
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS AND USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY BY LIBRARIANS IN BAUCHI STATE

BY

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the Relationship between the Information Literacy Skills and use of Information and Communication Technology by Librarians in Bauchi State. Survey design was adopted using 41 professional and para professional librarians drawn from different higher institutions in Bauchi State. Six (6) research questions were posed to address information literacy skills and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). A structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection from the sample population. A total of 41 questionnaires were distributed to the librarians. The entire 41 questionnaire were completed and returned in useable form, scoring 100% return rate. Data collected were analysed using frequency and percentages in tables. The study was able to find out that there is high and very good level of use of Computers. Computers and Printers are the highest available ICTs resources used to provide library services by librarians in Bauchi State. Other findings also include that librarians with information literacy are required as indicated by 92.68 % of the respondents to question one. Librarians are also interested in acquiring information literacy skills because information literacy enhances information service delivery. The need for training and retraining of Librarians increased funding for academic libraries provision of infrastructure were recommended in the study.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to libraries and information centres service delivery continue to receive a universal acceptability. The application of ICT to the learning process has given birth to a new paradigm which requires librarians to possess information literacy skills. Librarians as intermediaries between information sources and the library users are increasingly expected to acquire the

skills for seeking and finding information, evaluating the information, retrieving and disseminating the information to the users effectively and efficiently.

According to Eisenberg (2008), information literacy means being information wise. It means knowing how to find, evaluate and use information in all forms. Information literacy is more than print literacy, computer literacy or media literacy. Irving (2007) noted that information literacy is the capacity of people to recognise their information needs, locate

and evaluate the quality of information, store and retrieve information, make effective and ethical use of information and apply information to create and communicate knowledge. It means knowing when you need information, where to find it and how to evaluate and use it in your everyday life. Lau (2006) stated that information literacy is assumed to be knowledge and skills necessary to correctly identify information needed to perform a specific task or solve problem, cost efficiently search for information, organise or reorganise it. Shenton and Fitzgibbons (2010) observed that key role of the librarian is to impart skills that go beyond the ostensibly limited relevance (from a student's perspective) of academic assignments to that of an unlimited world of information and tools. IT knowledge and skills attitude are some of the main reasons that accounted for the deplorable conditions of libraries in developing countries.

Nwalo (2006) opined that libraries have always been, and continue to be, fundamental to our environment. The emergence of the internet brought about abundant opportunities as well as peculiar challenges for librarians. Information is presented and disseminated in various new platforms which now make it imperative for librarians to acquire new skills and competences in ICT and its application to information management. All over the world librarians are dedicated to providing free and equitable access to information for all (Aduwa and Iyamu 2005). They play a key role in creating literate environments and promoting literacy by offering relevant and attractive information sources for all ages and all literacy levels. They embrace the social responsibility to offer services that bridge social, political and economic barriers, and traditionally make a special effort to extend their services to marginalized people for future success (Glass, Kallio and Goforth 2007).

According to Buckleitner (2008) the term ICT is now also used to refer to the merging (convergence) of audio-visual and telephone networks with computer networks through a single cabling or link system.

Brakel and Chisenga (2003) established that Information and communication technologies (ICT) are electronic technologies used for information storage and retrieval. Development is partly determined by the ability to establish a synergistic interaction between technological innovation and human values. The rapid rate at which ICTs have evolved since the mid-20th century, the convergence and pervasiveness of ICTs, give them a strong role in development and globalization. ICT is the science and skills of all aspects of computing, data storage, and communications. It is a rapidly growing area that is radically changing and supporting information dissemination. The importance of information literacy skills and its impact on effective research and critical analyses of information sources by librarians towards exploration of ICT for information delivery to library users cannot be overstressed. According to Okojie (2012), the extent to which users use the library is largely dependent on the information literacy skills and competences of the librarians as well as the infrastructure and information resources available. This study investigates the relationship between the information literacy skills possessed by librarians in Bauchi State and the use of Information and Communication Technology.

Statement of the Problem

One of the most serious problems encountered among librarians is their inability to locate information they need at a particular time. Librarians are surrounded with various ICT tools that can aid information retrieval but they still find it hard to satisfy information needs because of certain reasons. The foundation of this problem can be traced to lack of, or inadequate ICT skills needed to exploit information. In the contemporary library world, it is not enough to be information literate; one has to be ICT literate also. The challenge is to what extent librarians in Bauchi State have attained the required level of information literacy and ICT skills.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the available ICT used by librarians in Bauchi State to provide library service.
2. To identify the levels of ICT use by librarians in Bauchi.
3. To find out the perception of librarians in Bauchi State on the relevance of information literacy.
4. To determine the relationship between information literacy skills and use of ICTs by librarians in Bauchi State.
5. To identify the various ways librarians employ ICTs to provide information services to library users.
6. To identify the challenges associated with the use of ICT for service delivery by librarians in Bauchi State.

Research Questions

Below are the research questions for the study:

1. What are the levels of ICT use by librarians in Bauchi?
2. What are the available ICT materials used to provide library services by librarians in Bauchi State?
3. What is the perception of librarians in Bauchi State on the relevance of information literacy?
4. What is the relationship between information literacy skills and use of ICTs by librarians in Bauchi State?
5. What are the ways employed by librarians employing ICTs to provide information services to users?

