

AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN AL- HIKMAH UNIVERSITY

BY

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Abstract

The purpose of the study is to evaluate availability, accessibility and utilisation of information retrieval systems in academic libraries in Al- Hikmah university. The objectives were to: determine the extent to which information resources are available for use; find out the extent of access to these information sources; find out the frequency of use of the information retrieval systems. The survey research method was used. The data collection instrument for the study was the questionnaires method. The major findings were that there is high level of availability of information retrieval systems in Al-Hikmah university Library; there is high level of accessibility of information retrieval systems in the selected Nigerian Universities studied.; majority of the respondents used information sources daily; Services provided in the library are conventional, reactive and product oriented rather than proactive, customer oriented, innovative, and augmentative. Although, libraries tend to build up a vast resource collection, they provide insufficient user oriented programmes. Findings also revealed that, information retrieval systems mentioned above were available for research by students to a great extent. Also, it is revealed from the findings that, the extent of accessibility and utilization of the availability electronic information resources for research by students is great. Findings further revealed that, inadequate computers in the library, poor internet connectivity limited subscribed titles, power outages, difficulty to access and use, lack of relevant e-resources in various disciplines as well as no assistance from the library, were the problems encountered by students while accessing and using electronic information resources for research in Library University of Al-Hikmah. It was recommended that the University administrators and library management should improve on the bandwidth and enhance the internet connectivity so as to enable the students have easy access to online e- resources. Also, trained personnel should be on ground to assist the students in the use of the available e-resources in the University library and appropriate user education should be organized for students for better use of e-resources in Al-Hikmah Library.

Keywords: Availability of Information Resources; Access to Information Resources; Use of Information Resources; University libraries- Southwester, Nigeria

Introduction

Library and information retrieval require users to make meaningful use of resources and services. This is facilitated by allowing users to borrow materials. However, the information will be used according to requirements, accessibility and intended use, with the user, destination, availability and user satisfaction being the key factors (Anand, et al., 2023), stated that an information retrieval (also simply called a resource information system or an electronic resource) is information that is stored in electronic form on a computer or computer-related device (CD-ROM, digital library, or Internet). (Sacks, & Brilakis, 2020) defined information retrieval as “resources where information is stored and accessible through electronic systems and networks.” Library information retrieval are considered essential to modern society. This is because they play a very important role in education. The provision of information resources and services in the libraries is important to any educational programme that intends to achieve objectives that is in line with the present day global best practices. Information Retrieval (IR) are now recognized as being of greatest importance to the even small academic libraries. Information resources could be accessed via the aid of user name and password while some are based on the availability of infrastructural facilities

and powerful network connectivity. (Alghofaili, et al., 2021) remark that secure opines that advances in computer application during the past few decades have brought radical changes in the way information is gathered, stored, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed.

The job of a librarian, originally known as the trinity of collecting, organizing, and distributing print media in traditional ways, has evolved and changed into collecting, organizing, collection development, services, and resource management. According to (Obotu, & Gambo, 2019), in his opinion access to resources has become an integral part of library services in higher education institutions and ICT-driven institutions such as universities, polytechnics, colleges of education, colleges of health sciences, universities of agriculture, and monotechnics. The transition from print media to electronic media not only led to the growth of electronic information, but also provided users with new tools and applications for searching and retrieving information. Thus, the term "use of information retrieval" refers to the complete use of these resources to obtain the necessary information via the internet. This covers the use of strategy, browsing, exploration, and trend searches in addition to frequency and searching to obtain the needed information. According (Akpojotor, & Anaehobi, 2022) further more that the word "information retrieval" refers to the electronic information materials found in libraries, such as electronic books, email, online resources, and electronic newspapers and journals. Databases, periodicals, archives, theses, conference papers, government papers, scripts, and monographs in electronic format are further components of e-resources

