STAFF AWARENESS AND USE OF THE ESSENTIAL ELECTRONIC AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (TEEAL) DATABASE IN NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY SHABU-LAFIA CAMPUS

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Abstract

The study centered on staff awareness and use of the essential electronic agricultural library (TEEAL) Database by staff in Nasarawa State University Keffi (NSUK) Shabu-Lafia Campus. A survey design was adopted for the study. The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. The population of the study consists 46 academic staff in (NSUK) Shabu-Lafia Campus. 46 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and returned duly filled. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics expressed in frequency scores and percentage. The findings of the study revealed that, the respondents are aware of the existence of TEEAL database from the library. The reasons for the using TEEAL database by the respondents include, better research outputs, personal development and updating of knowledge. The respondents were satisfied with the use of TEEAL database. The problems encountered on the use of TEEAL by staff includes level of awareness was greater than usage because of lack of search skills, lack of training, difficulty in finding relevant information in the database, recurrent power outage and lack of support from library staff. The study recommends that the library and librarians should organize user orientation and training on effective use of e-databases and searching skills, awareness on the use of e-resources should be done periodically and faculty and university management should find alternative source of power supply such as a standby generator, inverter or solar energy system.

Keywords: TEEAL, Database, Awareness, Access, Use of information resources, Faculty members, Library,

Introduction

The electronic and information revolutions have triggered the development and use of electronic database in academic institutions worldwide. This has caused a change in the landscape of information generation, storage, retrieval and dissemination. The paradigm has considerably improved access to information for teaching, learning and research beyond boundary of the immediate university community. University libraries played a vital role through the provision and disseminating of information via electronic resources to the right

users. Timely access to electronic resources promotes scholarship especially in the area of teaching, learning and research output among scholars globally. Therefore, universities provide electronic databases including TEEAL, an offline database for use in academic community. These electronic databases have a pronounced way on the sentence of research output universities. The use of database electronic has undoubtedly given institutions a phenomenal efficaciousness and removed constrictions of time and distance. As the citied of learning, Nasarawa State University Shabu Lafia-campus is one of the early birth faculty in 2003, after the inception of the University in year 2000. The faculty produced very sound and well-articulated entrepreneurial graduates in agriculture related discipline. The ideology of the faculty is to train high level resources human towards ensuring a well-articulated agricultural process that guarantees sustainable productivity in Nasarawa State, Nigeria and the world at large. Through transforming the rich and diverse agricultural natural resources of the state and the nation for sustainable socio-economic development and self-sufficiency in food, fabric and other natural resources in the state. The vision of the faculty is to be a foremost faculty of Agriculture in the North Central, Nigeria and a global reference point in agricultural studies. The faculty is aimed to achieve the following objectives.

- To produce agricultural graduates who can put their skills into operation by establishing and operating their own farming businesses.
- To develop programes covering all broad areas of agriculture.
- To train personnel who are capable of teaching, conducting research and employable in Nigeria in all aspect of agriculture and related fields.
- To conduct research in various fields of agriculture as food sciences.
- To develop a virile agricultural extension mechanism which will adequately cater for the needs of local farmers.
- To produce extension workers who will be able to communicate effectively with rural farmers.
- To produce production- orientated agricultural graduates by using hands on approach system.

The faculty offers a comprehensive integrated practice, demonstration and sound theoretical teachings to promote academic and professional excellence in agricultural economics and extension services, animal science, agronomy, aquaculture and fisheries management, forestry and wildlife, home science management and nutrition and dietetics.

The TEEAL database provides offline access into excellent journals publications in the under listed subjects; Agricultural economics, Agricultural engineering, Agroforestry, Animal Science, Biotechnology, Crop science, Entomology, Horticulture, Microbiology, Natural resources, Nutrition and food science, Plant breeding, Physiopathology, Plant physiology, Rural development, Soil Science, Veterinary Medicine.

In contemporary university ecosystem, effective use of electronic information resources (EIRs) has a great impact on the quality of research outputs and graduands, of academic institution. The use of database information resources has granted educational institutions an extraordinary capability and eliminated constraints of time and distance. Library users frequently prefer access to e-resources which provides information that is up-to-date, international in scope, reliable and are visible around the globe. Edem (2015), opined that the use of electronic database in libraries has aided and added value to research activities in tertiary schools in Nigeria. The advent of electronic database has fostered a faster and easy access to current, rich and far-reaching information. Electronic information sources can be seen as one of the most recent developments in the library and information centers.

