
**Factors Influencing the Use of Open Access Resources by Library and Information Science
Postgraduate Students, University of Ilorin**

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Abstract

The study investigated factors influencing the use of open-access resources by library and information science postgraduate students at the university of Ilorin. The study adopted a total enumeration method to involve all 94 LIS postgraduate students at the University of Ilorin. A web-based questionnaire was designed using Google form and the generated link was shared among postgraduate students of Library and Information Science, University of Ilorin. The link was shared with various groups of postgraduate students of Library and Information Science via WhatsApp and Telegram. The responses were collected for two weeks. The study reported that awareness, attitude, performance expectancy and internet self-efficacy are factors influencing the use of open access resources. The study also revealed a shortage of power supply, a bad network, poor awareness and poor searching skills as the challenges influencing the use of open access resources. The study recommends that awareness of the use of open access should be increased to the postgraduate students

key words: Open access, Library, Information science, Postgraduate students and University.

Introduction

Open access (OA) is an effort to make information resources available to users without charge. With open access, information is perceived to be available to researchers, postgraduates and others. However, open access resources are electronic resources which are freely available to the end user free of cost. No need to pay either the institution or the individual for accessing, and downloading articles. The User can read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles. Open access resources are not limited only to open access journals but they may vary in forms such as an open e-book, open databases, open access repositories, and institutional repositories that may influence library and information science postgraduates. Moreover, Open Access (OA)" means that it can be freely accessed by anyone from any location

in the world using an internet connection (Adeyokun, Adebowale & Yaya, 2015). Academic publication in open access repositories makes it available on the internet and permits anyone to browse, download, read, share, print, copy, index or link to other articles; use them as the law permits, and does not require any technical, financial or legal barriers except the ones associated with logging into the internet itself (Orsu, 2020).

Okoye and Ejikeme (2011) opined that open access is free availability on the Internet, permitting users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet itself. Suber (2013) described open access as online research outputs that are free of all restrictions on access (for instance, access tolls) and free of many restrictions on use (for instance, certain copyrights and licence restrictions). According to Kenneway (2011), the burden of who is responsible for the expenses incurred right from submission of articles through publishing to distribution stages has been shifted to authors rather than the readers. In other words, users can freely access, download, use and distribute research content without any hindrance from the authors or publishers in as much as necessary citations are done. They allow the cost of publishing to be borne by the author(s), sponsors or institutions and allow the use and reuse of publications without restrictions. To corroborate this, Kundart (2013) described open access as immediate, online, no-cost availability of scholarly articles unlocked for everybody to see and use.

Dulle, Minish-Majanja and Cloete (2010) identified attitude, self-efficacy, facilitating conditions and social influence as factors that influence the use of open access among LIS. In essence, open access content comprises creative works and research undertaken following systematic procedure(s) to increase the stock of knowledge, either of human beings, nature, culture and or society and the use of the knowledge obtained thereof, to devise new applications and or further knowledge. Applebee and Clayton (1996) opined that ease, convenience, and accessibility are major factors influencing academic use of open access among library and information science postgraduates. Dulle (2010) opined that researcher self-efficacy and lack of Internet skills were part of the factors that hindered the acceptance and use of open access publishing. Obuh and Bozimo (2012) and Gbaje (2010) posited that a lack of awareness of open access journals was responsible for the low adoption and use of open access publishing, while Emojorho et al. (2012) emphasized inadequate facilitating conditions as an obstacle to the adoption and use of open access publishing. Open access publishing is still in its infancy in most developing countries like Nigeria, where poor infrastructural facilities have been established as the bane to its development and adoption among postgraduates (Okoye & Ejikeme, 2011). Postgraduate education, in the submission of Asogwa, Wombo and Ugwuoke (2014) involves learning and studying for degrees, professional or academic certificates or other qualifications for which a first or Bachelor's Degree generally is required and it is normally considered be part of higher education. Pertinently, those involved in postgraduate education, as the name implies, should also be postgraduate students. Against this background, this study examines factors influencing the use of open access resources by library and information science postgraduate students at the University of Ilorin.

Statement of the Problem

Over time Nigerian universities, and postgraduate in library and information science schools confront research activities that require extensive information materials from different sources. However, it is perceived that many of them find it difficult to get the required information. However, with open access, postgraduates can have access to information materials needed for their research work and other assignments that require literature. However, many studies have been carried out on the use of open access publications but not much has been done on factors that influence the use of open access. It has been observed that most postgraduates and researchers are still reluctant to use open access publications; one of the major reasons for this is that they are not aware of what is available to them and what the services are capable of doing.

