

Inhibitors to Effective Utilization of Electronic Information Resources in Academic Libraries in Imo State.

Adaeze Nwona Nzewi Ph.D. (CLN)

Faculty of Medical Sciences Library, Nnewi Campus.
Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

The study investigated the inhibitors to effective utilization of electronic information resources in academic libraries in Imo State, Nigeria. There were three specific objectives, the objectives of the study were to determine: the utilization, of electronic resources in academic libraries and identify types of electronic resources provided and also inhibitors to effective utilization of electronic information resources in academic libraries. The population of the study was 5,220 registered library users from the four academic libraries, simple random sampling technique. The 10% formula was adopted to draw a sample from the population. A total of 522 copies of questionnaire were distributed among the four academic libraries and 511 copies of questionnaire were returned and found usable, having a response rate of 97.89%. The data collected were analyzed using, frequencies and percentages. Findings showed that the academic libraries studied provided quite a number of electronic information resources, and the electronic resources provided were accessible to a high extent. It was also found that, electronic resources are very useful in academic libraries. Challenges such as poor search skills in accessing electronic database, library staff are not supportive and lack of constant power supply were common among the libraries. Solution was provided through recommendations.

KEYWORDS: Inhibitors, Accessibility, Utilization Electronic Information Resources and Academic Libraries.

INTRODUCTION

Information is the lifeblood of any institution as very little can be achieved while operating in an information vacuum. Information can be used as a tool, a resource, a commodity or as a product. This information in print and electronic information resource format. The increasing value and use of information demanded the development of faster and more efficient facilities for acquiring, storing and disseminating the information. Apparently, information is an indispensable and essential ingredient, in today's social, economic, industrial, political and technological development. This has also led to the proliferation of various types of information services, as well as information professionals using new technologies. For centuries, social and technological changes have been affecting every profession and during the last two decades, rapid technological development has also affected library and

information services (Arif and Mahmood, 2010). Gwynn and Rosenberg (2009) asserted that; there have clearly been significant moves from paper based to electronic access to information and knowledge for higher education. Although the traditional functions and objectives of the library remain primarily the same, the method of information dissemination and the format are changing. The environment in which libraries operate has changed significantly with the advent of the information age especially the internet (Okojie, 2010). The phrase “our library is the heart of the university’ has become hollow, as Moropa (2010) argued that; although academic libraries have and are still been referred to as the heart of the university, it does not appear so; the reality is that they have been dislodged from the position. If libraries are to function well in the present age, the manual process will have to give-way to the information and communication technologies and a computer driven environment (Adeleke & Olorunsola, 2010). Those libraries that cannot adjust to these new information technologies will not survive (Choukhande,2003).

As earlier said, information is made available in varying-print and electronic information resource format. In the library parlance, the word Electronic Information Resources (EIR) and Electronic Resources(ER) are used interchangeable. The information technology age, reported that libraries (especially) medical or health area in university acquiring such electronic information and making it available on internet/ intranet for the benefit of their library users. As we all know advancement in these technologies have radically changed ways in which information services are rendered in libraries and organizations. Libraries are being automated and connected to the internet, in order to facilitate the process of retrieving and disseminating information that will enhance teaching, learning, research and administrative work in universities.

The internet has made it possible for libraries, research institutes and organizations to have access to Electronic Resource (ER) databases containing e-journals, books, seminars and conference papers for users to use irrespective of their geographical location. These EIR databases make it easy for scholars to have full access to information needed for their research work at ease, many universities in developing nations have started adopting these EIR databases services in reducing the stress and timely access to information to their users. However, access to these resources in developing nations like Nigeria has been filled with lots of hip cup such as poor state of information and communication technologies, ICT infrastructure, non-functional library web site, slow internet bandwidth, irregular subscription fee for EIR databases and many others. All this influencing factors had made it impossible for EIR databases to be rendered in some libraries in Nigeria, despite these influencing factors some libraries still strive to ensure that they meet up with the demand to EIR databases to their users.

Electronic Information Resources (EIR) can be defined as the electronic representation of information which can be accessed via electronic system and computer network (Johnson, Evensen, Gelfand, Lammers, Sipe & Zilper, 2012). These authors further stated that EIR can be seen as the most recent development in information technology and that they are available in various forms like e-books, digital libraries, online journal magazine, e-learning tutors and online test. Because of the effective presentation with multimedia tools, these e-resources have become the source of information. Electronic Information Resources (EIR) deliver the collection of information as full text (aggregated) databases, e-journals, image collections, multimedia in the form of compact desk, tape, internet, web technology, etc.

