



Lecturers' Utilization of Government Electronic Documents for Research in Nigerian Universities

* O F Mesagan¹, H Twinomurinzi¹

¹Departement of Center for Applied Data Science, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Article Info

Article history:

Received August 30, 2024

Revised January 3, 2025

Accepted January 3, 2025

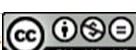
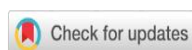
Available Online April 29, 2025

Keywords:

Electronic;
Government document;
Lecturers;
Libraries;
Research;

ABSTRACT

The importance of government publications in meeting today's information needs cannot be overstated. This research sought to examine the utilization of government e-documents by lecturers in Nigerian universities. The research was directed by four specific objectives and two hypotheses, utilizing a descriptive survey research design. The population is 642 academic staff from the three universities. Questionnaires were used and analyzed using mean and standard deviation. Findings indicated that lecturers use shelves, printout indexes, open access, and librarian assistance to access government documents from Nigerian university libraries. Documents were used for historical, cultural, political, statistical, legal, and government research-related purposes. Challenges identified include the lack of digitization of government documents, poor documentation, and organization hindering their utilization. The study also found that the years of experience of lecturers significantly influenced their mode of accessing government documents ($P = 0.003$), while educational level/qualification significantly influenced the areas in which government documents were used by the lecturers ($P = 0.000$). Recommendations included improved digitization of government e-publications, encouraging more academic staff to utilize these resources in their research, improving the documentation of government e-documents, and fostering strong relationships between academic staff and librarians.

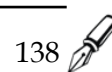


<https://doi.org/10.46627/silet>

INTRODUCTION

University is considered an academic sector where all developmental activities, including training, take place. It is an institution supported by its library, which serves as the central hub for scholarship, teaching, learning, and research activities, providing scholarly information resources to all users. A university library is the pride of its parent institution and serves as a repository for data and information accessible to people, documenting human experiences and comprising all a university's book holdings and other resources (Masenya, 2021). The objectives are to meet the needs of instructors, provide infrastructure for advanced research and learning (Chaudhari, 2018), and enhance faculty research output through valuable information resources, among other purposes.

Government electronic documents are informational materials issued by the government at its expense or as required by law. These publications contain information published by international intergovernmental organizations, as well as federal, state, or local government levels. Government documents offer firsthand information that remains consistent over the year, Cheney (2018) noted that government-related matters, are often free, authoritative, and



visually appealing making them more affordable for many libraries. During this study, government documents/publications are used interchangeably to refer to any publication produced by the government, its authorities, or agencies. Government publications are regarded as significant or authoritative documents issued by or on behalf of federal, state, or municipal government bodies, departments, agencies, Chaudhry (2023), is a publication of an official nature, produced in various formats (Mole in Aboh, 2024). Government documents are diverse and numerous, as noted by (Okwor et al., 2015), including tribunal proceedings, technical reports, bulletins, conference publications, annual reports, gazettes, newsletters, maps, parliamentary debates, CD-ROMs, government white papers, and economic surveys. These documents play a crucial role in research, enabling citizens to stay informed about government activities in society. Ballestra (2021) explains that during election campaigns, these media assist the government in spreading the word, publicizing, and advertising its accomplishments and actions to win over voters. Government publications are considered primary sources of information that may not be available elsewhere but in libraries and other information centers (Rohrig & Sare, 2020), they cover all fields of study and are consulted by users, especially academic staff, to conduct effective research, a core function of the university (Tesliuk, 2024). Government publications are essential resources for studying politics, history, laws, agriculture, among other areas (Ballestra, 2021), particularly at a time when academics are showing more interest in democratic studies, federalism, resource sharing, and the push for complete democratization of the Nigerian government. Managing government documents in the digital age can be cost-effective and challenging (Chen, 2022).

Research commonly refers to a search for knowledge. It is an objective, methodical, controlled, and critical activity that is organized, planned, and focused on creating trustworthy knowledge (Omeluzor et al. 2022). Universities with limited research capacity risk losing their intellectual edge, the ability to critically evaluate knowledge claims, and becoming dependent on external sources of information (Véliz et al., 2023). Effective research leads to the acquisition of new knowledge and quality articles published in reputable journals. Government documents are important research tools in academic environments for research and informational purposes.

Scholar noted that effective research stems from a strong motivation or desire to conduct research (Martínez, 2024). Academic staff are individuals who engage in teaching, research, and community service within the university. Lazzarini (2018) explain that university academic staff are lecturers involved in promoting knowledge, transferring knowledge, and transforming students into a qualified workforce for sustainable living. Staff categories include academic staff in universities or their equivalents in the library cadre, such as university, assistant, senior, principal, and deputy librarians, as well as librarian I, librarian II, and librarian III. Utilization refers to the act of applying, making use of, or the state of being utilized. Information utilization is the appropriate use of acquired information (Srimulyani, et al., 2023).

