

Contributions of the MTN Digital Library Resources on the Academic Performance of Undergraduate Students in University Of Benin

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The main objective of this paper is to find out the contributions of the MTN digital library resources to the academic performance of undergraduate students in University of Benin, Nigeria.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The study adopted survey research design. The population of the study comprised of undergraduate students of the University who registered in the library for the 2017/2018 academic session. Random sampling was used to select 300 students that formed the sample for the study. Questionnaire was used for data collection. A total of 300 copies of the questionnaire were administered out of which 274 copies were dully filled and returned correctly representing 91.3% response rate. The collected data was analyzed using the SPSS for statistical analysis and frequency and percentage was used to present result for the research questions raised while the t-test analysis was used to test hypothesis.

Findings: The findings from the study revealed that most students do make use of the MTN E-library although none uses it daily, the purpose of use of MTN e-library by the undergraduate students under study was perceived to be mainly for assignment, examinations and research purposes. The use of MTN library has imparted positively on the academic performance of students. The study revealed that there was a significant difference in the academic performance of undergraduates who use the University of Benin MTN e-library/resources and those who do not make use of it.

Implication: Although the use of the MTN digital library/resources had contributed tremendously to the academic performance of the undergraduate students of University of Benin, the fact that a number of students are not using the facility could be due to unawareness or lack of skill on the use of digital library/resources, or simply ignorance of the gains of using such facilities. This necessitates an awareness and orientation programmes to sensitize students and encourage greater patronage.

Originality/Value: It was recommended that efforts should be channeled towards sustaining the digital library/resources by way of making fund available for updating of the facilities, subscribing to more databases library management should consider the expansion of the MTN Foundation and even decentralization as we have in faculty libraries.

Keywords: Digital Library, Digital resources, MTN, Academic performance, Undergraduate Students

Paper type: Empirical research

Introduction

The vital place of digital information resources in university libraries in its effort to attain its goal of aiding teaching learning and research cannot be over emphasized. Consequently, the pivotal role of digital information resources in the provision of quality education for national development is no longer an issue of debate. It is obvious that quality education cannot be obtained without the provision of quality and relevant

information resources for undergraduate students. This assertion is supported by Mohamed, Alhassan and Oyedun (2018), who in their study revealed that quality of information...has positive impact on the academic performance of undergraduate students. In turn, the place of digital library in the provision of vital information resources, for academic enhancement, can no longer be ignored. The drive of the university libraries in Nigeria therefore, must be towards the

provision of digital libraries/resources in achieving the primary purpose of universities which according to Ekhuagere (2004) is to support teaching, learning and research task of like e-book, e-journals, e-magazines, online test journals, e-discussions, e-news, emails among others (Okiki and Asiru, 2011).

It was the need to achieve this goal that informed the emergence of the MTN e-resource library in University of Benin. Thanuskodi (2012) observed that due to the effective presentation with multimedia tools, e-resources have become a more desirable source of information for students. This might explain the heavy patronage experienced by the MTN e-resource library in University of Benin. A number of studies have been made in the area of undergraduate use of e-resources (Nwabueze & Urhiewhu, 2015) with a view to providing library management framework for policy planning and implementation as regards the need and usefulness of digital library resources. However, little or no efforts have been recorded in ascertaining the contribution of the MTN foundation e-resources to the academic activities of the undergraduates of the University of Benin. This is the gap which the researchers intend to fill. The purpose of this study therefore is to investigate the contribution of the MTN electronic library /resources on the academic performance of undergraduate students in university of Benin.