Some studies like that of Ivwighreghweta and Onoriode (2012) have even pointed out that postgraduate students in tertiary institutions are less likely to use open access journals unless they are encouraged to do so by their lecturers. Nowadays, the survival of libraries depends on students' use of the various information resources (print, electronic including open access resources) but it is still not clear whether these students are fully aware of the rich information contents available in these open access resources (OARS) to improve their education. Against this background, the study examines factors influencing the use of open access resources by library and information science postgraduate students at the University of Ilorin.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine factors influencing the use of open access resources by library and information science postgraduate students at the University of Ilorin. However, the specific objectives of the study were to:

1. identify factors that influence the use of open access resources by library and information science postgraduate students, University of Ilorin,
2. find out the benefits derived from the use of open access resources by postgraduate students of the University of Ilorin Library and information science,
3. examine the challenges affecting the use open access resources by postgraduate students of the University of Ilorin library and information,

Research Questions

The following research questions were provided to guide the study in the following order.

1. What are the factors that influence the use of open access resources by library and information science postgraduate students, at the University of Ilorin?
2. What are the benefits derived from the use of open access resources by postgraduate students of the University of Ilorin Library and information science?
3. What are the challenges affecting the use open access resources by postgraduate students of the University of Ilorin library and information?

Review of Related Literature

Okoye and Ejikeme (2011) defined open access as free availability on the Internet, permitting users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet itself. Suber (2013) described open access as online research outputs that are free of all restrictions on access (for instance, access tolls) and free of many restrictions on use (for instance, certain copyrights and license restrictions). According to Kenneway (2011), the burden of who is responsible for the expenses incurred right from submission of articles through publishing to distribution stages has been shifted to authors rather than the readers.

In other words, users can freely access, download, use and distribute research content without any hindrance from the authors or publishers in as much as necessary citations are done. They allow the cost of publishing to be borne by the author(s), sponsors or institutions and allow the use and reuse of publications without restrictions. To corroborate this, Kundart (2013) described open access as immediate, online, no-cost availability of scholarly articles unlocked for everybody to see and use. Okoye and Ejikeme (2011) nevertheless stressed the need for users to acknowledge authors through proper citations of consulted/referenced work. Open access applies to all forms of published research output, such as peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, and theses (Schopfel & Prost, 2013).

In essence, open access content comprises creative works and research undertaken following systematic procedure(s) to increase the stock of knowledge, either of human beings, nature, culture and or society and the use of the knowledge obtained thereof, to devise new applications and or further knowledge. They are used in most cases to establish and confirm facts, reaffirm the results of previous work, solve new or existing problems support theorems or develop new theories. They might be used as an expansion on past work in the field, to test the validity of instruments, procedures or experiments and may be used to replicate elements of prior projects or the project as a whole (OECD, 2002). Suber (2008) distinguished two degrees of open access as gratis open access which is online access free of charge and library open access which is online access free of charge plus additional usage rights.

Dulle (2010) studied the factors affecting the adoption of Open Access research activities in Tanzanian public universities. The study found the majority of research scholars are aware of Open Access. Poor research conditions, low internet search skills and publishing skills found as the main hurdles before Open Access communication. Bashorun, Sebina, Jain and Kalusopa (2016) examine factors influencing the adoption and use of OA publishing by academic staff in universities in Nigeria using an adapted Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use Technology (UTAUT). The study applies methodological triangulation by combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. The empirical data were collected from 317 academic staff in universities in southwest Nigeria. The questionnaire forms were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM-SPSS) 19.0 version to generate descriptive statistics, Analysis of Variance,

and Hierarchical Multiple Regression. Thematically, the analysis also applies to the interviews. The results show that awareness, attitude, performance expectancy, Internet self-efficacy, and facilitating conditions significantly influenced the adoption and use of OA publishing.

Utulu and Bolarinwa (2009) investigated the adoption of OA initiatives by academics from the Universities of Ibadan and Lagos. It was reported that a lack of understanding of the OA concept and the inability to identify appropriate OA journals were observed as part of contributory factors for its low adoption and use. Okplogidi and Tyungu (2015) examined the kinds of open access scholarly publications or information resources accepted and adopted by federal university libraries in South East Nigeria. The study found that the university library accepts and adopts open access such as institutional repositories, open journals, subject repositories, e-books, and personal websites among others with the use of computers, internet facilities and services. Inadequate internet facilities and services were identified as a major factor that affects open access acceptance and adoption in university libraries.