The use of government electronic documents will educate people about the activities of the government and promote research development in universities. Government documents have their section where they are stored, but with low patronage (Cooper-Knock, & Owen, 2018). There is no doubt that government documents create awareness among citizens about the government's initiatives, policies, laws, national development plans, and services (Okwor et al. 2015). Official records are essential for conducting research on political or economic issues related to African, Nigerian, or local government matters. It is concerning that universities may acquire these documents but not utilize them, despite academics being the primary stakeholders in the university (Koga, 2023). Studies abound on the future of public access to born-digital government information (Kunkel, 2017); acquisition and use of government publications in Nnamdi Azikiwe library (Ezema & Okafor, 2020), acquisition and distribution of government publications to meet the information needs of users in southeastern Nigeria (Okwor, et. al., 2019); access to government information in Japan (Shepherd, 2015) among others as well as the rising concern regarding the poor utilization of government documents among academic



staff. There appear to be little or no study on the topic in southwest Nigeria, leading to dearth of literature on the use of government electronic documents by lecturers in southwest university libraries. In light of this, the researcher aims to examine the utilization of government publications in university libraries by academic staff at three federal universities for effective research. This is the issue that the study seeks to address.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study aims to investigate the utilization of government electronic publications by lecturers in university libraries in Southwest Nigeria. Firstly, it seeks to determine how lecturers access these publications in university libraries. Furthermore, the study will identify the specific research areas where government electronic publications are utilized by lecturers. Additionally, it will assess the impact of utilizing these publications on the effectiveness of research conducted by lecturers. Finally, the study will identify and analyze the challenges that hinder the utilization of government electronic publications by lecturers in university libraries.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To guide this study, several research questions were formulated. The first question explores how lecturers in university libraries in Southwest Nigeria access government electronic documents. The second question investigates the specific research areas where lecturers utilize these documents. The third question examines the extent to which the use of government electronic documents contributes to the effectiveness of lecturers' research. Finally, the study seeks to identify the challenges that hinder the use of these documents by lecturers in universities in Southwest Nigeria.

HYPOTHESES

The subsequent research hypotheses were developed to direct the study and were evaluated at a significance level of 0.05.

- H01 : There is no statistically significant variation in the mode of accessing government publications for research among lecturers based on years of experience.
- H02 : There is no statistically significant difference in the mode of using government documents for research among lecturers based on academic qualifications

LITERATURE REVIEW

Library is considered the most resilient and adaptable educational institution Lulu-Pokubo & Owate (2022) made up of different categories of people, professions, and shades of opinion. In support of this, (Omeluzor et al. 2022) defines publications produced by a department, office, agency, committee, task force, or other government body at any level as government documents. Information produced as a single document at government expense or as mandated by law is referred to as a government publication (Ballestra, 2021).

The two main categories of government publications: published documents and those that are not (Rohrig & Sare, 2020). Publicly available materials include information products released by the government voluntarily or as a legal requirement, such as administrative reports, committee/commission/panel reports, tribunal proceedings, technical reports, statistical reports, and other publications produced by the government and made available to the public online or in print (Okwor et al. 2015). This concept gained acceptance where non-published publications, such as institutional bulletins, conference, seminar, workshop papers, lectures, memos, and official gazettes, are primarily intended for use within the government and not for public consumption (Opara in Okafor, 2020).

Manuscripts produced or printed by the government, or published under a government body's authority, are considered government documents (Sproles, 2022). Others defined government documents as information that is either legally required or published as a separate document at government expense (Chaudhari 2018). The importance of government documents

as primary sources of information. In a society where new ideas and knowledge are constantly being created, government documents serve as data banks from which records of performance can be appraised.

Academic staff members, including lecturers, librarians, and researchers, play a significant role in utilizing government documents for developmental purposes. Academic personnel at universities contribute to a nation's labor force and the wider population by engaging in research activities. (Undie & Afebende, 2019) emphasizes that academic staff members' primary responsibilities are teaching and research and enhancing the quality of these activities can be achieved by recruiting top scholars and providing competitive compensation. The use of library collections in addressing daily information needs is crucial for maximizing their benefits (Undie & Afebende 2019). It involves applying awareness, knowledge, or understanding of a subject or situation (Onoh & Ezech, 2023). Government publications are frequently utilized by legal professionals, law lecturers, law students, and legislators to effectively carry out their specialized tasks.

Challenges may arise when using government publications for research, as some studies have shown that these documents are often unavailable and underused by students and academic staff (Brunvand & Pashkova-Belkenhol cited in Ezema & Okafor, 2020). Information resources, including government documents, may be physically present in libraries but remain inaccessible due to issues such as inadequate classification, resource placement, and labeling (Tukur, 2019). The lack of comprehensive legal materials in libraries of superior courts has also been noted as a barrier to accessing government documents (Kunkel, 2017; Bhavana, 2022). The low use of government documents has been attributed to poor organization and lack of awareness about their existence (Vogus, 2023). Inaccessibility to government documents can also be caused by factors such as power shortages, slow internet connections, and lack of information literacy, as well as political instability (Svård, 2018).