Statement of the problem

The whole essence of MTN foundation library in Nigeria, and indeed every other digital/e-library within universities confinement is to enhance academic excellence by linking users of such library to all arrays of scholarly materials. Unfortunately, there seems to be a complete departure from the goals and aspiration of both the university system and the MTN foundation digital library on the use of these resources and what contribution it is making in their academic pursuit. Students have been found to be engaging in un-academic activities - socializing via social media such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Yahoo, Instagram, Gmail, etc. The question is whether e-libraries and in particular MTN foundation of the University of Benin are more of distraction rather than aid to learning. Ascertaining the contribution of the

universities. This is so because e-library facilitates the use of electronic resources which are available in forms

MTN digital library/resources on the academic performance of undergraduate students in university of Benin will help to answer this question.

Research Questions

The following research questions are therefore raised to guide the study.

1. What is the frequency of use of MTN e-library by undergraduate students of University of Benin?
2. What is the student's perception of the purpose of use of MTN e-library by the undergraduate students under study?
3. What is the student's perception of the contribution of MTN e-library on the academic performance of the students?

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the academic performance of undergraduates who use the University of Benin MTN e-library/resources and those who do not make use of it.

Literature Review

The need for the provision of digital library/resources has become so glaring and almost indispensable in learning circle especially in the universities. Sun & Yuan (2012), expanded this view by stating that Digital libraries promise new societal benefits, starting with the elimination of the time and space constraints of the traditional bricks-and-mortar libraries. Also, Ekere, Omekwu and Nwoha (2016) noted that digital libraries are increasingly becoming part of school systems in many countries in Africa. According to Obaseki, Umeji & Krubu (2010), Digital Information Resources connotes those information resources which before now were in print form but currently found in non-print form (soft copy) and are accessible through computer machines and corresponding ICT tools.

In his view, Shariful (2012); said that Digital Information Resources (DIRs) are those resources that deal with both born electronic and digitized materials which can be either accessible from library's in house database or

from the world-wide-web. Smith (2001) defined a digital library as an organized and focused collection of digital objects, including text, images, video and audio, with the methods of access and retrieval and for the selection, creation, organization, maintenance and sharing of collection. According to Thanuskodi (2012), e-resources are the electronic representation of information. Okiki and Asiru, (2011) noted that electronic resources are available in various forms like e-books, e-journal, e-magazine, e-learning tutors e-discussions, e-news, e-data archives, among others.

E-library connotes a library which collections are computerized, held in electronic devices forming a database and are linked to the internet connectivity such that they are accessible to all irrespective of location or any form of restriction. Electronic libraries also referred to as digital or virtual library facilitates the use of electronic resources. Among the obvious and valid advantages of e-library and e-resources includes user friendly interface, access information 24*7 hours, access by several users simultaneity (Bhardwaj & Sharma: 2015), accessible, easily searchable, speed, inexpensive, flexibility (The Librarian; 2012), multi-access, large content, saving physical space, convenience and time and money saving. Ukachi and John-Okeke (2012) noted that adequate utilization of MTN resources by students will enhance their academic performance and assist in making them assets to the society. Rosenberg (2005) opined that the changing academic environment and the recognition of the role of electronic information resources in libraries has brought about a transformation which includes an investment in electronic infrastructure and connectivity and electronic learning which calls for new approaches in providing library services to enhance the quality of higher education.

UNESCO (2003) report recommended that there was a compelling need for the development of virtual libraries for higher education institutions in Nigeria. According to UNESCO, the Virtual Library is to have full text databases in all fields of study and also indigenous content and will enable access to

large information repositories such as the Harvard University on-line library, when it completes the digitization of the 10 million books contained in that Library. This implies that Nigerian users can then have access to the same materials, at the same moment that staff and students of Harvard University have access to their materials.

To these effects, MTN have successfully linked up four Nigeria universities through its MTN foundation library in university of Lagos, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, University of Nigeria Nsukka and University of Benin. Universities Connect library was commissioned at University of Lagos (UNILAG) in December 2005 and the second phase at Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria in 2007 with over 200 computers with internet connectivity and access to over 5,500 libraries and 300 published works worldwide. University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) in 2008 and University of Benin (UNIBEN) followed afterwards in 2011.MTN.