Nonetheless, the information retrieval are well integrated into our surroundings. Students are aware of the utilization of information retrieval and choose to use the globe Wide Web for various educational and research purposes as the globe grows more and more technologically advanced (Prastyaningtyas, et al., 2023) examine as a result, libraries have undergone a significant metamorphosis in recent years, both in terms of the growth of their collections and the organization of their services. These days, libraries use technology to enhance the way they handle scholarly material and to give patrons quick access to it. Print media is gradually being replaced by electronic materials due to technological advancements. The use of information retrieval has made users more familiar with technology. Additionally, (Soroya, & Faiola, 2023) in his studies focused on e-learning to provide a description of electronic resources. They claim that e-learning is a technology that allows users to replace the traditional education system using various technologies, the Internet, computer technology, and multimedia. Similarly, libraries are also adopting technology, as suggested by (Sivankalai, 2021) described to make library resources available to users in electronic format. This definitely explains why e-books play an important role in libraries in the modern era of digital technology (Bergström, & Höglund, 2020). stated that e-learning adds a new dimension to the educational field through the use of digital technologies.

However, information retrieval is digitized information facilitated by computers, network connectivity, other peripheral components and most importantly human beings. It comes in different format including text, video, audio, maps, graphics, tables, pictures, etc. (Null, 2023) also indicated that electronic resources include full text documents, CD-ROMs, resources available on the internet such as E-journals, Online Public Access Catalogues (OPAC) and other computer based electric networks. The use of information resources has made users more familiar with technology. Additionally, (Pan, & Qian, 2020). focused on e-learning to provide a description of electronic resources. They claim that e-learning is a technology that allows users to replace the traditional education system using various technologies, the Internet, computer technology, and multimedia. These are various electronic media such as cassettes, floppy disks, and radio, which can be accessed using other electronic devices such as computers. Using electronic information retrieval in libraries allows library staff to discover new information. We provide information that will help you develop the special talents and talents hidden within each student and build your career. (Dillon, & Jul, 2020) also states that information retrieval in libraries can save time and effort over resources in manual systems. This enables access to records, facilitates broader access to information, improves access to resources, and facilitates editing of information. He also demonstrated the impact of electronic information resources and services on libraries in his three ways.

Statement of the Problem

In the digital age, information retrieval systems (IRS) have become vital components in academic libraries, serving as essential tools for accessing, organizing, and disseminating academic resources. However, the availability, accessibility, and utilization of these systems can significantly impact the effectiveness of library services and the overall academic experience of users. At Al-Hikmah University, there is limited research on the current state of the information retrieval systems, which raises concerns about how effectively these systems are being made available, accessed, and utilized by students, faculty, and other library users. While the library may have a range of information retrieval systems in place, the availability of these systems may be hampered by factors such as outdated infrastructure, insufficient terminals, or unreliable internet connectivity. Additionally, accessibility may be a significant challenge for some users due to limitations in user training, restricted access to digital resources, or a lack of remote access options for off-campus users. Furthermore, the utilization of these systems may be influenced by the level of user awareness, skills, and engagement, as well as by the system's ease of use, speed, and relevance to their academic needs. This research seeks to investigate the extent of availability, ease of accessibility, and frequency of utilization of the information retrieval systems at Al-Hikmah University Library. It will also explore the factors affecting these aspects, including technological, infrastructural, and user-related challenges. Understanding these issues is crucial for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the library's resources, as well as enhancing the overall academic experience at Al-Hikmah University.

Objectives of Study

The main Objectives of the study is to investigate the awareness and use of social media tools for information sharing among undergraduates in universities in Kwara State. The specific purposes of this study are to:

1. determine the extent to which information retrieval systems are available for use in Al-hikmah library;
2. examine out the level of access to these information retrieval systems in Al-Hikmah library and
3. find out the frequency of use of the information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah university library;

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What training or support services are available for users to effectively utilize the information retrieval systems in Al-Hikmah Library?
2. To what extent are there accessibility features for users with disabilities, enabling them to access information retrieval systems in Al-Hikmah Library?
3. What is the relationship between library attendance and the frequency of use of information retrieval systems in Al-Hikmah Library