Furthermore, outdated government document collections in libraries, such as the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, may require weeding (Ballestra, 2021). The low use of government documents has also been linked to inadequate collection development methods, reference services, and instruction (Cheney 2018). Ameen (2018) suggests that some library staff may experience inferiority complexes, leading to a lack of willingness to share vital information with academic staff regarding book selections. Mole in Aboh (2024) highlights delays in providing official Nigerian papers to accredited libraries as another issue affecting access to government documents.

REVIEW OF RELATED EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Study carried out by Omeluzor (2022) examined the use of government records held by faculty members at Ahmadu Bello University's library in Zaria. It was found that various types of government documents, including technical reports, government gazettes, annual reports, statistical reports, law reports, and bulletins, were predominantly accessible in hard copy format. The research stresses the need for current awareness services in the library complex of A.B.U. Zaria to increase awareness among academic staff about the availability of government publications upon arrival.

Ukih cited in Lawal and Kannan, (2020) investigated the utilization of library resources by lecturers at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi. It was observed that the university possesses an extensive array of library materials, including books, journals, bulletins, transactions and proceedings, research reports, patents, technical bulletins, price lists, data sheets, dissertations, indexes/abstracts, biographies, and gazetteers. The primary purposes of the library for lecturers were book consultation, research, material borrowing, and reference.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Information Processing Theory (IPT), proposed by George A. Miller in 1956, suggests that human cognition can be understood by actively engaging in the process of receiving,



interpreting, storing, and retrieving information. According to this theory, individuals process information in stages, including sensory memory, short-term memory, and long-term memory.

When it comes to government publications, citizens interact with these materials by seeking information, evaluating their relevance and credibility, and using it to make decisions or form opinions about government policies, programs, or initiatives. The theory indicates that the effectiveness of government publications relies on the clarity and accessibility of the information presented, as well as the individual's cognitive abilities, prior knowledge, and personal biases.

It emphasizes the importance of clear communication and user-friendly formats in government publications to facilitate citizens' information and decision-making processes. Academic staff engaged in research as part of their teaching, research, and community development assignments are often among those who suggest policies based on their findings for the government to implement. Therefore, their interpretation and retrieval of such information greatly enhance their research output on general matters.

RESEARCH METHOD

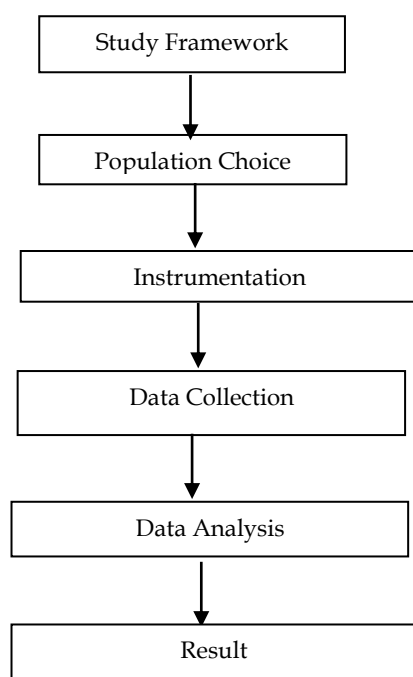


Figure 1. Representation of the design

The above diagram shows the graphic representations of the study design. The study employed a descriptive survey approach. The study population comprised lecturers from three federal universities in southwest Nigeria, specifically Lagos, Ekiti, and Oyo states. Data collection was conducted utilizing a questionnaire developed by the researcher, which comprised forty-nine (49) items. Each item was evaluated using a four-point rating scale: strongly agree (4), agree (3), disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1), as well as another scale measuring extent: very great extent (4), great extent (3), little extent (2), and low extent (1). The questionnaires were distributed to the participants via Google Forms sent to their emails and WhatsApp platforms. To analyze the data based on Likert scale ratings, mean and standard deviation were employed, and ANOVA was utilized to test the hypotheses at a significance level of 0.05. Items with a mean score of 2.50 or greater were interpreted as agreement, while those scoring below 2.50 were interpreted as disagreement.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Question 1: What are the modes of accessing government electronic documents in university libraries in Southwest?

This required respondents to indicate the modes of accessing government electronic documents in university libraries. Table 1 presents the analysis's conclusions.

Table 1. The mean value and standard deviation concerning the various modes of accessing government publications utilized by universities.