The objectives of the MTN Universities Connect (Net Libraries) includes to:

- Provide academic research to staff and students of institutions of higher learning in the country.
- Provide staff and students with access to academic research
- Try and move from analogue to digital by digitizing the libraries for better accessibility.
- Empower communities through the provision of Information Technology (IT)
- Enable skills acquisition, transfer and development.
- Raise the national literacy level.
- Provide educational resources for effective learning.
- Enhance educational infrastructural development by providing faculty, students, and staff with easy access to educational technology.
- Train students on how to use technology to source, communicate and manage information effectively in the electronic information environment.
- Redesign curriculum drawn on computer-based research skills.
- Integrate information technology into ongoing campus life by making all information of interest available online.

As Akintunde (2006) observed, institutions having MTN foundation now have access to over 5500 libraries and 300 publishers. This noble project of MTN in part have triggered lots of drive among other universities in Nigeria for a digital library and to keep pace with best practice across the world. Given its cost and the overall patronage of the foundation library by students of university of Benin, it becomes simply imperative to determine the contribution of the MTN foundation library on the academic performance of students for precision and accuracy.

Methodology

The study was based on survey method. The target population for the study comprised all the undergraduate students of the University of Benin who registered in John

Harris Library for the 2017/2018 academic session. The registered students as indicated by the circulation unit statistics is 3002 students. Random sampling was used to select 300 students that formed the sample for the study. Questionnaire was used as the tool to collect data. A structured questionnaire was prepared keeping in view the basic objectives of the study. The questionnaire for the research consists of both optional type and statements in a 4-point scale. A total of 300 questionnaires were distributed and 274 dully filled in questionnaires were received and found usable, thus resulting into a response rate of 91.3%. The collected data was analyzed using the SPSS for statistical analysis and frequency and percentage was used to present result for the research questions raised while the t-test analysis was used to test hypothesis.

Table: 1Frequency of Undergraduate use of MTN library

Used	Daily	More than once a week	Weekly	Occasionally	Total
0(0%)	107(39.1%)	76 (27.7%)	34(12.4%)	217 (79.2%)	
Never Used					57 (20.8%)
Total					274 (100%)

From Table 1 above, it is seen that a total of 217 (79.2) respondents used MTN library at different levels while 57 (20.8%) respondents never used the e-library. It means that the MTN

e-library of the University of Benin enjoys very good patronage by the undergraduate students.

Table 2: Perceived purpose of using the MTN foundation library

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Do Assignment	138(50.4%)	102(37.2%)	24(8.8%)	10(3.6%)	274(100%)
Read for Examination	114(41.6%)	95(34.7%)	45(16.4%)	20(7.3%)	274(100%)
Get wider knowledge	137(50%)	89(32.5%)	26(9.5%)	22(8%)	274(100%)
Chat with friends on Facebook	28(10.2%)	31(11.3%)	191(69.7%)	24(8.8%)	274(100%)
Download materials for later use	99(36.1%)	71(25.9%)	62(22.6%)	42(15.3%)	274(100%)

From table above, item 1 has 138(50.4%) of respondents strongly agree that assignment is the reason for using internet, 102(37.2%) also agree to that notion, 24(8.8%) of the respondents disagree that assignment is the only reason for entering internet, while 10(3.6%) strongly disagree. It is equally observed that all the items above, with the

exception of chat with friends on facebook, received positive responses. It therefore shows that most students perceive that the purpose of use of the MTN e-library/resources is for academic work only. This could be because those who had used the resources discovered that the managers of the e-library programmed

it in such a way that it grants the students access for academic purposes only.