The main benefit of Open Access products is that the entire content is made readily available and accessible to users regardless of affiliation with subscribing libraries (Ivwhighrehweta and Onoriode, 2012) or wherever users are located. Authors' citations of articles in hybrid open access journals proved much greater or higher than non open access articles (Antelman, 2004). With Open Access, articles can be accessed online free of charge (Suber, 2012; 2013). Open access publications usually appear more regularly thus, allowing scientists to disseminate research findings more quickly, timely, and widely and establishing the priority of researchers investigating the same problems (Albert, 2006). These benefits of open access have encouraged increased accessibility to resources and better serve users' needs (Mammo & Ngulube, 2015). This view was supported by Kenneway (2011) and Gross and Ryan (2015) when they expressed that open access journal contents have been made accessible to a global audience.

Similarly, Qayyum, Riaz, Rehman, Ahmed, Tahir and Kazi (2013) stressed that the widespread dissemination of scientific knowledge was a major benefit derived from Open Access publishing medium. Open Access initiatives have helped solve the challenges of inaccessibility to information bedeviling developing countries (Mammo & Ngulube, 2015). The initiative has ensured that publications and research contents are available, searchable and retrievable thus allowing, data or statistics, information and knowledge within an article to be recycled and reused. It incorporates local research into all interoperable networks of global knowledge; increases the impact of local research by providing new contacts and research partnerships for authors; removes professional isolation and strengthens economies through the development of a strong and independent national science base (Mammo & Ngulube, 2015).

Kenneway (2011) admitted that Open Access increased the readership of published materials thereby increasing citations. Increased citation is evidence of good visibility for publications because such works would be available to users worldwide and at no cost. Ivwhighrehweta and Onoriode (2012) regarded restricted access as a great barrier to the growth of science and the well-being of publishing which Open Access has solved. This was buttressed by Suber (2012; 2013) who considered restrictions as limiting the research audience and harmful to research

development. Utulu and Bolarinwa (2009) also considered Open Access as being more economical than print publications. According to Georgia State University (2015), Open Access has increased opportunities for collaboration and innovation, brought about better returns on investment for research sponsors, is faster than the traditional publishing model and has contributed immensely to education's mission of advancing knowledge.

Orsu's (2019) study investigates the utilization of open access repositories for the visibility of academic publications by lecturers in South-East, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to investigate the types of academic publications available, platforms used in self-archiving, the level of satisfaction derived by lecturers with the contribution of open access repositories, challenges and strategies. It adopted a descriptive survey design. A Proportionate stratified sampling technique was used to draw a sample size of 418 from the total population of 4,187 lecturers. A questionnaire and observation checklist were used for data collection. Frequency count, percentage, and mean score were used to analyze the data. The study revealed that there are enough academic publications available such as books, journals, projects, and theses except for handouts.

Okoye and Ejikeme (2010) in their investigation indicated that with open access, articles can be accessed online free of charge. They identified inadequate skills to navigate the internet, unstable power supply, unavailability of internet facilities, the permanence of open access movement due to unstable financial support, and lack of knowledge of the existence of open access resources on the internet as constraints to the use of open access publications by students and researchers in general. Similarly, Ivrihreghweta and Onoriode (2012) in their study on the awareness and use of open access journals by Library and Information Science students at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria reported a lack of knowledge of the existence of open access journals on the Internet, lack of internet search skills, retrieval of too much irrelevant information, download delay amongst others as the major problems militating against the use of open access publications by the students.

Agber and Agwu (2013) opined that the factors which hinder students' effective use of online resources may be technical and non-technical. The technical constraints include inadequate and poor telecommunication infrastructure, absence of national information communication infrastructure, problems of connectivity, lack of or limited bandwidth for ICT for learning and research and non-reliability of public electricity; while the non-technical constraints include, among other constraints: online usage skills necessary for general surfing of the net, lack of time to use ICTs as a result of school work amongst others (Association of African University, AAU, 2000). However, Ukwoma and Onyebinama (2020) surveyed the challenges and opportunities of access and use of open access resources by undergraduate students in selected federal universities in the south-east, of Nigeria. The study employed a descriptive survey method and quantitative research technique, using a questionnaire as an instrument for data collection. A total of 369 students selected from four federal universities in South East, Nigeria was used as the population of the study. The study found that inadequate training, and unsuitable infrastructure, are the challenges of using open access