ITEMS	UNILAG		FUNOYE		UI		OVERALL		Remark	Rank
	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D		
Catalogue card	3.55	.777	3.53	.764	3.24	1.025	3.42	.892	A	3 rd
Computer printout index	3.64	.738	3.68	.690	3.63	.763	3.65	.730	A	1 st
Open access/databases	2.91	1.139	3.00	1.082	3.00	1.055	2.98	1.084	A	5 th
Loan	2.39	1.158	2.50	1.152	2.34	1.107	2.41	1.136	D	8 th
Shelf browsing	3.10	.981	3.17	.959	2.86	1.035	3.03	1.003	A	4 th
Librarians' assistance	2.52	1.053	2.63	1.119	2.42	1.123	2.52	1.107	A	7 th
Photocopy	2.79	1.019	2.95	1.010	2.76	1.035	2.84	1.024	A	6 th
Online	3.53	.704	3.57	.690	3.49	.784	3.53	.733	A	2 nd
Books here can be taken home	3.53	.694	3.58	.695	3.49	.789	3.53	.734	A	2 nd
Overall Mean							3.10	.586		

Key: University of Lagos (UNILAG), Federal University of Oye-Ekiti (FUNOYE), University of Ibadan (UI). **Mean ($\bar{x}$), Standard Deviation (SD), Agree (A), disagree (D).**

Responses regarding the methods of accessing government documents in the university library were analyzed. The results showed that academic staff accessed these documents through various means, including catalogue cards, computer printout indexes, open access, shelf browsing, librarian assistance, online access, and borrowing books to take home. The mean scores ranged from 3.65 to 2.52, with an overall mean of 3.10. This mean was above the criterion rule, indicating agreement among lecturers on the modes of access for government electronic documents. The standard deviation was .586, suggesting that respondents were consistent in their responses.

Research Question 2: The areas of use of government electronic documents for research in university libraries.

Objective 2 required respondents to indicate their areas of use of government electronic documents for research in university.

Table 2. The mean and standard deviation concerning the utilization of government electronic documents for research purposes.

ITEMS	UNILAG		FUNOYE		UI		OVERALL		REMARK	R
	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D		
For enquiries on historical and cultural matters	3.00	1.069	3.01	1.056	2.98	.972	3.00	1.025	A	2 nd
For enquiries on political matters	3.00	1.069	3.01	1.056	2.98	.972	3.00	1.025	A	2 nd



ITEMS	UNILAG		FUNOYE		UI		OVERALL		REMARK	R
	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D		
For enquiries on institutional bulletin matters e.g. conference, seminar, workshop etc.	3.32	.898	3.39	.896	3.35	.874	3.36	.887	A	1 st
For enquiries on educational matters	2.52	1.040	2.69	1.064	2.63	1.036	2.62	1.047	A	7 th
For enquiries on statistical matters	2.01	1.082	2.19	1.095	2.27	1.187	2.18	1.133	D	10 th
For enquiries on legal matters	2.61	1.067	2.78	1.087	2.61	1.095	2.67	1.087	A	6 th
For political self-development	2.32	1.137	2.31	1.106	2.39	1.099	2.34	1.109	D	9 th
For enquiries on economic business matters	2.40	1.111	2.37	1.138	2.66	1.117	2.50	1.130	A	8 th
For enquiries on international affairs	3.26	.834	3.29	.882	3.25	.973	3.26	.908	A	4 th
For enquiries on agricultural matters	3.26	.834	3.29	.864	3.36	.880	3.31	.864	A	3 rd
For enquiries on government activities	3.14	.955	3.07	1.016	3.12	1.063	3.11	1.021	A	5 th
For enquiries on geographical matters	2.10	1.165	2.10	1.101	2.21	1.173	2.14	1.144	D	12 th
For enquiries on healthcare/medical matters	2.14	1.111	2.11	1.079	2.24	1.087	2.17	1.089	D	11 th
OVERALL MEAN							3.31	.448		

KEY: University of Lagos (UNILAG), Federal University of Oye-Ekiti (FUNOYE), University of Ibadan (UI). Mean ($\bar{x}$), Standard Deviation (SD), Agree (A), disagree (D), Rank (R)

The results in Table 2 revealed the government electronic publications used for research in universities. With a criteria mean of 2.50, the outcome showed that lecturers generally agreed that almost all items are utilized in university libraries in Kaduna State. Their responses indicated agreement with the listed items, with means ranging from 3.36 to 2.50, as shown in Table 2. Additionally, the overall mean of 3.231 exceeded the criterion rule, suggesting that academic staff do use government electronic documents for research in the specified areas. The standard deviation of 0.448 indicated that respondents were consistent in their responses.

Research Question 3: What is the extent to which the use of government electronic documents contributed to effective research in university?

This was formulated to ascertain extent to which the use of government electronic documents contributed to effective research in university under study.

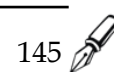
The results in Table 3 demonstrate the impact of using government electronic documents on research effectiveness at the university being studied. With a criteria mean of 2.50, the findings indicated that academic staff agreed on items 1-5, 7, and 10-13, highlighting the valuable contribution of government documents to research due to their detailed information. The decision to agree on all items was based on their mean values surpassing the criterion of 2.50. Furthermore, the overall mean of 2.75 exceeded the criteria, suggesting that government



electronic documents significantly aided research at the university. The standard deviation of .461 indicated that respondents had similar responses, showing consistency in their views.

