

**ACCESSING AND USE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN  
DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION IN AMIR SHEHU IDRIS SCHOOL OF NURSING AND  
MIDWIFERY LIBRARY MAKARFI, KADUNA STATE**

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**Abstract**

*This study examined accessing and use of information communication technology in dissemination of information in Amir Shehu Idris School of Nursing and Midwifery Makarfi, Kaduna State. Three research question guided the study. Descriptive research method was adopted in other to effectively conduct the research. The population of the study comprises of the entire final year student of the School of Dental Technology with the total population of sixty-seven (67) students and five (5) staff of readers service department of the library which a total 72 as at 2022. The stratified sampling technique was used to draw a sample of 72 respondents. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. The descriptive statistical tools which consist of tables, frequency and percentages were used to analyze the data collected. The study discovered that computer, printer, and photocopying machine are available in the library, the study also revealed that the impacts of ICT on library operations are impacted minimally, the study highlighted that challenges encountered as shortage of ICT facilities and lack of skills, poor maintenance of equipment, lack of ICT knowledge, and high cost of the resources are the major challenge militating against application of ICT in library. However, some recommendations were made that management of the school should provide adequate fund for the procurement of ICT facilities in the library to ensure better performance, management should encourage the application of ICT in those areas in which ICT is not applied to meet up with the ever increasing demands of the clients, there is need for application of ICT in library operations which will bring significant impacts in libraries leading to automated cataloguing, circulation information retrieval and making library operations to be more effective.*

**Keywords: Accessing, Use, Information and Communication Technology, Dissemination and Information**

**Introduction**

Technology is the world system is constantly increasing, it has changed the way people reason, behave, collect and exchange ideas or information, it is eventually changing almost all things within and around man and library is not left out. Man has increased so much in reasoning due to effect of technology thereby making quest for knowledge to be increased (Mohammed, 2014). ICT is generic terms that refers to the technologies that are used to collect, store, edit and communicate information in various format (Raji, 2018). Hagg and Cubbrey (2002) describes information technology as any computer-based tool that people use to work with information and support the information and information processing needs of an organization such as libraries. The use of ICT improves access to digital information, narrows down the digital divide and also improves standard of living. According to Janakiraman and Subramaniam (2015), the world now experiences a digital scenario in which ICT has changed the possibilities of the library job promotions and has brought changes to expected library performances. ICT provides the ability to create, organize, manipulate and access information from remote locations across the globe, within a short time. ICT involves incorporation of a range of technologies that are used to support communication and information dissemination. Onuoha and Obialor (2015) observed that conventional library and information services such as Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), users services, reference services, document delivery, interlibrary loan, audio visual services and customers services can be

provided more efficiently and effectively using ICT as they offer convenient time, place, cost effectiveness, faster and most up-to-date dissemination of information and end users involvement in the library and information service process. With the help of ICT's there are now various forms of the services.

Shivakumar (2017) stated that ICT is changing the concept of the Libraries, their collection and services, thereby bringing about various new terms like digital libraries and librarians, libraries without walls, virtual libraries, hybrid libraries, cloud libraries etc. ICT's in libraries have brought about tremendous improvement and opportunities to render more efficient, effective and up-to-date services. The future of library in ICT age is so glaring that it is currently manifesting in their mode of organization, operation and management. A throwback to the evolution of library and how they have survived till now shows flexibility of library to embrace new technologies as it evolves. Libraries have seen the coming and extinction of most technologies. Kenner (1986) scholar of Irish literature at John Hopkins as cited by Onuoha and Obialor (2015) said "people nervous about the future are by their own definition open to lesson from the past; and one lesson the past has to teach is that every new technology when it applies for admission to a citadel of the intellect, has invariably received its first welcome from the librarians. Nearly a century ago, libraries were the first building to be getting incandescent lights; a half-century ago, libraries were among the first building to be getting air-conditioned, when copying machines escaped from corporate offices, the first place they became accessible to the public was the library" The changes that are taking place within all spheres of human endeavor and the society at large mount pressure on the library to evolve to serve both the new structures ICT have created, new demands from the users and otherwise. So libraries are rebranding and re-engineering so as to keep up with the current need of this information age brought about by massive permeation of ICT in the society.