Table 3: Perceived benefits of using the MTN e-library/resources by students

Influence of MTN Library	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Use of MTN Library has helped me increase my reading ability	96(35%)	108(39.4%)	46(16.8%)	24(8.8%)	274(100%)
Use of MTN Library has influenced my research ability and therefore aid me in doing assignment	110(40.1%)	121(44.2%)	30(10.9%)	13(4.9%)	274(100%)
Use of MTN Library has distracted me from my studies because of the. many social media available in it	28(10.2%)	26(9.5%)	136(49.6%)	84(30.7%)	274(100%)
Use of the MTN library helps one understand courses taught in their areas of study	124(45.3%)	89(32.5%)	48(17.5%)	13(4.7%)	274(100%)

From the above, it is observed that most respondents affirmed to the benefits of using the MTN e-library/resources while lesser number 136(49.6%) and 84(30.7%) of the respondents consented to the e-library being a distraction, in their perception. It is possible

that majority of this number are from those who had not used the e-library yet. It therefore shows that academic activities of many students have been positively impacted upon by the use of the MTN e-library.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the academic performance of undergraduates who use the University of Benin MTN e-library/resources and those who do not make use of it.

Table 4: t-test analysis on difference in performance of undergraduates who use the University of Benin MTN e-library/resources and those who do not make use of it in their academic activities.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	df	r-cal	p-value
Users	217	78.783	10.54	272	4.677	1.96
Non users	57	85.930	9.15			

P<0.05

The table for the t-test was 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance while the t-value was 4.677. The Null hypothesis is therefore rejected. Hence, there is significant difference between the performance of users of the University of Benin MTN e-library/resources and those who do not use it in their academic activities.

Discussions on findings

The study examined the contribution of the MTN electronic library /resources on the academic performance of undergraduate

students in university of Benin. Findings revealed that most undergraduate students of the University of Benin make use of the MTN e-library/resources. The study also revealed that the students have different perceptions on the purpose of use of the MTN e-resources but the majority agreed that is mainly for academic purposes as against charting with friends. Also, findings revealed that most students agreed that the use of MTN e-resources impacted positively on their academic activities. This

finding corroborates with Tella, Tella, Ayeni and Omoba's (2007) findings in their work on Self Efficacy and Use of Electronic Information as Predictors of Academic Performance; that electronic resources has many functions and benefits that are capable of positively influencing the academic performance of both students and researchers in the university as well as other higher educational institutions. It also agrees with the findings of Kan (2017) in his study, the impact of digital library resources usage on engineering research productivity: an empirical evidence from Pakistan. His findings showed that the frequency of use of digital library resources and purposes of digital library resources significantly contributed to the research students' satisfaction and research productivity. In addition, a significant relationship was found between the predictors (digital library resources purposes, digital library resources frequency) and outcome variables (users' satisfaction and research productivity).

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, the researchers concluded that the use of the MTN digital library/resources had contributed tremendously to the academic performance of the undergraduate students of University of Benin. However, the fact that a number of students are not using the facility could be due to unawareness or lack of skills on the use of digital library/resources, on the part of the students or simply ignorance of the gains of using such facilities. The general consenting, that the perceived purpose of use of the MTN foundation is academic related could be because the administrators programmed the systems to allow access to the students for academic purposes only. Someone else can take a research in this area. The outcome of this study will be made available to the management of MTN foundation so as to inform them of the need to improve in the services of the facility due to the tremendous contribution it makes to academic development of the undergraduate students of University of Benin.

Recommendations

On the basis of the research findings, the following recommendations were made by the researchers:

- Efforts should be channeled towards sustaining the digital library by way of making fund available for updating of the facilities, subscribing to more databases, increasing the number of computers, employing skilled staff, and providing alternative power supply, all geared toward enabling students make profitable use of the resources for greater impact on their studies.
- The library management should consider the expansion of the MTN Foundation and even decentralization as we have in faculty libraries.
- Noting that a number of students do not use the MTN e-library/resources, awareness and orientation programmes should be put in places to sensitize students on the advantages derived from the use of the facility as this would enable more and more students make use of the resources.
- Lecturers should do more in inculcating the habit of using the e-library on students by giving them assignments that will compel them to use the MTN e-resources.

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