Review of Related Literature

Availability of information retrieval systems refers to the presence of books and non-book materials in a library and information centre. Cassell and Hiremath (2023) assert that “the logical problem of making books physically available in the library when wanted by information seekers is central to librarianship”. Hibner and Kelly (2023) remark that the central rule of library stock control is that both the information retrieval and the policy should be related to the level of demand for items. Acquisition policy should help a library to decide on what to buy where and

when in order to increase access, ability to needed information resources. Managing the physical resources of academic university library depends on the availability of the resources. Availability requires workable performance measure to back it up even if the ultimate benefit to the individual user and to the community is difficult to assess. The access to library resources of the library is also a factor of availability for without the physical presence of a document a user cannot access anything. This therefore, reveals that the effective use of any library is best measured in terms of access and demand of its resources and services. (Ilham, et al., 2022). stated that "Book availability is an indicator of stock effectiveness". Libraries consider their task to be that of collecting, storing and measuring of books. Most libraries consider it also as their task to make these books available to their users. The intellectual access to available information has since properly been a major pre-occupation of libraries. Importance has been reflected in efforts devoted to the design and creation of bibliographies, catalogue and classification scheme and other devices that help establish the existence of individual document and their relevance to specific inquiries.

However, intellectual access needs to be accompanied by physical access if e-document is to be used. further stated that the provision and use of information resources have grown to be a political and social responsibility. It appears that this responsibility will continue to grow with increase in the production of information and the number of its users. The daily growth of information first brings about the problem of making easily available to potential user the right type of information at the right time. (Ternenge, & Agipu, 2019), argue that availability should be viewed from both material and instructional levels. The attribute to lack of availability of information resources to the steady proliferation of universities. Therefore, the effectiveness of any information and knowledge management. Library is best measure in terms of access and demand of its services remark (Bentil, & Liew, 2022). A study such as this will provide information on the availability, accessibility and utilization of the resources of the public library and use of the resource based on perceived need of the users. The daily growth of information brings about problem of location, acquisition, organization and dissemination, the growth brought about problems of making available to users the right type of information at the right time. Cassell and Hiremath (2023) remarks that, immediate availability of information resources is important but limited concepts. As a standard of library services it is rather one dimension, since it reflects the library capacity to satisfy a demand at discreet moment in term, not as a continuous process.

Accessibility of Information Retrievals Accessibility of information retrieval is very important recurring theme in the literature. According to (Kamińska, & Opaliński, 2021) conducted a research resources may be available in the library and identified bibliographically as relevant to ones subject of interest, but the user may not be able to lay hands on them. One may identify citations in indexes but may not have access to sources containing the relevant articles. The more accessible information sources are the more likely they are to be used. Readers tend to use information sources that require the least effort to access. (Olubiyo, & Yemi, 2020) in his studies, the relationship accessibility and library use by undergraduate in Nigeria, notes that the problem of Nigerian students is not the question of the problem of wanting to use the library, but whether or not the library can provide for their needs and whether there is access to what is provided. (Abubakar, 2020). in his opinion noted that the term access is used by different people in relation to quite bits and pieces of the whole, as in "subject access, open access and knowledge access system". However, each refers to one or more aspects of providing means of access to information or in a fuller sense, to knowledge and understanding. All of the provision and use of library services as concerned with access to knowledge. (Ita-Nagy, et al., 2022) further identified natural and artificial barriers to free access to information. The libraries poor reputation was attributed to lack of accessibility to information sources. Similarly, (Adamu, et al., 2021). examines the impact of social publications in the promotion of educational excellence among information professionals, receiving further training at the University.