ICT in library can be seen as a tool that facilitates easy access and use of library materials outside the library. Ogbonna (2013) started that, the use of ICT in the medical libraries playing a significant role as information centre. The medical college libraries provide not only access to specialized information resources and services but also meet the academic and research information needs of the medical users by developing specialized need-based collections; organizing information resources; providing access to human and technologically moderated access and orienting users to locate, obtain and evaluate information. Medical libraries have a big duty and a significant role to play in shaping new generation while imparting learning and research activities. The users that are scientist of tomorrow must be oriented with new technology which delivers knowledge in different forms that needed today. Medical library help the hospital to achieve its aims and objectives by bringing out specialized information materials that would enhance the patient care delivery.

Despite the overwhelming advantages of online information resources, users still face some challenges with the use of these resources. These challenges have been identified as poor information technology infrastructure development, lack of knowledge on how to use e-journal, lack of facilities, lack of time and awareness, large mass of irrelevant information, the need to filter the results from search, download delay, failure to find information, inadequate or lack of search skills, high cost of access, inaccessibility of some electronic resources and difficulties in navigating through electronic resources. Omosekejimi et al (2015) identified lack of awareness, insufficient bandwidth, high cost of internet connectivity and lack of electronic information resources. Inadequate computer systems, slow internet speed and poor network service (Ani & Ottong, 2010). The future of library and information services is bound closely with the development of ICT, as many of its activities and services can be enhanced and many new services developed using suitable ICT in an appropriate way. This work on ICT application in special libraries has revealed that ICT is essential for effective information service delivery.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Libraries which were considered as the storehouses of knowledge have got a new outlook in the modern Information Communication Technology (ICT) era. The activities which were carried out manually in libraries with so much pain and strain are being carried out smoothly with the help of ICT with greater effectiveness.

Library organization, administration, and other technical processing have become easier and more quantum of work can be done in a relaxed mood (Kimp, 2018). It is observed that the library users of Amir Shehu Idris School of Nursing and Midwifery library are been frustrated in getting access to library information resources thereby making some of them refusing to visit the library. Could this be as result of lack of use of ICT in the library? Hence. The researcher would explore and uncover the significance of ICT to special libraries.

**Research Questions**

The following research questions guide the study:

1. What are the types of ICTs tools available in Amir Shehu Idris school of Nursing and Midwifery library?
2. What are the extents of application of ICT in Amir Shehu Idris school of Nursing and Midwifery library?
3. What are the challenges militating against the application of ICT in Amir Shehu Idris school of Nursing and Midwifery library?

**Methodology**

This study employed a descriptive survey method of research. The population of the study comprises of the entire final year student of the School of Dental Technology with the total population of sixty seven (67) students and five (5) staff of readers service department of the library which a total 72 as at 2022. The stratified sampling technique was used to draw a sample of 72 respondents. This is so because it is expected that the final year students would have carried out series of academic research work while in school and are presently doing their project work. While the justification of selecting the staff of reader’s service department is so because they are directly mingle with students every time of library hours. The instrument for data collection for this study is questionnaire. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistical tools which consist of tables, frequency and percentages.

**Results**

**Research Question 1: Types of ICT tools available in the school**

**Table 1: Types of ICT tools available in the school**

<b>ICT TOOLS</b>	<b>Available</b>		<b>Not Available</b>		<b>Undecided</b>	
Computer	50	(72.4%)	0	(0%)	19	(27%)
Wireless Network	0	(0%)	49	(71%)	20	(28%)
Scanner	30	(43%)	29	(42%)	10	(14%)
Printer	50	(72%)	15	(21%)	4	(5%)
External hard disk	0	(0%)	49	(71%)	20	(28%)
Internet Service	0	(0%)	51	(96%)	18	(26%)
Photocopying Machine	54	(78.2%)	0	(0%)	15	(21%)
CD, ROMS, DVD, VCD	59	(85.50%)	0	(0%)	10	(14%)
Router			52	(75%)	17	(24.63%)
Others	0	(0%)	0	(0%)		

Table 1 shows that 50(72%) respondents indicated that computer is available in the library, 30(43%) respondents indicated that scanner is available in the library, 50(72%) respondents indicated that printer is available in the library, 54(78%) respondents indicated that there is photocopying machine available in the library, while 59(85%) respondents indicated that there is CD, ROMS, DVD, VCD in the library and 52(75%) respondents indicated that router is not available in the library. While 49(71%) respondents indicated that there are no wireless network, external hard disk, internet service, and router in the library.