Orsu (2020) examines the utilization of open access repositories for the visibility of academic publications by lecturers in South-East, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to investigate the types of academic publications available, platforms used in self-archiving, the level of satisfaction derived by lecturers with the contribution of open access repositories, challenges and strategies. It adopted a descriptive survey design. A Proportionate stratified sampling technique was used to draw a sample size of 418 from the total population of 4,187 lecturers. A questionnaire and observation checklist were used for data collection. Frequency count, percentage, and mean score were used to analyze the data. The study revealed that inadequate power supply, poor network, lack of awareness and inadequate research grants are all challenges that influence the use of open access among academics. Iqbal and Ali (2017) assessed the awareness and use of Open Access resources among the library users of Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) and Pondicherry University (PU), Puducherry. The study found that the majority of the respondent are aware of the existence of Open Access repositories in their institution and use the repository for their research. The study found that screen reading, lack of guidance and training and lack of search skills are the main obstacles faced by library users in the use open access.

Method

The study used a research design. The population includes postgraduate students of Library and Information Science, at the University of Ilorin. However, there are 94 postgraduate students in Library and information science at the University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria. Therefore, this study adopted the total enumeration method otherwise known as the census. The research resorted to using this method because the population of the study was extremely small. The instruments which were used for the collection of data in this study were interviews and questionnaires. A web-based questionnaire was designed using Google form and the generated link was shared among postgraduate students of Library and Information Science, university of Ilorin. The link was shared with various groups of postgraduate students of Library and Information Science via WhatsApp and Telegram groups. The questionnaire link was shared and responses were collected for two weeks. The total response from the survey is 94 and that was the unit of analysis for the study. The responses collected were automatically analysed by Google Forms. However, From the 94 sample size of respondents, only 90 responded. Therefore, only 90 were filled and returned, hence validated for the study.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1: Demographic Information of the Respondents (N=90)

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	65	72.2%
Female	25	27.8%
Total	90	100
Age	Frequency	Percentage
21-30	22	24.4%
31-40	47	52.2%
41-50	19	21.1%
50 years and above	02	2.2%
Total	90	100

Source: Authors' Field Survey (2021)

Table 1 shows responses on the distribution of respondents on gender with 65(72.2%) of respondents being male while 25(27.8%) respondents were female. This shows that the majority of respondents were male. Table 1 also shows responses on age with 22(24.4%) of respondents being between 21-30 years, 47(52.2%) of respondents between 31-40 years age 19(21.1%) of respondents between 41-50 years of age and 02(2.2%) of respondents were between 50 years and above. The implication of this table to the study is that the majority of respondents were between 31 years and above.

Analysis of Research Questions

RQ 1: What are the factors that influence the use of open access resources by library and information science postgraduate students at the University of Ilorin?

Table 2: Factors that influence the use of open access resources (N= 90)

S/N	Factors that influence the use of open access resources	SA	A	D	SD
1	Awareness	62(68.9%)	21(22.2%)	1(1.1%)	7(7.8%)
2	Attitude	50(55.6%)	34(37.3%)	5(5.6%)	1(1.1%)
3	Performance expectancy	18(20.0%)	43(47.8%)	15(16.7%)	14(15.6%)
4	Internet self-efficacy.	21(23.3%)	43(47.3%)	15(16.7%)	11(12.2%)

Source: Authors Field Work, 2021

Table 2 shows that 83(92.2%) of the respondents agreed with awareness as a factor influencing the use open access resources while 8(8.9%) of respondents disagreed. Also, 89(98.9%) of the respondents agreed with attitude as a factor influencing the use of open access resources while 1(1.1%) disagreed. In addition, 61(67.8%) of the respondents agreed with performance expectancy while 29(32.2%) disagreed. Moreover, Table 2 also shows that 61(67.8%) of the respondents agreed that internet self-efficacy is a factor influencing the use of open access resources. The implication of this table to the study is that awareness, attitude, performance expectancy and internet self-efficacy are perceived to be factors influencing the use of open

access resources among postgraduates of library and information science at the University of Ilorin.

RQ 2. What are the benefits derived from the use of open access resources by postgraduate students of the university of Ilorin Library and information science?