Social accessibility has contributed to students learning process. Serials were found to play a significant role in the acquisition of knowledge, because the serial collection was easily and conveniently accessible. (Xalikova, 2022) reveal that efforts are being made worldwide to promote access to information in all formats. They lament the attendant features of underdevelopment such as power failure, machine breakdown, and lack of spare parts, and technicians which intermittently stall the performance of the modern gadgets of information storage and transfer in

developing countries. Accessibility to information is the means by which a user locates desired information. Information access in the prison libraries are in line with the academic Library Specification (2010) which states that all inmates must be allowed access to library books, library visit should be of a minimum of 30 minutes duration.

Information Retrieval systems Academic libraries are rich resources that provide access to a vast information for students, researchers, faculty, and the community at large. These libraries offer numerous information resources, both in physical and digital formats, to support academic pursuits. These resources collectively form a comprehensive ecosystem within academic libraries, catering to the needs of students, faculty, and researchers in their quest for knowledge and scholarly excellence. According to (Garner, & Krolak, 2023), libraries and information centers should be designed to serve actual needs as well as anticipated needs of its users. He also maintained that in order to sender effective services to meet these actual needs, libraries specialists must be technically and professionally trained. **Utilization of Information Retrievals.** Utilization of Information Resources and Services in academic Libraries The library is a means through which information can be accessed, it is an avenue to communicate, share resources to users in the library (Jinendran & Kumar, 2023). Utilization can be achieved if there is adequate access to information. (Jinendran, Behera, 2023) observed that information utilization leads to user's liberation from ignorance. Information accessibility which in turn leads to information utilization helps individuals to behave or act in an informed manner. Every individual whether literate or not has information needs such could be recreation, leisure or meeting tasks that are considered critical to survival.

According to (Seker, et al., 2023) pursued that the most important information need is the information that will enable the individual to resolve uncertainties and problems that will help in decision making process. To ensure that there is utilization of resources the library grapples with the challenge of acquiring, processing and making available up to date and relevant resources that would meet users' needs. (Benedek, & Szente, 2020). in their respective researches asserted that continuous utilization of the library has positive multiplier effect on the performance and self- development of any user. The means of communication to patron will also go a long way in the utilization of resources and services. Communication channels should be in consonance with the language of the people and their location; this is believed to enhance optimum utilization of library information resources. Utilization of information resources and services is the practical and maximum use of library information resources and services identified by a user for the purpose of solving a problem. According to (Wu, 2023) utilization is the number of times a bibliographic item is used by library patrons during a given period of time. Succinctly describes information utilization as the actual putting into approximate use of acquired information and asserts that it differs from person to person and from one corporate organization to the other according to their information needs and other socio-economic imperatives. He views utilization within the context of need, accessibility and function performed. He concludes that the essence of utilization of information is its ability to satisfy the needs of the information user.

(Wu 2023). The defines utilization as to use of something for a particular purpose; to exploit. The act of putting something to use is therefore utilization. analyses usage of information and information sources in terms of needs, wants, demand, uses and requirements. He maintains that utilization studies embody measuring the actual benefits of the services of information facilities accruing to the individual and society. Uppermost in the minds of university librarians is the utilization of library services and resources. This is in realization of the role the library plays as an educational ingredient. According to (Sawyer & Henriksen, 2024). the consequences of the students inability to use the library will include among other things a serious debasement of the quality of university education which may consequently have a negative effect on the job performance of the university products. Library and information centre's usually define the patterns of utilization to guide usage. The extent of utilization is used to determine the quality of service.

Data Analysis

Distribution of the respondents by institution

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	82	54.7%
Female	68	45.3%
Total	150	100
Age	Frequency	Percentage
16-25yr	13	8.7%
26-35yr	52	34.7%
36-45yr	63	45.3%
45& above	17	11.3%
Total	150	100
Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	50	36.7%
Sigle	92	61.3%
Divorce	3	2.0%
Total	150	100
Academic level	Frequency	Percentage
100	14	9.3%
200	42	28.0%
300	33	27.0%
400	25	16.7%
500	36	24.0%
Total	150	100