6. What are the challenges that are associated with the use of ICTs in developing information literacy among library users in Bauchi State?

METHODOLOGY

The design method adopted for this study is a survey research to focus on the Academic Libraries in Bauchi State. Bauchi State is located in the North eastern part of Nigeria which is predominantly inhabited by the Hausa/Fulani tribe. It was created as a state in 1976 when the then North-Eastern State was split into three different states, vis-a-vis Bauchi, Borno and Gongola.

The estimated total population of this study is 70 (seventy) comprising of librarians in Bauchi State. A Survey design was adopted using 41 professional and para professional librarians drawn from 5 (five) higher academic institutions in Bauchi State. A total of 41 (forty one) samples was selected which was made up of 12 (twelve) librarians from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi, 7 (seven) from Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, 10 (ten) from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, 6 (six) librarians from Bauchi State University and 6 (six) from College of Education, Azare. The instrument used for data collection is questionnaire which was administered to the subject (librarians) selected from the academic institutions. A total of 41 questionnaires were administered to the respondents and all were returned duly filled. The method of data analyses is a simple statistics using frequency and percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Research Question One:

What are the levels of ICT use by librarians in Bauchi?

Table 1: Percentages representing the levels of ICT use by librarians in Bauchi:

ICTs	Very Good Level	Good Level	Average Level	Poor Level	Very poor Level	Total Response For each Item
Computer	35	5	1	0	0	41
Internet	15	13	13	0	0	41
Digital Camera	3	4	7	10	5	29
Scanner	22	10	4	0	0	36
Printer	37	4	0	0	0	41
CD-Rom	0	0	16	0	0	16
Multimedia	7	5	13	3	3	31
Projector	12	15	12	2	0	41
Social media	10	8	12	5	3	38
TOTAL FREQUENCY	141	64	78	20	11	314
						Grand Total Responses
PERCENTAGE %	44.90%	20.38%	24.84%	6.37%	3.50%	100%

The table-1 above shows that there is high and a very good use of ICT materials which indicates 44.90%. Other responses indicate an average level of 24.84%, good level: 20.38%, poor level 6.37% with very poor level indicating 3.50%. This implies that the use of ICTs

for Library and Information service delivery is gaining some level of acceptability in Bauchi State.

Research Question Two:

What are the available ICT materials used to provide library services by librarians in Bauchi State?

Table 2: Types of ICTs that are available to librarians for library services by librarians in Bauchi State:

Types of ICTs	Frequency	Percentage %
Computer	41	18.89%
Internet	32	14.75%
Digital camera	14	6.45%
Scanner	18	8.29%
Printer	39	17.97%
CD-ROM	10	4.61%
Multimedia Projector	22	10.14%
E-mail	39	17.97%
TOTAL	215	100%

The Table-2 above shows that computers (18.89%) are the highest available ICTs used to provide library services by librarians in Bauchi State. Other response also indicate that Printer and e-mail are available with

response rate of 17.97%, internet indicates 14.75%, multimedia projector 10.14%, scanner is 8.29%, while digital camera indicates 6.45% and CD-ROM with the lowest indicating 4.61%. By implication, computers are the most common ICT tool available for librarians to use for library and information services.

Research Question Three:

What is the perception of librarians in Bauchi State on the relevance of information literacy?

Table 3: The perception of librarians in Bauchi State on the relevance of information literacy:

S/N	Perception	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Undecided (U)
1	Librarians with information literacy are required.	38 (92.68%)	3 (7.32%)	-	-	-
2	I am interested in acquiring information literacy skills.	21 (51.22%)	20 (48.78%)	-	-	-
3	Information literacy enhances information service using ICTs.	41 (100%)	-	-	-	-
4	Library users do not appreciate librarians with information literacy skills.	2 (4.88%)	8 (19.51%)	16 (39.02%)	9 (21.95%)	6 (14.63%)
5	I do not need information literacy skills to work effectively.	-	-	25 (60.98%)	14 (34.15%)	2 (4.88%)
6	Information literacy skills are difficult to acquire.	-	-	35 (85.37%)	6 (14.63%)	-
7	Possession of information skills does not give a librarian advantage above other librarians.	-	-	7 (17.07%)	33 (80.49%)	1 (2.44%)
8	I am always willing to learn new things.	41 (100%)	-	-	-	-
9	ICTS are useful for communication.	41 (100%)	-	-	-	-
10	My library has OPAC	7 (17.07%)	17 (41.46%)	-	-	17 (41.46%)
11	I use ICTs for resource sharing	20 (48.79%)	14 (34.15%)	-	-	7 (17.07%)
12	Data retrieval are enhanced by ICTs	41 (100%)	-	-	-	-
13	ICTs facilitates library research	41 (100%)	-	-	-	-
14	ICTs are useful for staff straining	41 (100%)	-	-	-	-

The result shows that librarians with information literacy are required as indicated by 92.68 % of the response. Librarians are also interested in acquiring information literacy skills because information literacy enhances information service delivery. It is also observed that 80.498% of respondents strongly

disagree that the possession of information skills does not give a librarian advantage above other librarians because 100% of the respondents strongly agree that Information literacy enhances information service using ICTs.