Table 3. The extent to which the use of government electronic publications contributed to effective research in the universities

ITEMS	UNILAG		FUNOYE		UI		OVERALL		Remark	R
	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D		
Provide information on academic lectures, conferences, seminars, workshops etc.	2.52	1.163	2.54	1.071	2.73	1.094	2.62	1.105	7 th	A
Provide information about the historical and cultural records of the country	3.01	1.079	3.08	1.028	3.01	1.117	3.03	1.075	4 th	A
Provide information about government laws and policies	3.01	1.079	3.08	1.028	3.01	1.117	3.03	1.075	4 th	A
Provide authoritative information on a wide range of subject areas	3.40	.780	3.46	.775	3.32	.860	3.39	.812	1 st	A
Provide information on healthcare matters of the country	2.49	1.103	2.66	1.072	2.53	1.017	2.57	1.058	8 th	A
Provide information on educational matters of the country	2.09	1.118	2.17	1.104	2.13	1.099	2.14	1.104		D
Provide information about employment rates of the country	2.83	1.019	2.84	1.017	2.66	1.064	2.76	1.039	6 th	A
Provide information about population census of the country	2.51	1.209	2.46	1.170	2.49	1.108	2.48	1.153	9 th	D



ITEMS	UNILAG		FUNOYE		UI		OVERALL		Remark	R
	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D		
Provide information on the statistics of crimes figures of the country	2.31	1.194	2.39	1.151	2.56	1.137	2.44	1.159	10 th	D
Provide information on the security state of the country	3.22	1.002	3.23	.942	3.16	.941	3.20	.955	2 nd	A
Provide information on conflict resolution	3.19	1.026	3.21	.959	3.18	.960	3.19	.974	3 rd	A
Provide information on the socio-economic state of the country	3.01	1.069	2.93	1.076	2.94	1.046	2.95	1.061	5 th	A
Provide information on the financial situation of the country	2.03	1.125	1.97	1.066	2.14	1.082	2.05	1.087	11 th	D
Overall Mean							2.75	.461		

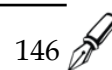
KEY: University of Lagos (UNILAG), Federal University of Oye-Ekiti (FUNOYE), University of Ibadan (UI). Mean ($\bar{x}$), Standard Deviation (SD), Agree (A), disagree (D), Rank (R)

Research Question 4: Issues influencing the use of government electronic documents in university.

This focused on ascertaining issues that impact the use of government documents among the selected universities.

Table 4. Obstacles hindering the access and use of government publications in higher education institutions.

ITEMS	UNILAG		FUNOYE		UI		OVERALL		REMARK	RANK
	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D		
Poor documentation of government documents	2.87	.906	2.80	.924	2.96	.918	2.88	.919	GE	13 th
Delay in the arrival of government documents in the library	3.07	.901	3.20	.798	3.22	.844	3.17	.842	GE	12 th
Inadequate facilities such as computer etc.	3.55	.663	3.61	.606	3.59	.587	3.59	.612	GE	3 rd
Lack of internet	3.49	.623	3.57	.590	3.49	.612	3.52	.607	GE	5 th



ITEMS	UNILAG		FUNOYE		UI		OVERALL		REMARK	RANK
	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D	$\bar{x}$	S.D		
connectivity and skills										
Poor organization of government documents	3.43	.691	3.55	.641	3.39	.714	3.46	.686	GE	8 th
Inadequate e-government documents	3.50	.644	3.57	.576	3.53	.643	3.53	.619	GE	4 th
Lack of digitization of government documents	3.39	.646	3.40	.711	3.47	.649	3.43	.672	GE	10 th
Lack of space to keep and display government documents	3.32	.721	3.36	.667	3.35	.723	3.35	.701	GE	11 th
Poor accessibility of web by users	3.41	.679	3.57	.590	3.51	.619	3.51	.625	GE	6 th
Lack of training library users	3.59	.545	3.68	.535	3.68	.506	3.66	.526	GE	1 st
Poor access tools e.g. arranged catalogue	3.56	.597	3.66	.550	3.59	.611	3.61	.587	GE	2 nd
Lack of SDI/awareness services to users of government documents	3.43	.792	3.57	.625	3.35	.684	3.45	.696	GE	9 th
Staff negative attitudes to the users	3.41	.718	3.52	.636	3.49	.593	3.48	.640	GE	7 th
Shortage of library staff	3.48	.751	3.61	.619	3.46	.694	3.52	.684	GE	5 th
Grand Mean							3.46	.398		

KEY: University of Lagos (UNILAG), Federal University of Oye-Ekiti (FUNOYE), University of Ibadan (UI). **Mean ($\bar{x}$), Standard Deviation (SD), Great Extent.**

Table 4 presents the average responses regarding factors that affect the use of government electronic documents in universities. Based on the mean criteria of 2.50, it was determined that lecturers acknowledge obstacles that impede the use of government electronic documents in research at the university. This acknowledgment was consistent across items 1-14, as all of their mean values surpassed the threshold for decision making. The overall mean of 3.45 further reinforced the idea that challenges are present in utilizing government electronic documents for research in the study area. The standard deviation of .398 indicated that respondents were uniform in their responses.