Akpojotor (2016) as cited by Andrew and Gayus (2017) observed that, awareness of the changes in technology in recent years has dramatically altered how information is accessed, stored and disseminated. The information provision and usage of information resources in academic libraries was previously based upon the collection of physical library materials, but is now increasingly the case that academic libraries are moving into the virtual arena, issue of collection of physical library materials does not exist. Awareness is knowledge about something that exists or understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on information or experience. interestingly, many people use electronic databases purposely for research activities and thesis writing. Most of the universities provide electronic resources to their users to support teaching, research and development (Naqvi, 2012). On the challenges associated with the use of academic databases in academic libraries, the major problems identified by the users of electronic resources as pointed out by Adeniji et'al (2015) are recurrent power outages, limited bandwidth, poor searching skills, inadequate ICT infrastructure, insufficient funds, and network problems. Similarly, Kwadzo (2015) identified lack of awareness, poor searching skills and inadequate ICT infrastructure and bad downloading time as major problems militating against the use of electronic resources in university libraries.

Problem Statement

The use of electronic databases as a source of information cannot be underestimated. This is because electronic databases do not only contain up-to-date information, current information but also reliable and visible around the globe. The use of databases offers educational institutions exceptional opportunities and removes time and distance constraints. Library patrons nowadays often choose to use electronic database resources than printed materials. However, library users need to be aware of the existence of TEEAL database and the worth of these database resources but it seems the academic staff of Nasarawa State University Shabu-Lafia campus are not aware of TEEAL in the faculty library and thought of using it. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate the staff awareness and use of TEEAL database in Nasarawa State University Shabu- Lafia Campus.

Objective of the study

The main objective of this study is to investigate staff awareness and use of the essential electronic agricultural library (TEEAL) database in Nasarawa State University shabu lafia- Campus. Specifically, the study seeks to

1. ascertain staff awareness level on TEEAL database in Nasarawa State University shabu lafia- Campus.

2. identify the source of information on awareness about TEEAL database in Nasarawa State University shabu lafia- Campus

3. ascertain the frequency of using TEEAL database by academic staff in Nasarawa State University shabu lafia- Campus

4. identify Reasons for using TEEAL database by the academic staff in Nasarawa State University shabu lafia- Campus

5. determine the level of satisfaction derived from the use of TEEAL database in shabu lafia- Campus

6. identify the constraints associated with the use of TEEAL database by the staff in Nasarawa State University shabu lafia- Campus

Literature Review

Awareness can be seen as knowledge or perception of a situation, fact, consciousness, recognition, realization, grasp and acknowledgement concern about and well-informed interest or familiarity in a particular situation or development (Ani & Ahiauzu, 2008). Akinola (2021) conducted a study on "Academic Staff Consciousness and Consumption of The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (Teeal) Database for Teaching and Research in The College of Agricultural Sciences, Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Nigeria. The findings revealed that majority of the staff are conscious of the existence of the database, as 88 (89%) responded affirmatively, while only 11(11%) responded in the negative. The results exemplify that majority of the respondents knew about TEEAL database from the library and the library staff 55(56%). The findings also showed that the extent of the use of the database is poor as it recorded (10%) small extent consumption among the respondents. The findings showed that most of the respondents attributed their reasons for the use of TEEAL database in the library to include, for better research outputs of publications 88(89%) and 88(89%) for preparation of lectures and instructional course materials. The results recognized the key problems confronted by the respondents in consuming TEEAL database to include recurrent power outages, lack of training in the use of TEEAL database and difficulty in finding information with 88(89%) response rate.

In addition, Andrew and Gayus (2017) studied the awareness and use of the essential electronic agricultural library (TEEAL) database among Faculty Members in Federal University, Kashere and Federal College of Education (Technical), Gombe, Nigeria. The

results of the study showed that majority of the respondents are aware of the database, as 84.4% responded positive, at the same time 12% responded in the negative. Only 3.6% respondents indicated their indecision on whether they know about TEEAL database or not. The result also showed that significant respondents got information about the TEEAL database from librarians (73.2%). The findings showed that 46.3% of the respondents use TEEAL weekly, thus is followed by respondents who use it monthly 21%, while only 8.5% of respondents never use TEEAL information resources. The study also revealed that 46.3% of the respondents use TEEAL weekly, thus is followed by respondents who use it monthly 21%. While only 8.5% of respondents never use TEEAL information resources. The result showd that 77% of the faculty members are satisfied with the access provided to the resources, while 22% of them are not satisfied. The findings identified that 92% responses recorded recurrent power outages as the major problems faced by the users of TEEAL resources.