Research Question Four:

What is the relationship between information literacy skills and use of ICTs by librarians in Bauchi State?

Table 4: The relationship between information literacy skills and use of ICTs by librarians in Bauchi State:

ITEMS	Always	usually	sometimes	rarely	never	Percentage%
I can define user information need.	23 (56.10%)	9 (21.95%)	7 (17.07%)	2 (4.88%)	-	100%
I am competent to initiate a search strategy.	11 (26.83%)	15 (36.59%)	11 (26.83%)	4 (9.76%)	-	100%
I possess the ability to locate resources.	30 (73.17%)	9 (21.95%)	2 (4.88%)	-	-	100%
I do not have problem identifying resources.	11 (26.83%)	9 (21.95%)	5 (12.20%)	6 (14.63%)	10 (24.39%)	100%
I can easily determine the authoritativeness, relevance and currency of a source.	11 (26.83%)	21 (51.22%)	9 (21.95%)	-	-	100%
I feel confident in providing bibliographic information.	12 (29.27%)	12 (29.27%)	8 (19.51%)	7 (17.07%)	2 (4.88%)	100%
I know about the current reference style.	5 (12.20%)	22 (53.66%)	7 (17.07%)	4 (9.76%)	3 (7.32%)	100%
I am capable of using more than one search tools.	33 (80.49%)	7 (17.07%)	1 (4.44%)	-	-	100%

The result from Table-4 above shows that 56.10% of librarians can define user information need as indicated in question one (1), 36.59% of librarians are always and sometimes competent to initiate a search strategy, 73.17% possess the ability to locate resources, and 26.83% always have problem identifying resources while 24.39% of others say they never have problems identifying resources as

indicated in question four (4). In addition, other responses show that 51.22% of librarians can easily determine the authoritativeness, relevance and currency of sources, 29.27% always and usually have confidence in providing bibliographic information, while 53.66% usually know about the current reference style.

Research Question Five:

What are the ways employed by librarians employing ICTs to provide information services to users?

Table 5: The ways employed by librarians in providing information services to users using ICT.

Ways Identified	Frequency	Percentage %
Seminar	22	15.83%
Orientation	43	30.94%
Workshop	12	8.63%
In-House Training	15	10.79%
Online services	17	12.23%
Symposium	8	5.76%
Group discussion	22	15.83%
TOTAL	139	100%

The result from Table-5 above shows that 30.94% of respondents indicated orientation as the major ways employed by librarians in providing information services to users using ICT. 15.83% indicated for Seminar and Group discussion, 10.79% is indicated as in-house training, 8.63% indicated workshops while the lowest is symposium indicated as 5.76%. The response in this study indicates that librarians employ

ICT for orientation of users with the importance of ICT skills to the information literacy, it is essential that they are encouraged.

Research Question Six:

What are the challenges associated with the use of ICTs in developing information literacy among library users in Bauchi State?

Table 6: The challenges associated with the use of ICTs in developing information literacy among library users in Bauchi State:

S/N	Response	Frequency	Percentages %
1	Low level of Training	33	18.97%
2	Poor attitude of librarians to ICTs	31	17.82%
3	Poor ICT infrastructure	41	23.56%
4	Inadequate funding for ICT projects	41	23.56%
5	Marketing of Information services should be emphasized	28	16.09%
	TOTAL	174	100%

The table-5 above shows that both poor ICT infrastructure and inadequate funding for ICT projects constitute the major challenges associated with the use of ICTs in developing literacy among users in Bauchi State as indicated by 23.56% each. Low level of training is 18.97%, Poor attribute of librarians to ICTs is 17.82% and that Marketing of information services should be emphasized is indicated with 16.09%.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It appears from this evidence gathered from the administered questionnaire that a number of librarians have some understanding of the concept of information literacy. Some librarians tend to embrace both literacy and ICT. It is also evident that a number of librarians in Academic institutions are not explicitly merging information literacy skills with ICT in service provision in the library. It was identified that there is high and very good level of use of ICT as indicated by

Table-1 above. This is as a result of the wide spread of ICT resources in Bauchi State libraries. Another finding shows that computers are the highest available ICTs used to provide library services by librarians in Bauchi State followed by printer, e-mail, internet, multimedia projector, digital camera and CD-ROM.

The Implications of findings for librarians in Bauchi State is focused on the fact that since ICTs level and usage is developing, there is an improving relationship between information literacy skills and the use of ICT by librarians in Bauchi. One particularly interesting finding is that many librarians are conversant with ICT resources for service delivery.

The following recommendations are made:

1. Training and retraining of librarians should be given a greater attention by Academic libraries.
2. Librarians should be more receptive to change necessitated by the application of

- ICTs to library and information service delivery.
- The Federal and State government should substantially increase funding for academic libraries.

- The provision of infrastructure for ICT development should be given top priority by the Government.
- Academic libraries should market and promote library and information services to other user communities more rigorously.

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