Table 3: Benefits derived from the use of open access resources (N=90)

S/N	Benefits derived from the use of open access resources	SA	A	D	SD
1	Articles can be accessed online free of charge	62(68.9%)	21(22.2%)	1(1.1%)	7(7.8%)
2	Open Access will help in solving the challenges of inaccessibility to information	50(55.6%)	34(37.3%)	5(5.6%)	1(1.1%)
3	Open Access has increased opportunities for collaboration and innovation	18(20.0%)	43(47.8%)	15(16.7%)	14(15.6%)
4	Brought about better returns on investment for research sponsors.	21(23.3%)	43(47.3%)	15(16.7%)	11(12.2%)

Source: Authors Field Work, 2021

Table 3 shows that 83(92.2%) of the respondents agreed that articles can be accessed online free of charge as a benefit derived from using open access resources while 8(8.8%) disagreed. Also, the majority of the respondents 84(93.3%) agreed that Open Access will help in solving the challenges of inaccessibility to information as the benefit derived from using open access resources while 6(6.7%) of the respondents disagreed. Moreover, Table 3 also shows that 61(67.8%) of the respondents agreed that Open Access can increase opportunities for collaboration and innovation as the benefit derived from the use of open access resources while 29(32.2%) disagreed. In addition, 64(71.1%) of the respondents agreed that open access brought about better returns on investment for research sponsors while 26(28.9%) disagreed. However, the implication of this table to the study is that the majority of postgraduates of library and information science at the University of Ilorin believe that with open access, articles can be accessed free of charge online, challenges of inaccessibility to information can be solved, opportunities for collaboration and innovation can be increased and better returns on investment for research sponsors is provided as benefits of open access resources use.

RQ 3: What are the challenges affecting the use open access resources by postgraduate students of the university of Ilorin Library and information science?

Table 4: Challenges affecting the use open access resources (N= 90)

S/N	Challenges affecting the use open access resources	SA	A	D	SD
1	Shortage of power supply	40(44.4%)	43(47.3%)	1(1.1%)	6(6.7%)
2	Bad network	34(37.8%)	53(58.9%)	3(3.3%)	-
3	Poor awareness	34(37.8%)	46(51.1%)	4(4.4%)	6(6.7%)
4	Poor searching skills	38(42.2%)	42(46.7%)	4(4.4%)	6(6.7%)

Source: Authors Field Work, (2021)

It can be observed in the 4 that respondents 83(92.2%) agreed that the shortage of power supply is a challenge influencing the use of open access resources among postgraduates of library and information science at the University of Ilorin while 7(7.8%) disagreed. Moreover, the table also shows that 87(96.7%) of the respondents agreed that a bad network is a challenge influencing the use open access resources while 3(3.3%) disagreed. In addition, Table 4 also showed that 80(88.9%) of the respondents agreed with poor awareness of a challenge influencing the use of open access resources while 10(11.1%) of the respondents disagreed. Furthermore, it is also seen in the table that 80(88.9%) of the respondents agreed that poor searching skills were a challenge influencing the use of open access while 10(11.1%) disagreed. This implies that a shortage of power supply, bad networks, poor awareness and poor searching skills are challenges influencing the use of open access resources among postgraduates in library and information science at the University of Ilorin.

Discussion of Findings

The factors influencing the use of open access resources postgraduate library and information science, university of Ilorin, found that awareness, attitude, performance expectancy and internet self-efficacy are perceived to be factors influencing the use of open access resources among postgraduate library and information science at the University of Ilorin. The finding of this study is in line with Bashorun, Sebina, Jain and Kalusopa (2016) that awareness, attitude, performance expectancy, Internet self-efficacy and facilitating conditions significantly influenced the adoption and use of open access publishing. On the benefits derived from the use of open resources, the study found that with open access, articles can be accessed free of charge online, challenges of inaccessibility to information can be solved, opportunities for collaboration and innovation can be increased and better returns on investment for research sponsors is provided. The finding of this study is consistent with Suber, (2012, 2013) and Mammo and Ngulube, (2015) that with Open Access, articles can be accessed online free of charge and Open Access initiatives have helped solve the challenges of inaccessibility to information bedevilling the developing countries

The study also revealed that a shortage of power supply, bad networks, poor awareness and poor searching skills are challenges influencing the use of open access resources among postgraduates in LIS, University of Ilorin. The finding is supported by Orsu (2020) and Iqbal and Ali (2017) that inadequate power supply, poor network, lack of awareness, lack of search skills and

inadequate research grants are all challenges that influence the use of open access among academics

Conclusion

It is established that postgraduate students in library and information science schools have identified awareness; attitude, performance expectancy and internet self-efficacy are perceived as factors that influence open access usage. This is because open access provides an avenue for potential researchers to have information that would be useful to them. The study concludes that open access usage benefits postgraduates to have access to information that is free, inaccessible information and opportunities for collaboration.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the study: Awareness of the use of open access should be provided to the postgraduate students in the library and information science students at the University of Ilorin. University authorities should provide needed orientation to the postgraduate students in library and information science at the University of Ilorin. The alternative power supply should be provided to postgraduate students in library and information science to have access to open access information for their research work.

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