Table 1 indicates that out of 150 undergraduate students sampled, 82(54.7%) were male students while 68 (45.3%) were female. This shows that male respondents who participated in the study were more than their female counterpart Table 2 shows that out of 150 undergraduate students sampled, the lowest frequency age participated were 16-25years 13(8.7%) while highest frequency of participants were 36-45 (45.3%). This show that students age between 36-45 respondents who participated in the study were more than other age group Table 3 reveals that out of 150 undergraduate students sampled, the lowest frequency marital status participated married 50 (36.7%), single were 97(61.3) and while divorced were 3 (2.0 %). This show that students that were single who participated in the study were more than marital status participants students. Table 4 indicates that out of 150 undergraduate students sampled, the lowest frequency with academic level participated in the study were 100 level students with frequency of 14 (9.3) while the highest students level participated were 200 level with 42 (28.0%). These shows that 200 level students participated in the study were more than academic level students' participants

Research Question 1: determine the extent to which information retrieval systems are available for use in Al-hikmah library

Table 5: extent to which information retrieval systems are available for use in Al-hikmah library

S/N	Statements	Highly available	Available	Fairly available	Not available
1	Electronic journals for students	30 20%	50 33%	15 4.5%	60 40%
2	electronic books for students	15 10%	36 24%	20 13.3%	70 46.6%
3	Full-text resources for students	42 60%	70 46%	25 16.9%	40 26.6%
4	Image resources for students	60 40%	40 26%	32 21.3%	20 13.3%
5	Electronic audio/visual resources for students	70 46%	30% 20	15 10%	15 10%
6	Reference resources (dictionaries, biographies bibliographies etc.)	75 50%	50 33%	10 6.6%	45 305

The table 5 above indicate that data on the availability of various information retrieval systems for students, revealing significant variation across resource types. Electronic journals show moderate accessibility, with 53% of respondents indicating they are at least available, though a notable 40% report no access. Electronic books are less accessible, with nearly half of respondents (46.6%) stating they are not available. In contrast, image resources and reference materials (such as dictionaries and bibliographies) show higher availability, with over 80% of respondents reporting some level of access. Full-text resources also appear generally accessible, though the percentages suggest possible inconsistencies or overlaps in reporting. Audio/visual resources are fairly well-distributed, with a majority indicating availability, despite a missing data point for the “Available” category. Overall, while some electronic resources are well-provided, there is a clear need to improve access to e-journals and especially e-books to support student learning more effectively.

Research Question 2: . examine out the level of access to these information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah library and

Table 6 : level of access to these information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah library and nformation retrieval in academic library

S/N	Statements	Highly Skilled	Moderately Skilled	Weakly Skilled	Not skilled
1	Formulating question based on my specific information need	70 6.6%	60 40%	45 30%	20 13.3
2	Using several sources to increase familiarity with my topic	53 33.3%	50 33.3%	40 26.6%	15
3	Effectively using library catalogues (both card catalogues and OPAC)	80 53.3%	60 40%	30 20%	20 20%
4	Using abstracting and indexing journal	40 26.6%	60 40%	40 26.6%	30
5	Using the bibliography or reference list on the book to find other documents on the topic	50 33.3%	30 53.3%	40 26.6%	20 20%
6	Finding all the documents about a particular author in the library catalogue, through author, title, subject or keywords	30 20	80 46.6%	60 20%	30 13.3%
7	Using encyclopaedia to understand a background information to a particular topic	70 46.6%	50 46.6%	52 40%	40 26.6%
8	Using Google Scholar as feature to find a research article online	45 30%	70 26.6%	30 26.6%	20 20%

