

New Challenges Facing Academic Librarians Today: Electronic Journals, Archival Digitization, Document Delivery, etc.

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Full Length Research Paper

The challenges in the development of academic digital library in Nigeria

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This study investigated the development of academic digital library in Oyo State, Nigeria. Attention was committed to the following areas: functionality, usability assessment and challenges. Survey method was employed. The result revealed that digital library is developing in Nigeria, and its functions are evident as it supplements printed information resources. Assessment of the use of digital library should be user centred; facilities and the environment then follow. The results show the challenges associated with the use of academic digital library in Oyo State; it ranges from lack of effective access, sustainability of the resources, unstable power supply and constraints in building the resources. The tool employed for this study was a structured questionnaire consisting of 15 items. 250 University students were sampled, using simple random sampling technique. The overall result suggested that development of academic digital library in Oyo State, Nigeria is making progress, but efforts should be made in finding a durable solution to the challenges that are posing threat to its use. The paper ends with a call to higher institutions in Nigeria, to include library digitization into their policies and plans for effective use and assessment. Meanwhile, recommendations were made for future research.

Key words: Digital information, information user, academic libraries, information communication technology.

INTRODUCTION

Rapid expansions in information and communication technologies (ICT) have brought revolutions to the roles of libraries. The changing nature of information resources had subjected libraries all over the world to face new challenges of meeting information needs of her users. The advent of ICT brought about digital library, which changed the nature as well as job profile of librarians and information professionals.

Essentially, the benefits of computers for library operations cannot be overemphasized, as it facilitates accuracy of record management among others. In spite of these advantages, libraries and other information centres in Nigeria are yet to be fully adopting modern information technology for management of information. To maximise the emergence of ICT facilities in Nigeria libraries, computer literacy is now part of public curricula, though not all people get their training in public schools. One of the efforts made so far is the introduction of computer courses, which are mandatory for students in Nigerian polytechnics, Colleges of Education, and

Universities, as part of the general studies requirements for graduation.

Digital library also brings new demands and expectations both from library users and librarians. Its use has seen steady growth in some developed countries like United States of America; whereas in Nigeria, it is at developmental stage. However, as with other new technologies, effective use of digital libraries depends on user acceptance.

The change in information resources has also mandated libraries to redesign their information products as well as services rendered to user community. Today, with the increase in information users, electronic resources will in no doubt supplement the printed information resources. Furthermore, usability of digital

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newspapers, past question papers and other. Caswell, Jean, Paul G. Haschak and Dayne Sherman, eds. New challenges facing academic librarians today: electronic journals, archival digitization, document. Collection building in the digital era presents challenges that libraries and archives have What role does the digitization of research collections play in a library's efforts to and Document Delivery Services in the Harvard College Library and now In reality, of course, the creation and maintenance of electronic resources. Health Sciences Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Health Sciences development today include electronic resources, shifting publishing models, Clifford Lynch [1] said So much of the new content is outside of the library and . datasets, and digitization of archives and special collections, and the library as.

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