E-resources include e-journals, e-discussions, e-news, data archives, e-mail online chatting, just to mention but a few. Electronic resources are wide range of products going from electronic periodicals to compact disc ready only

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memories, from mailing list to databases, all of them having a common feature of (Egberongbe, 2011) being used and sometime modified by a computer (Thanuskodi, 2012). Awareness of electronic resources are becoming more and more important for the academic community.

The provision of EIRs without access points, like computer as well as skills required for its use would tantamount to information availability without accessibility. Seth and Panda (2006) cautioned that availability of information resources and services does not automatically translate to information accessibility and use. Accessibility refers to openness, convenience, ease of locating and proximity to information resources. Access to information is important because except an information source is made accessible to users, it cannot be used. Jimba and Atinmo (2000) maintain that accessibility is about being able to use what is available when it is required. Accessibility of information materials is one of the pre-requisites of information utilization. Resources may be available in the library and even identified bibliographically as relevant to one's subject of interest, but the user may not be able to lay hands on them because of accessibility problems. Ugah (2008) opined that the more accessible information sources are, the more likely they are to be used and readers tend to use information sources that require the least effort to access. Obviously, accessibility constraints that could be experienced in the use of EIR include: inadequate provision of infrastructure, Internet connection problem, online database subscription problem, library electronic resources use policy and indifference behaviour of staff towards assisting users.

Despite the above challenges, making e-resources and services available for use by students and other users becomes very vital as electronic libraries provide access to information resources such as databases, electronic journal (e-journal), electronic book (e-book) alerting services, , special collections, CD-ROM, online reference tools and that improve the quality of teaching and research (Lee, 2008). Therefore, it has become expedient to know the awareness and uses of these Electronic/Digital Information Resources (EIRs/DIRs) for academic purposes. Since information seekers are no longer satisfied with the printed materials alone, therefore the only alternative is electronic information resources in the digital age.

Utilization simply means act of enjoying what is accessible. The investigation of possible effect of accessibility and utilization of electronic information resources would not be done in isolation without pondering over the level of electronic information environment in African (Nigerian) universities. Accessibility and utilization of electronic information resources is a factor that is considered to be largely influenced by the nature of electronic information environment that is available and prevalence in a given university. The electronic information environment is enabled by widespread application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the university towards effectiveness and efficiency in research process. Angello and Wema (2010) simply defined information and communication technologies as tools used to access electronic information resources; while Ani and Biao (2005) described ICTs as globalizing tools for researchers/academic staff. But, Africa is said to be lagging behind developed countries in the diffusion, adoption and integration of ICTs in research process in the universities. This comparatively may hinder the extent of accessibility and utilization of electronic information resources in African universities with a wider implication on research productivity.

Observably, accessibility and utilization of electronic information resources is enabled by the state of ICT or electronic information environment in a given university. In this perspective, African universities are apparently not at par with their counterparts in advanced information societies. The existence of digital divide, inequitable access to and use of ICTs in African universities is the issue of major concern that needs to be addressed if academic staff in

African universities must be integrated into global/international research community. The implication is that African universities must key into the international best practices in the provision of institutional ICT policy/strategy that will relatively improve their electronic information environments and thus promote access and use of relevant electronic information resources by hospital staff towards efficient and sustainable research process.

However, the awareness of electronic resources and the adequate accessibility to electronic information resources to ensure its effective utilization by the clientele, in academic libraries are faced with a number of challenges mostly in developing countries. This study therefore, assessed inhibitors to effective utilization of electronic information resources in academic libraries.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It has been established that electronic resources are very useful in academic libraries. Ekenna .and lyabo (2013) revealed that, electronic resources are the bedrock of provision of accurate and timely information for better educational outcomes. They aid in the retrieval of huge amount of information for teaching, learning and research. In this era of competitive research and knowledge acquisition, clienteles now patronize their academic libraries to retrieve accurate and current information from electronic resources available in all subjects. The proliferation of new technologies posed a number of challenges for libraries in higher institutions of learning, and notable among these are those associated with inadequate provision, utilization and institutionalization of these emerging technologies (Odero-Musokali and Mutula, 2007). From the preliminary observation made by the researcher, it was observed that users of the academic libraries appeared having restrictions to the electronic information resources which in effect might affect their effective utilization. It was however observed that, the libraries are faced with the challenges which hinder the effective utilization of electronic information resources. Therefore it is against this background that the study ascertained the types of electronic resources provided and the inhibitors to effective utilization of electronic information resources these electronic resources in academic libraries.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Specifically the following guided the study:

1. Identify types of electronic information resources provided in academic libraries in Imo State
2. Determine the extent to which the electronic information resources are utilized in academic libraries in Imo State
3. Identify inhibitors to effective utilization of electronic information resources in the academic libraries, Imo State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

New electronic information technologies have added value to library services by presenting new modes of collecting, storing, retrieving and providing information. They have also brought new challenges and aggravated some of the challenges that faced libraries before (Emmanuel & Sife, 2008). Ghuloum and Ahmed (2011) indicated that, technological factors, human factors and cultural factors may be a barrier in ensuring utilization of electronic resources. These have included such factors as lack of sufficient funds to support the purchase of the technology, lack of qualified library professionals, lack of motivation and need among librarians to adopt ICT in their daily operation (Ani, Esin & Edem, 2005)

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According to Rosenberg (2005), a wide range of electronic resources were accessible in many libraries, but generally libraries had little capacity to maintain subscription. And one of the major problems of inadequate provision of electronic resources is due to poor funding. Okiy (2005) noted that, finance is very crucial to any human endeavors and, so library cannot be an exception. The 'author further posited that, funds are needed in conducting the survey, procurement of materials and equipment. Thus, it is a common knowledge that libraries in Nigeria, in general are grossly underfunded. The problem of inadequate technological infrastructure to support the integration, provision and utilization of electronic information resources in academic libraries has been cited by several authors as one of the major challenges the academic libraries face. Kamba (2011) noted that; information technology is not very well spread and utilized in African institutions of higher learning, mainly because of poor communication network. This refers to issues as poor or lack of ICT policy, low internet connectivity, inadequate supply of electricity, inadequate number of PCs etc, (Minishi-Majanja) 2007

Several authors (Sife, 2008: Minishi—Majanja, 2007: Odero-Musakali and Mutula, 2007) have identified that lack of trained personnel and negative attitude of university management on information technology was also seen as a major factor that impedes effective utilization of electronic resources in university libraries. Socio-cultural aspects like cultural values, regional priorities, institutional relations, political dynamics and educational background influences the perception of potential user groups, and therefore have an impact on the utilization of the technology (Hagenaars, 2007).

METHODOLOGY

Survey research design was adopted for this study. Simple random sampling technique was used. Questionnaire will be the research instrument for this study. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used in analyzing the data. These were necessary in determining the distribution of the respondents within the four academic libraries as regards to electronic resources provision and utilization. To achieve this, percentages, frequencies, and tables were used. Four academic libraries in Imo State are randomly selected. The academic libraries are; Federal University of Technology, Library, Owerri; Imo State University, Library Owerri , Federal Polytechnic Library Nekede,, and Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Library Owerri. The targeted population will be registered library users of the four academic libraries. These comprised of three thousand, one hundred and twenty (3,120) registered library users in the; Federal University of Technology, Library, Owerri, seven hundred (700) registered Library users in Imo State University, Library Owerri, (600) registered Library users in Federal Polytechnic Library Nekede, and eight hundred (800) registered Library users of Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Library Owerri., (Library users' registers, 2021). According to Busha and Harter (1980), a population can be very small or very large, depending upon the size of the group of subjects or objects about which the researcher plans to make inference. Thus, simple random sampling technique will be used in drawing the sample for this study. The study also adopted the percentage (%) formula as postulated by Adetoro (1986). The author said a sample of 20% for a population of up to 1000 is sufficient to ensure representativeness, 10% for a population of up to 5,000 and 5% for a population of up to 10, 000. Accordingly, using simple random sampling technique formula of 10% for a population of up to 5,000 is appropriate. The sample sizes obtained from the academic libraries are shown in table.