HYPOTHESIS

H0: There is no statistically significant difference in lecturers' mode of accessing government electronic documents for research based on years of experience.

The results in Table 5 display an ANOVA analysis of the mean ratings of lecturers based on their method of accessing government electronic documents for research, categorized by years of experience. The results indicate a significant difference in the average assessments of



lecturers depending on their method of accessing government electronic documents for research, relative to their years of experience.

Table 5. ANOVA examination of the disparity between the mean ratings of lecturers on their mode of accessing government electronic documents for research based on year of experience

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	DEC
Between Groups	5.378	2	2.689	5.896	.003	
Within Groups	291.456	639	.456			S
Total	296.834	641				

S=Significance

Table 6. Post hoc tests

Multiple Comparisons						
Dependent Variable: cluster mean for areas of use						
(I) YEAR OF EXPERIENCE	(J) YEAR OF EXPERIENCE	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	Dec.	
0-10years	11-20years	-.0612486	.0693934	.378	NS	
	21 and above	.1450165*	.0708430	.041	S	
	0-10years	.0612486	.0693934	.378	NS	
11-20years	21 and above	.2062651*	.0609249	.001	S	
	0-10years	-.1450165*	.0708430	.041	S	
21 and above	11-20years	-.2062651*	.0609249	.001	S	

S=Significance, NS= Not Significance

The F-value of 5.896 with a significance value of .003 suggests a significant variation in the mean responses of lecturers regarding their method of accessing government electronic documents for research, based on their years of experience. A post hoc test was conducted to determine where the differences lay within the groups, as the probability value was below 0.05. Consequently, the null hypothesis stating that there is no discernible difference in the mean ratings of lecturers based on their method of accessing government e-documents for research, depending on years of experience, was rejected. This implies that the difference observed in hypothesis 1 exists between lecturers with 10 years of experience and those with 25 years and above. Therefore, there is a significant difference between lecturers with 10 years of experience and those with 25 years and above.

H0² : There is no statistically significant difference in lecturers' mode on the area of using government electronic documents for research based on academic qualification.

Table 7. ANOVA analysis of the disparity between the mean ratings of lecturers on their area of use of government electronic documents for research based on qualification.

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	DEC
Between Groups	10.557	2	5.278	11.782	.000	
Within Groups	286.278	639	.448			S
Total	296.834	641				

S=Significance

Table 8. Post hoc tests

Multiple Comparisons						
Dependent Variable: cluster mean for areas of use						
(I) QUALIFICATION	(J) QUALIFICATION	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	Dec.	
Bsc/Ba	Msc	.4510423*	.1144531	.000	S	
	Ph.D.	.2411778*	.1226234	.050	NS	



Msc	Bsc/Ba	-.4510423*	.1144531	.000	S
	Ph.D.	-.2098644*	.0626046	.001	S
Ph.D.	Bsc/Ba	-.2411778*	.1226234	.050	NS
	Msc	.2098644*	.0626046	.001	S

S=Significance, NS= Not Significance

The results in Table 6 display an ANOVA analysis of the mean ratings of lecturers regarding their use of government electronic documents for research based on their academic qualifications. The results indicate a significant variation in the mean scores of lecturers in their use of government electronic documents for research depending on their academic qualifications. The F-value of 11.782, with a significance value of .000 demonstrates a notable difference in the mean responses of lecturers based on their qualifications. A post hoc test was conducted to pinpoint where the differences lie within the groups, as the probability value was below 0.05. Consequently, the null hypothesis, which posited that there is no discernible difference in the mean ratings of lecturers based on their qualifications, was rejected. This suggests that the difference highlighted in hypothesis 2 was between lecturers with master's and Ph.D. qualifications. Therefore, there is a significant distinction between lecturers with master's and Ph.D. qualifications.

Results revealed that lecturers accessed government official records from open shelves in the universities under study. This finding is supported by Ternenge and Kashimana (2019) who noted that users may not be able to physically access resources listed in the library that are relevant to their area of interest.

The study found that government e-documents are effectively used for research in various areas such as historical and cultural matters, political issues, health, education, statistics, legal matters, economics, international affairs, and agriculture, among others. This is consistent with the research of Ezema and Okafor (2020), who emphasized the importance of government electronic documents in research across different disciplines.

Furthermore, the findings indicated that government electronic documents have significantly contributed to research by providing information on historical and cultural records, government laws and policies, education, financial status, conflict resolution, security, population census, and more. This aligns with Del Baldo and Demartini (2021), who highlighted the various benefits of government documents, including promoting good governance, preserving historical and cultural heritage, and supporting research and decision-making processes.