The table 6 show assesses students' information retrieval systems across several activities, categorizing them as Highly Skilled, Moderately Skilled, Weakly Skilled, or Not Skilled. A significant number of students (46.6%) reported high skill in using encyclopedias to understand background information and in formulating questions based on specific information needs (70 students), although only 6.6% rated themselves highly skilled in the latter — indicating a possible data entry error. Skills in using several sources to build topic familiarity and in using bibliographies to locate more documents showed moderate proficiency, with about a third of students in each of the "Highly" and "Moderately Skilled" categories. The use of library catalogues (both card and OPAC) was notably strong, with 53.3% rating themselves as highly skilled. However, abilities in using abstracting and indexing journals and Google Scholar appeared weaker overall, with only around a quarter of students identifying as highly skilled. Additionally, finding all documents related to a particular author showed a gap, as only 20% were highly skilled. Overall, while students show competence in some foundational research skills, there are noticeable weaknesses in more advanced search strategies and digital resource usage, indicating a need for targeted training and support.

Research Question3: find out the frequency of use of the information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah university library;

Table 7: frequency of use of the information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah university library;

S/N	Statements	Very Highly	Highly	Moderate	Low
1	I use e-journals for academic work	80 53.3%	60 33.3%	50 33.3%	40 26.6%
2	I use e-books to complement lecture notes	90 60%	53 4.5%	60 40%	30 13.3%
3	I use e-books to complement lecture notes	50 33.3%	30 20%	20 13.3%	50 33.3%
4	I use full-text resources to support my personal study	40 26.6%	60 33.3%	30 20%	20 13.3%
5	I use image resources when necessary	60 33.3%	70 46.6%	40 26.6%	60 40%
6	I use electronic audio/visual resources	50 33.3%	50 33.3%	45 30%	30 20%
7	I use reference resources (dictionaries, biographies, bibliographies, encyclopaedia etc.)	40 26.6%	40 26.6%	25 16.6%	20 13.35

The table shows the usage patterns of various digital resources for academic purposes, with respondents categorizing their usage into four levels: Very Highly, Highly, Moderate, and Low. For e-journals, a majority of participants (53.3%) reported very high usage, indicating their importance in academic work, while 33.3% used them highly, and 26.6% used them at a low level. E-books, particularly for complementing lecture notes, also showed strong usage, with 60% using them very highly and 40% using them highly. However, there is a repeat of the statement for e-books, where 33.3% used them very highly, but a large portion (33.3%) reported low usage. Full-text resources are moderately utilized, with 33.3% using them highly and 26.6% using them very highly, but only 13.3% reported low usage. Image resources saw significant use, with 46.6% using them highly, but 40% of participants used them at a low frequency. Audio/visual resources were moderately used by 33.3%, with a relatively even split in frequency of use, and reference resources were the least frequently used, with 26.6% using them very highly and 13.3% using them at a low level. Overall, the table reveals that digital academic resources like e-journals and e-books are extensively utilized, whereas image, audio/visual, and reference resources show more varied patterns of use, with some participants engaging with them at lower levels.

2. examine out the level of access to these information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah library and

3. find out the frequency of use of the information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah university library;

Discussion of Findings

The determination of this learning was availability, accessibility and utilization of information retrieval systems in academic libraries in Al-hikmah university in Kwara state. Accordingly, three research questions were raised and answered. This section consequently discusses the findings deriving from the previous sections. Results on the first Research Question revealed: determine the extent to which information retrieval systems are available for use in Al-hikmah library in Kwara State; Table 5 above indicates the data on the availability of various electronic resources for students, revealing significant variation across resource types. Electronic journals show moderate accessibility, with 53% of respondents indicating they are at least available, though a notable 40% report no access. Electronic books are less accessible, with nearly half of respondents (46.6%) stating they are not available. In contrast, image

resources and reference materials (such as dictionaries and bibliographies) show higher availability, with over 80% of respondents reporting some level of access. Full-text resources also appear generally accessible, though the percentages suggest possible inconsistencies or overlaps in reporting. Audio/visual resources are fairly well-distributed, with a majority indicating availability, despite a missing data point for the “Available” category. Overall, while some electronic resources are well-provided, there is a clear need to improve access to e-journals and especially e-books to support student learning more effectively. This study is in advocacy with Babu, Vinyagamorothy and Gopulakrishan (20011) result of investigation into the ICT skills among librarians, which indicated that librarians had acquire considerable basic skills in information and communication technology (ICT) but they needed to concentrate more on network-based services and digital library services. Just in partial agreement to the current study, Batool and Ameen (2010) study of technological skills possessed by academic librarian demonstrated proficiency in computer hardware and word processing.