Table: Population and Sample

Names of institution and academic libraries	Population	Sample
; Federal University of Technology, Library, Owerri;, and Imo State University, Library Owerri	3,120	312
	700	70

Federal Polytechnic Library Nekede,,	600	60
Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Library Owerri	800	80
Total	5,220	522

The total number of five hundred and twenty two (522) copies of questionnaire was administered on respondents in the four academic libraries for this study. Five hundred and eleven (511) were completed, returned, found usable and used for this analysis.

Research Question 1:

What are the types of electronic information resources provided in academic libraries in Imo State?

Table: Checklist Showing Types of Electronic Information Resources Provided in Academic Libraries.

Electronic Information Resources	n = 511			
	F	%	F	%
Agora	217	42.5	294	57.5
Aluka	358	70.1	153	29.9
Bio One	506	99.0	5	1.0
Cq Researcher	417	81.6	94	18.4
Disestia	228	44.6	283	55.4
Dpac	209	40.9	302	59.1
Dper	477	93.3	34	6.7
Ebrary	258	50.5	253	49.5
Ebsco host	373	73.0	138	27.0
Emerald	336	65.8	175	34.2
Ethnic news watch	391	76.5	120	23.5
Hinary	254	49.7	257	50.3
Jstor	248	48.5	263	51.5
Lexis/Nexis	352	68.9	159	31.1
Literature resource center	305	59.7	206	40.3
Lyell collection	226	44.2	285	55.8
NUC national virtual library	279	54.6	232	45.4
OARE	425	83.2	86	16.8
ODS	255	49.9	256	50.1
Pycinfo	235	46.0	276	54.0
Proquest	461	90.2	50	9.8
Science Direct	311	60.9	200	39.1
The observatory	396	77.5	115	22.5
World library net	337	65.9	174	34.1
Offline e-resources like lan teal	377	73.8	134	26.2
Offline e-resources like e-granary	283	55.4	228	44.6
Offline e-resources like OCW	194	38.0	317	62.0
Offline e-resources like CD-ROM	324	63.4	187	36.6

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Offline e-resources like local e-thesis	310	60.7	201	39.3
Offline e-resources like local e-journals	270	52.8	241	47.2
Offline e-resources like local e-conference	324	63.4	187	36.6

Table shows the types of electronic information resources provided in academic libraries in Imo State. From the table, the analysis of the result is based on the strength of the responses as it shows that 99.0% of the respondents agreed that Bio one was available, 93.3% agreed that Dper was also available, 81.6% agreed that Cq researcher was available. The availability of OARE was also strong as 83.2% shows it is available and 90.2% of the respondents agreed that Proquest was also available. On the preferences, the result showed that 73.0% agreed that Ebsco host was available, 76.5% agreed that ethnic news watch was available, and 77.5% agreed that observatories were available and 73.8% agreed that offline e-resources like Lan teal is available. On the availability, 68.9% of the respondents agreed that Lexis/Nexis were available, 60.9% agreed that Science direct were available, 60.7% agreed that institution repositories like local e-thesis were available, and lastly 63.4% of the respondents agreed that institution repositories like local e-conferences were available. Apart from these resources, there were others that, were also available but to somewhat extent these, are Emerald 65.8%, literature resource center 59.7%, Ebrary 50.5% and offline c-resources like egranary at 55.4%. The result also showed resources that were not much available, these were Psycinfo 42.5%; Disestia 44.6%, Dpac 40.9% and Lyell collection 44.2%. The least of resources that were not available at all are; offline e-resources like OCW at 3 8.0%.

Research Question 2:

To what extent are the electronic information resources utilized in academic libraries in Imo State?

Electronic Information Resources	n = 511							
	VHU		HU		LU		NU	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Agora	265	51.9	144	28.2	42	8.21	60	11.7
Aluka	250	48.9	123	24.1	82	16.1	56	11.0
Bio One	203	39.7	133	26.0	65	12.7	110	21.5
Cq Researcher	172	33.7	86	16.8	101	19.8	152	29.7
Disestia	56	11.0	82	16.1	103	20.6	270	52.8
Dpac	71	13.9	104	20.4	122	23.9	214	41.9
Dper	50	9.90	70	13.7	160	31.3	231	45.2
Ebrary	153	29.9	101	19.8	10?	20.9	150	29.3
Ebsco host	244	47.7	114	22.3	82	16.0	71	13.9
Emerald	177	34.6	160	31.3	60	11.7	78	15.3
Ethnic news watch	206	40.3	130	25.4	80	15.7	95	18.6
Hinary	258	50.5	121	23.7	72	14.1	60	11.7
Jstor	251	49.1	122	23.9	52	10.2	86	16.8
Lexis/Nexis	204	39.9	132	25.8	87	17.0	88	17.2
Literature resource center	55	10.8	65	12.7	151	29.5	190	37.2
Lyell collection	150	29.3	93	18.2	120	23.5	148	29.0
NUC national virtual library	152	29.7	101	19.8	113	22.1	135	26.4