The study also revealed challenges faced by lecturers in the universities in utilizing government documents, such as poor documentation, delays in receiving documents, and disorganization of materials. Okwor (2019) noted that government documents may not be visually appealing and are often classified as grey literature, leading to issues with exposure and accessibility.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that lecturers accessed government e-documents through different means such as were made available in the library. Furthermore, it is also concluded that government e-documents are used for effective research in different subject areas thereby enabling lecturers to carry out research in different fields of knowledge, assisting them to be well informed on activities and programs of the government as concern to the masses. The study also noted that government e-documents help to provide information to academic staff of the universities. Challenges associated with poor utilization of government documents were also X-rayed in the study. In conclusion, government documents are valuable sources of information for research and decision-making across different fields, and efforts should be made to address the challenges associated with their utilization in academic settings.



Therefore, the study revealed that lecturers at both universities have access to government electronic documents in the library, and the mode of access to these documents is significant based on years of experience. In same vein, the study suggests that lecturers understand the wealth of information contained in government electronic documents for research and their importance in critical areas of human endeavors. Researchers discovered that by using and consulting government electronic documents frequently, lecturers at the universities studied will be more productive in their research output. Once the identified problems associated with the utilization of government electronic documents receive attention, the government documentation section in university libraries will cease to exist.

Additionally, the study presents empirical literature on government electronic documents used by lecturers to enhance research output in the institutions under study in Southwest Nigeria. The study is unique as it comprehensively examines three prestigious universities in the country in relation to government documents and research productivity.

For further research and in line with the findings of the study, the study suggests that further research should be carried out on similar topics in developed countries; future researchers should consider investigating government electronic documents used by lecturers in other regions of the country.

REFERENCES

- Aboh, S. O. (2024). Funding of serials in academic libraries in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. *Journal of Management and Social Science Research*, 5(3), 28–36. <https://doi.org/10.47524/jmsr.v5i3.29>
- Ameen, K. (2018). Issues of book acquisition in university libraries: A case study of Pakistan. *Library Philosophy and Practice*. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/198>
- Arief, A., Wahab, I. H. A., & Muhammad, M. (2021). Barriers and challenges of e-government services: A systematic literature review and meta-analyses. In *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering* (Vol. 1125, No. 1, p. 012027). IOP Publishing. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/1125/1/012027>
- Ballestra, L. (2021). Public sector information for community awareness and digital well-being. *AIB Studi*, 61(1), 141–149. <https://doi.org/10.2426/aibstudi-13012>
- Bhavana, G. (2022). Literature review on remote working & effective workplace environment. *International Journal of Innovations in Science, Engineering and Management*, September, 32–36. <https://ijisem.com/journal/index.php/ijisem/article/view/14>
- Chaudhari, B. H. (2018). The role of library in higher education. *Scholarly Research Journal for Humanity Science and English Language*, 6(26), 7616–7621. <https://doi.org/10.21922/srjhsel.v6i26.11848>
- Chaudhry, R. (2023). *The changing dynamics of civil military relations in Pakistan: Soldiers of development*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003347040>
- Chen, Y.-C. (2022). *Managing digital governance: Issues, challenges, and solutions*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315207667>
- Cheney, D. (2018). Government information collections and services in the social sciences: The subject specialist integration model. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 32(3), 303–312. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2006.02.011>
- Cooper-Knock, S. J., & Owen, O. (2018). Government paper: The negotiated production and life of state documents. *Canadian Journal of African Studies / Revue Canadienne des Études Africaines*, 52(3), 269–287. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00083968.2018.1546601>
- Del Baldo, M., & Demartini, P. (2021). Cultural heritage through the “youth eyes”: Towards participatory governance and management of UNESCO sites. In *Cultural Initiatives for Sustainable Development: Management, Participation and Entrepreneurship in the Cultural and Creative Sector* (pp. 293–319). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-65687-4_14