**Research Question 2: What are the extent of application of ICT in the library?**

**Table 2: Extent of application of ICT in the library**

OPTIONS	USE	FREQUENT USE	PARTIAL USE	UNDECIDED
Computer	48(69%)	11(15.94%)	10(14%)	
Electronic Notice board			10 (14%)	59(85%)
Scanner	17(24.63%)	12(17.39%)	40 (57%)	
Printer	40(57.97%)	10(14.49%)	19 (27%)	
External Hard Disk			8 (11%)	61 (88%)
Internet Service			5 (7%)	64 (92%)
Photocopier	5(7.24%)	59(85.50%)	5 (7%)	
CD,DVD,CD,ROM	41 (59.42%)	13(18.84%)	15 (21%)	
Router			2 (2%)	67(97%)

As shown in the above table 2. 48(69%) of respondents indicated use, 10 (14.49%) partial use while 11(15.94%) respondents indicated frequent use of computer in the library. Notice board 59% of respondents indicated undecided. The printer indicates 40(57.97%) use, 19(27.53%) of respondents indicated partial use and 7(10.14%) response indicate frequent use, while external hard disk indicates 61(88)% of respondents as undecided, internet service 64(92%) also indicated undecided. photocopier indicated respondents with 49(71.01%) as constant use 10(14.4%) indicated frequent use, 5(7.24%) as partial use and 5(7.24%) as use whereas CD,DVD,CD,ROM had 41(59.42%) of respondents as use, 13(18.84%) and 15(21.73% ) as partial use. router indicated 67(97%) respondents as undecided.

**Research Question 3: what are the challenges militating against the application of ICT in library?**

**Table 3: Challenges militating against the application of ICT**

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
Shortage of ICT Facilities and ICT Skills	29	(42%)
Poor Maintenance of Equipment	12	(17.39%)
Erratic Power Supply	3	(4.34%)
Legal Deposit	0	(0%)
The Issue of Phobia	0	(0%)
Lack of ICT Knowledge	15	(21.73%)
High cost of ICT appliances	10	(14.50%)
Others	0	(0%)
Total	69	(100%)

Table 3 shows that 29(42%) respondents indicated shortage of ICT facilities and ICT skills, 12(17.39%) respondents indicated poor maintenance of equipment, 3(4.34%) respondents indicated erratic power supply, 15(21.73%) respondents indicated lack of ICT knowledge, and 10 (14.50%) respondents indicated high cost of the resources.

**Discussion**

From the findings of the study, it was discovered the types of ICT available in the school are computers, scanners, printer, photocopy machines with CD Roms, DVD and VCD having the highest means score of 59(85.0). The findings show that computer, printer, and photocopying machine are available in the library, but there are no sources of internet connections to provide access to library resources outside/within the library. Therefore, there is no available link to using the library E-resources. This finding is in line with the view of Omeluzor (2015) who asserted that libraries were mostly faced with challenges of poor information technology infrastructure development.

Findings of the respondents in the extent of application of ICT in the library revealed that CD Roms, DVD and VCD, printers and computers are mostly used in the library with the high mean scores while the rest items are partially used. This finding agrees with the findings of Shiyakumar (2017) who reported that ICT's in libraries have brought about tremendous improvement and opportunities to render more efficient, effective and up-to-date services.

The findings of the respondents affirmed that challenges militating against the application of ICT were shortage of ICT facilities and ICT skills, poor maintenance of equipments, lack of ICT knowledge, erratic power failure and high cost of ICT appliance are the major challenged militating application of ICT in the library. Based on the table shortage of ICT facilities and ICT skills having the highest mean score of 29 (42 %.). Followed by lack of knowledge with 15 (21.73%) and poor maintenance of equipment with 10 (14.50%) respectively. This finding confirmed with the findings of Omoosekejimi et al (2015) that identified lack of awareness, insufficient bandwidth, high cost of internet connectivity and lack of electronic information resources as challenges militating against application of ICT in library.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the findings of this study showed that ICTs tools are very and important to Amir Shehu Idris School of Nursing and Midwifery library. It further showed that the availability and effective utilization of ICTs tools in will help improve the performance of students.

### **Recommendations**

1. The management of Amir Shehu Idris School of Nursing and Midwifery should make provision of ICT facilities available in the library such as internet facilities, external harddrives, and wireless network among other in order to cope up with the global changes.
2. Library management of the school should encourage the application of ICT in areas of library operations through the provision of application software, system software and other accessories to meet up with the ever increasing demands of the clients.
3. Provision of adequate funds the library to purchase ICT equipment and other computers accessories while staff training on used ICT to be conducted periodically. And lastly students should be enlightened on how best to use these facilities to prevent destruction and break down this can be achieved through library orientation.

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