OARE	201	39.3	151	29.5	65	12.7	94	18.4
ODS	63	12.3	65	12.7	193	37.8	190	37.2
Pycinfo	48	9.4	90	17.6	163	31.9	210	41.1
Proquest	185	36.2	151	29.5	73	14.3	102	20.0
Science Direct	221	43.2	170	33.3	45	8.80	75	14.7
The observatory	173	33.9	95	18.6	93	18.2	150	29.4
World library net	154	30.1	84	16.4	121	23.7	152	29.7
Offline e-resources like lan teal	202	39.5	150	29.4	52	10.2	106	20.7
Offline e-resources like e-granary	207	40.5	151	29.5	81	15.9	72	14.1
Offline e-resources like OCW	58	11.0	80	15.7	152	29.7	221	43.2
Offline e-resources like CD-ROM	232	45.4	104	20.4	110	21.5	65	12.7
Offline e-resources like local e-thesis	185	36.2	83	16.2	182	35.6	61	11.9
Offline e-resources like local e-journals	270	52.8	121	23.7	80	15.7	40	7.82
Offline e-resources like local e-conference	143	28.0	130	25.4	110	21.5	128	25.1

Table above sought to answer research question: which reveals the extent to which electronic information resources were utilized in academic libraries in Imo State. The results showed that, under the *online* electronic information resources, Agora 51.9% was very highly utilized followed by Hinary with 50.5% and Istor 49.1%. Findings also indicated that Alulca had 48.9%, Ebsco host 47.7%, Science direct, 43.2% and OARE 39.3% was indicated to be highly utilized. Similarly, Disestia 52.2% was not utilized followed by Dpac 41.9% and Pycinfo 41.1%. In appraising the extent to which offline electronic information resources were utilized, CD-ROM 45.5% was very highly utilized and OCW was not utilized by 43.2%. While for institutional repositories, local e-journals had 52.8% which indicated a very high utilization.

Among the resources available in the libraries of the study area, only few electronic information resources were not utilized among which are Disestia, Dper, OCW and Pycinfo. From these result, it is quite clear that almost all the available resources in the libraries are been utilized by the users.

Table : Inhibitors utilization of electronic information resources in Academic Libraries

Limiting Factors	n = 511					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Total	Disagree	Strongly Agree	Total
Lack of awareness of e- resources and services	93 (18.2)	261 (51.1)	354 (69.3)	139 (27.2)	16 (3.1)	155 (30.3)
Inadequate facilities	187 (36.3)	257 (50.3)	444 (96.9)	60 (11.7)	7 (1.4)	67 (13.1)
Poor search skills in accessing electronic database.	70 (13.7)	191 (37.4)	261 (51.1)	217 (42.5)	33 (6.5)	250 (48.9)

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Lack of constant power supply	162 (31.7)	250 (48.9)	412 (80.6)	84 (16.4)	15 (2.9)	99 (19.4)
Slow access speed	64 (12.5)	229 (44.8)	293 (57.3)	184 (36.0)	34 (6.7)	218 (42.7)
Library staff are not supportive	167 (32.7)	302 (59.1)	469 (91.0)	35 (6.8)	7 (1.4)	42 (8.2)
Library time is not suitable	184 (36.0)	315 (61.6)	499 (97.7)	12 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	12 (2.3)
Low internet connectivity	291 (56.9)	209 (40.9)	500 (97.8)	9 (1.8)	2 (0.4)	11 (2.2)
Not user friendly	244 (47.7)	210 (41.1)	454 (88.8)	39 (7.6)	18 (3.5)	57 (11.2)
Poor communication networks	222 (43.4)	256 (50.1)	478 (93.5)	30 (5.9)	3 (0.6)	33 (6.5)
Lack of funds to pay for subscription fees or airtime	81 (15.9)	271 (53.0)	352 (68.9)	136 (26.6)	23 (4.5)	159 (31.1)