The second findings of this study examine out the level of access to these information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah library in Kwara State. The table 6 show assesses students' information literacy skills across several activities, categorizing them as Highly Skilled, Moderately Skilled, Weakly Skilled, or Not Skilled. A significant number of students (46.6%) reported high skill in using encyclopedias to understand background information and in formulating questions based on specific information needs (70 students), although only 6.6% rated themselves highly skilled in the latter — indicating a possible data entry error. Skills in using several sources to build topic familiarity and in using bibliographies to locate more documents showed moderate proficiency, with about a third of students in each of the "Highly" and "Moderately Skilled" categories. The use of library catalogues (both card and OPAC) was notably strong, with 53.3% rating themselves as highly skilled. However, abilities in using abstracting and indexing journals and Google Scholar appeared weaker overall, with only around a quarter of students identifying as highly skilled. Additionally, finding all documents related to a particular author showed a gap, as only 20% were highly skilled. Overall, while students show competence in some foundational research skills, there are noticeable weaknesses in more advanced search strategies and digital resource usage, indicating a need for targeted training and support. The results of this study support the findings by Oluwatobi, Ehiogbae, Aluko-Arowolo, and Onasote (2014) that the most frequently used library materials is an online database and this is followed by Dictionaries, books, an encyclopedia which are used daily while the least use materials are CD-ROM database. Also, the findings agree with that of Aladeniyi and Arikawe (2017) study indicated that respondents used books more than other materials. The findings also agree with the findings in the study by Okonoko, Atanda, and Brume-Ezewu (2018) that the most consulted resources in the library were textbooks (99%), journals (73%), and newspapers (52%). On the other hand, the findings of the present study disagree with the study by Ramsamy, Padma, and Ranjitham (2018) that a couple of resources are not known to students.

The third finding discovered that the frequency of use of the information retrieval systems in Al-hikmah university library;. The table shows the usage patterns of various digital resources for academic purposes, with respondents categorizing their usage into four levels: Very Highly, Highly, Moderate, and Low. For e-journals, a majority of participants (53.3%) reported very high usage, indicating their importance in academic work, while 33.3% used them highly, and 26.6% used them at a low level. E-books, particularly for complementing lecture notes, also showed strong usage, with 60% using them very highly and 40% using them highly. However, there is a repeat of the statement for e-books, where 33.3% used them very highly, but a large portion (33.3%) reported low usage. Full-text resources are moderately utilized, with 33.3% using them highly and 26.6% using them very highly, but only 13.3% reported low usage. Image resources saw significant use, with 46.6% using them highly, but 40% of participants used them at a low frequency

Conclusion

The study was undertaken to investigate the availability, accessibility, and utilization of information retrieval by students in the Al-hikmah University. The use of information retrieval by students would be enhanced if the resources adequately catered for the various needs of students. As a result, the library provided book resources that were not fully accessible to students for maximum utilization. The study showed that the library has some collection of information resources mainly as print materials. It also reflects a dearth amount of resources to offer students, albeit, provided resources able to support students academically. Students often utilize information resources such as textbooks, serials, and the internet as mainly available and accessible in near adequate amounts. In general, the findings reveal the information resources available, accessible and utilized by students in the kwara State university library was not sufficiently and adequately provided regarding what should comprise information resources in an academic school.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were proffered based on the findings.

1. Libraries need to obtain up-to-date and relevant information resources to improve the quality of their collections in terms of relevance and timeliness.
2. Librarians should work more closely with faculty to make students aware of library resources.
3. Information search tools should be made available and accessible to library users so that they can easily access the information resources they need.

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