- Ezema, I., & Okafor, V. (2020). Acquisition and use of government publications in Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. *The Information Technologist*, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.4314/ict.v6i2.52716>
- Kunkel, R. (2017). Law libraries and the future of public access to born-digital government information. *Law Library Journal*, 109, 67. <https://doi.org/10.7282/t3-kwf5-2195>
- Lawal, M. T., & Kannan, S. (2020). An appraisal of availability and utilization of information resources and library services by undergraduate students in three agriculture university libraries in Northern Nigeria (ABU, FUAM, FUTM). *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 1–25. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4591>
- Lazzarini, B., Pérez-Foguet, A., & Boni, A. (2018). Key characteristics of academics promoting sustainable human development within engineering studies. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 188, 237–252. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.03.270>
- Lulu-Pokubo, E. P., & Comfort, N. O. (2022). Acquisition and utilization of government publications in Captain Elechi Amadi Polytechnic Library, Rumuola, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. *Library and Information Science Digest*, 15(1), 64–74. <https://lisdigest.org>
- Martínez, R. A. (2024). Democratización de la información: Un análisis de las motivaciones que impulsan a las personas académicas a publicar. *Bibliotecas*, 42(1), 1–31. <https://doi.org/10.15359/rb.42-1.5>
- Masenya, T. M. (2021). Trustworthiness of institutional repositories in academic libraries in South Africa. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, Article 5160. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5160>
- Okafor, K. (2020). Public library services in Nigeria: Challenges and strategies. *Library and Information Science Digest*, 13, 116–125. <https://doi.org/10.1108/LM-05-2024-0051>
- Okwor, R. N., Ihekwoaba, E. C., & Agunwamba, C. (2019). Acquisition and provision of government publications for satisfaction of users' information needs in Nigerian university libraries. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, Article 2873. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2873>
- Okwor, R. N., Mole, A. J. C., & Ihekwoaba, E. C. (2015). Academic utilization of government publications in three Nigerian university libraries. *Portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 15(4), 587–607. <https://doi.org/10.1353/pla.2015.0046>
- Omeluzor, S. U., Ugochi, E. M., Sunday, I. D., & Onah, E. A. (2022). Factors affecting the development of e-library in universities in Nigeria. *Information Impact: Journal of Information and Knowledge Management*, 13(2), 26–46. <https://doi.org/10.4314/ijikm.v13i2.3>
- Omopupa, K. T., Eiriemiokhale, K. A., & Ogundele, I. S. (2021). Appraising the roles of information and communication technology (ICT) as a change agent for university libraries in Kwara State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Global Education*, 6(1), 10–24. <http://ijge.net/index.php/ijge/article/view/2/4>
- Onoh, C. C., & Ezech, G. S. (2023). Rethinking fee-based library services for wealth creation in university libraries in the 21st century. *Global Review of Library and Information Science (GRELIS)*, 19, 1–10. <https://www.grelis.com.ng>
- Rohrig, T., & Sare, L. (2020). Government information: Readily accessible yet also grey literature. *The Serials Librarian*, 79(3–4), 234–244. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0361526X.2020.1847739>
- Shepherd, E. (2015). Freedom of information, right to access information, open data: Who is at the table? *The Round Table*, 104(6), 715–726. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00358533.2015.1112101>
- Smith, K. F. (2019). POINTER vs. using government publications: Where's the advantage? In *Expert Systems in Reference Services* (pp. 191–206). Routledge.
- Sproles, C. (2022). Technological transformation of United States government documents librarianship. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 48(2), 102498. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2022.102498>



- Srimulyani, V. A., Hermanto, Y. B., Rustiyaningsih, S., & Waloyo, L. A. S. (2023). Internal factors of entrepreneurial and business performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in East Java, Indonesia. *Heliyon*, 9(11), e21637. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e21637>
- Svård, P. (2018). Access to government information: A global phenomenon but what are the challenges? *ESARBICA Journal*, 37, 158–177.
- Ternenge, T. S., & Kashimana, F. (2019). Availability, accessibility, and use of electronic information resources for research by students in Francis Sulemanu Idachaba Library University of Agriculture, Makurdi. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, Article 2352. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2352>
- Tesliuk, R. (2024). Demographic sustainability of Ukraine and its changes caused by the Russian-Ukrainian war. *Journal of Population and Social Studies*, 32, 431–447. <https://doi.org/10.25133/JPSv322024.026>
- Tukur, L. M. (2019). Issues and challenges in accessing and utilization of information resources by students of FUAA. *Library Philosophy and Practice*. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2673>
- Undie, F. N., & Afebende, G. B. (2019). Impact of social media use on utilization of library resources: A study of post-graduate university students in Cross River State of Nigeria. *International Journal of Information Management Sciences*, 3(1), 34–42. <http://ijims.org/>
- Véliz, D., Bernasconi, A., Celis, S., Mella, M., & Miranda, C. (2023). Pathways to the creation of research capacities in universities in developing countries: Perspectives from a literature review. *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*, 45(5), 566–582. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1360080X.2023.2211317>
- Vogus, B. (2023). Online government information resources in academic libraries: Accessibility and trust issues. *Public Services Quarterly*, 19(1), 54–58.
- Waller, L., & Genius, A. (2015). Barriers to transforming government in Jamaica: Challenges to implementing initiatives to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and service delivery of government through ICTs (e-government). *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy*, 9(4), 480–497. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/TG-12-2014-0067>
-

Author (s):

* Olanike Faith Mesagan (Corresponding Author)
Departement of Center for Applied Data Science,
University of Johannesburg,
Auckland Park, P.O. Box 524, Johannesburg 2006, South Africa
Email: omesagan@uj.ac.za

Hossana Twinomurizi
Departement of Center for Applied Data Science,
University of Johannesburg,
Auckland Park, P.O. Box 524, Johannesburg 2006, South Africa
Email: hossanat@uj.ac.za