Table above showed results of research question; which sought to determine the factors that hinder effective utilization of electronic information resources in the academic libraries. From the table, 69.3% of the respondents asserted that lack of awareness of resources and services are factors responsible for hindrance of utilization of electronic information, whereas 30.3% of the respondents. Objected. Item 2 revealed that 96.9% of the respondents agreed that inadequate facilities are among the factors responsible for poor utilization of e-resources. Item three showed that, poor skills in accessing electronic database are among the factors responsible for hindering the utilization of electronic resources. 80.6% of the respondents agreed that lack of constant power supply is among the major factors that hinder utilization of e-resources. The result also revealed that 57.3% asserted slow access speed deterred the utilization of electronic information resources in the study area. Also 9 1.0% of the respondents agreed that attitude of library staff are not supportive in helping the users utilize c-resources. Library timing was also tagged as factor responsible for poor utilization of library resources. Also, 97.8% of the respondents agreed that, low internet connectivity is among the factors leading to the poor utilization of electronic resources in the academic libraries. Other factors are; user friendliness, poor communication networks and lack of funds to pay for subscription fees or airtime.

FINDINGS

The finding of this study revealed that, the academic libraries in Imo States provide electronic information resources that cuts across the online resources, offline resources and institutional repositories which includes Science direct, Bio-one, Dper, Cq researcher, OARE, Proquest, Ebsco host, Lanteal, Lexis Nexis, e-thesis, e-conferences among others except for OCW, Psycinfo, Disestia, Dpac and Lyell collection which are not much available. This agrees with Seema (2012) who stated that, electronic information resources are replacing non e-resources and are appearing as new types of discovery tool.

In determining the accessibility of electronic information resources, the finding revealed that, majority of the respondents had access to electronic information resources in the academic libraries. This finding supports that of Idowu and Oduwole (2011) who stated that, today universities have e-libraries and virtual libraries which provide access to electronic information resources. In the same vein, Bamigboye and Agboola (2011) stated that, users access more internet resources because the internet gives users access to a vast wealth of knowledge and access to tools that facilitate research.

With regard to the utilization of electronic information resources, the finding of this study revealed that, majority of the available e-resources in the academic libraries were utilized by the users. This finding contradicts the study of Ojo and Akande (2005), who surveyed the students' access and usage of electronic information resources at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, which revealed the level of usage of electronic information resources as low.

Inhibitors to effective utilization of electronic resources, the respondents identified lack of awareness of electronic information resources and services, poor search skills in accessing electronic databases, lack of constant power supply, lack of assistance from librarians and lack of funds to pay for subscription fees or airtime as the major challenges affecting the utilization of electronic resources. However, these identified problems by respondents were essential factors militating against the effective utilization of electronic information resources provided by the academic libraries studied. This finding corroborates with those of Ghuloum and Ahmed (2011), Thanuskodi (2011), Kamba (2011), and Iain (2008); which drew attention to lack of awareness, poor search skills and lack of constant power supply as inhibitors to the effective utilization of electronic information resources.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, it is concluded that, electronic resources are very useful in academic libraries in Imo State. That among the factors noted to deter library users from electronic resources are; lack of awareness of e-resources and services, inadequate facilities, poor search skills in accessing electronic database, lack of constant power supply, slow access speed, library staff were not supportive, and there is a significant relationship between accessibility and utilization of electronic information resources in academic libraries. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. There is need for continuing professional development in the academic libraries in Imo State. The library staff should be encouraged and given opportunities for attending internal training programmes, workshops and seminars as well as other training programmes offered by private firms concerning electronic information resources.
2. The academic libraries in Imo State should strategically incorporate electronic resources in their library services in order to remain viable of information because electronic resources are indispensable in the quest for success in the provision of quality services and scholarly information.
3. The academic libraries management in Imo State should make tremendous effort to organize in-depth practical training for effective use of electronic resources by the users. The training should not only focus on how users should locate electronic resources, but should also include how they can use electronic resources to attain their goals.
4. The academic libraries should identify non-users of electronic resources and appropriate steps should be taken to convert them into actual users of the resources by conducting seminars, debates, discussion and conferences,

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highlighting the significance of electronic resources. Also decentralizing services since most of these resources can be accessed without necessarily going to the library.

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