study found that the majority of the respondents purposely use library and ICT resources to further knowledge on legal issues; for work in progress; to keep informed of the development in the legal profession; to defend their client in the court of law; and for case preparation. Furthermore, the study reported that the revamping the nature of ICT resources; poor internet facilities; epileptic power supply; and lack of adequate library and ICT resources are some of the challenges that legal practitioners encountered while using library and ICT resources.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers are stocked by the verdict that ICT remains essential for legal practitioners and legal scholarship. Moreover, the potentiality in the much greater use of ICT stood as an effective and, in fact, an indispensable educational facility and a very effective instrument for legal practitioners. The utilization of ICT among legal practitioners in Kwara State is ponderous as the modern-day practice of the profession cannot be dowithout it.

Recommendations

Based on the result of the study, the study presents the following recommendation:

- i. Library management in conjunction with the government should provide good internet facilities for the legal practitioners
- ii. There should be a stand-by generator that will curb the issue of power failure
- iii. There should be adequate provision of ICT resources in the library for consultation by legal practitioners.

References

- Amusa, O. I. & Atinmo, M. (2016). Availability, level of use and constraints to use of electronic resources by law lecturers in public Universities in Nigeria. *Journal of Library and Information Science*, 7(3), 139-172.
- Asein, J. O. (2005). *Introduction to Nigerian legal system (2nd ed.)*. Lagos, Nigeria: Ababa Press Ltd.
- Bharadwaj, R. K. & Madhusudhan, M. (2013). Open access legal information sources and their use by students of National Law University. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 60(4), 314-319.
- Coker, C. A. (2014). The use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) among legal practitioners in Ibadan Metropolis. *Journal of Computer Sciences and Applications*, 2(1), 1-5.
- Dada, T. O. (2011). *Law librarianship and legal research in the digital age*. Lagos: Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.
- David S. W. (2004). Information technology and shaping of legal practice in the UK. *13th bileta conference: the changing jurisdiction*. March 27th to March 28th, 2004. Retrieved from: www.bileta.ac.uk/98papers/wall.html.
- Deakin University Australia. (2014). *MLL110 legal principles and skills students*. Retrieved from: <http://deakin.libguides.com/law>
- Dina, Y., Akintayo, J. O. & Ekundayo, F. (2013). *Hauser global law school programme: Globalex- update- guide to Nigerian legal information*. Retrieved from: <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/Globalex/Nigeria1.htm>
- DuPlessis, T. (2014). Competitive legal professionals' use of technology in legal practice and legal research. *Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal*. Retrieved from: <http://www.scielo.org.za/revistas/pelj/iaboutj.htm>
- Echono, A. (2014). *ICT and the advancement of legal studies and practice in Nigeria*. Retrieved from: <http://thelawyerschronicle.com/ict-and-the-advancement-of-legal-studies-and-practice-in-nigeria/>
- Eckes .T. (2000). *The developmental social psychology of gender*. UK: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Makri, S., Blandford, A. & Cox, A. L. (2007). Studying law Students' information seeking behaviour to inform the design of digital law libraries. *10th European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries*, 34-37.
- Moruf, H. A. & Olajojo, P. O. (2017). Virtual law library as a veritable tool for justice delivery system in Nigerian: An investigative study of Oyo state high court. *An International Journal of Information and Communication Technology*, 14(1), 1-10.
- Murray, J. (2011). Cloud network architecture and ICT. Retrieved from: <http://itknowledgeexchange.techtarget.com/modernnetworkarchitecture/cloudnetworkarchitecture-and-ict/>
- Okechukwu, D. F. (2014). Assessment of economics teachers' perception of their information and communication technology competencies using UNESCO ICT competency framework for teachers. A research project presented to the Department of Science Education, Faculty of Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

- developing country: A literature review. XX SCECSAL: *Information for Sustainable Development in a Digital Environment* (pp. 440-446). Nairobi: The Law Publisher.
- Olorunfemi, D. Y. (2014). The use of law information sources in legal research by Nigerian universities law students. *Journal of Balkan Libraries Union*, 3(1), 15-23.
- Olorunfemi, O. D., Janneke, M. B., & Ocholla, D. N. (2012). Information seeking behaviour of law students in a developing country: A literature review. *SCECSAL XXth Conference hosted by KLA*, 41-52.
- Onuoha, U.D. & Awoniyi, A.A. (2011). Comparative Analysis of Students' Information seeking. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>.
- Onwudinjo, O. T., Ogbonna, U. A. & Nwadiogwa, O. J., (2015). Utilization of law library collections for improving academic performance by undergraduate law students of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. Retrieved from: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1223>
- Tahir, M. (2008). Information Needs and Information-Seeking Behaviour of Arts. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>
- The Law Library of Congress. (2014). *Guide to Secondary Legal Resources*. Retrieved from: <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/secondary-rsrcs.php>
- Tuhumwire, I. & Okello-Obura, C., (2010). Sources and means of access to legal information by lawyers in Uganda. *Library Philosophy and Practice*. Retrieved from: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/354>.
- Tuyo, O. (2007). The Library as a factor in the accreditation of law programmes in Nigerian universities: the contribution of Technical Services. Paper presented at NALL 2017 Conference at NIALS, Lagos.
- Ukpanah, M. E. & Afolabi, M. (2011). Availability of cited law resources by law students in the Universities of Uyo and Calabar law libraries, Nigeria: *Nigerian Libraries*, 44 (2), 40 – 57.
- Uluocha, A. & Mabawonku, I. (2014). Legal information resources availability and utilization as determinants of law lecturers research productivity in Nigerian universities. *Information and Knowledge Management*, 4(9), 50-58.