Another study was caried out by, Yebowaah and Plockey (2017) on the familiarity and use of electronic databases by the teaching staff in the university for development studies in Ghana, the results of the study showed that that majority 54 (67.5%) of the respondents do not use the electronic databases in the library while only 26 respondents (32.5%) specified that they use the electronic databases in the library. The results also showed the frequency of use of the electronic databases. The study revealed that only 2 (7.7%) of the respondents used the electronic databases on weekly basis, while 4 (15.4%) used them twice weekly. The findings also revealed that 11 respondents with (42.3%) used the electronic databases once a month and 9 respondents (34.6%) used them occasionally. The finding on reason using electronic database as identified in Musa, et'al (2015) include research, thesis writing, lecture notes, teaching and texts for publication, self-development, note-taking and community development, most universities provide electronic resources to support teaching, research and development.

Methodology

A survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study consist of 46 academic staff in Nasarawa State University shabu-lafia campus. A structured closed ended questionnaire titled 'Staff Awareness and Use of the Essential Electronic Agricultural Library database in Nasarawa State University shabu-lafia campus" was designed and used as instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was administered to (46) forty-six respondents of the study. A total enumeration technique was adopted. All the forty-six (46) copies of the questionnaire were duly filled, returned and analyzed using frequencies and percentages.

Finding of the study
The analyzed data were tabulated to enhance easy presentation and interpretation

Table 1: Awareness of the respondents about TEEAL database

Variables	Frequency/46	Percentage (%)
Aware	36	78.2
Not aware	8	17.3
Undecided	2	4.3
Total	**46**	**100**

Table 1 indicates the knowledge of respondents about the exitance of TEEAL database which they were asked whether they have ever heard about it. The results revealed that majority are aware of the database, as (78.2%) responded positively, while (17.3%) responded in the negatively. Howeve, (4.3%) of the respondents indicated their indecision on whether they know about TEEAL database or not. It was from the findings, realized staff in Nasarawa State University shabu-lafia campus were quite knowledgeable about the TEEAL availability in the faculty library. The findings aligned with findings of the study of Akinola, (2021), Andrew & Gayus (2017) where the found that majority of the respondents in their study are aware of the database, as 84.4% responded positive, at the same time 12% responded in the negative.

Table 2: Source of information on the awareness on the availability of about TEEAL database

Variables	Frequency/46	Percentage (%)
From Institution website	0	0
From library website	0	0
From librarian / library staff	38	82.6
From colleague	6	13
From Notice board	0	0
From Workshop, seminar or conference	2	4.3
From the internet	0	0
Total	**46**	**100**

The findings in table 2 revealed that significant respondents got information on the availability about the TEEAL database from librarians and library staff (82.6%). This is in order because librarians are expected to spearhead the awareness creation and recommend use of the databases and enhance greater collaboration between library users. These findings agreed with Akintola (2021) findings on the study "Academic Staff Consciousness and Consumption of The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) Database for Teaching and Research in the College of Agricultural Sciences, Joseph Ayo Babalola University", Ikeji-Arakeji, Nigeria. The findings revealed that majority of the respondents

knew about TEEAL database from the library and the library staff (55.56%). This depicts the fact that librarians are the front-runners in providing awareness to library collections.

Table 3: Frequency of Using TEEAL database

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Daily	5	10.7
Weekly	16	34.8
Monthly	11	23.9
Rarely	10	21.8
Never	4	8.6
Total	**46**	**100**

Findings in Table 3 revealed that 34.8% of the respondents used TEEAL on weekly basis. This is followed by (23.9%) respondents indicated that they used it monthly. The respondents who rarely used TEEAL information resources represented 21.8%. on the other hand, 8.6% of the respondents indicated that they never use TEEAL database. The findings agreed with and substantiate the findings of Andrew & Gayus (2017) who found that 46.3% of the respondents used TEEAL weekly, followed by respondents who use it monthly representing 21%. While 8.5% of the respondents never used TEEAL database. The possible reason for not using TEEAL may be attributed to lack of awareness of the TEEAL availability in their institution library. In another study by Akintola (2021), the findings revealed that poor frequency rate of the use of TEEAL is (88.89%) while (88.89%) used TEEAL occasionally.

Table 4: Reason(s) for using TEEAL information resources in the library

Reason (s)/ Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For better Research output	23	50
Update knowledge	7	12.2
Personal development	11	23.9
For preparing lectures /instructional course material	5	10.9
General reading	0	0
Class assignment	0	0
Examination	0	0
Leisure	0	0
Entertainment	0	0
Total	**46**	**100**

The findings in table 4 indicates the various reasons for using TEEAL database among the respondents. The findings showed that most of the respondents attributed their reasons for the use of TEEAL database in the faculty library to include, for better research outputs of (50%), followed by personal development (23.9%), for updating knowledge takes (12.2%), and for preparation of lectures and instructional course materials represented (10.9%). The findings also showed zero percentage for the reasons of General reading, class assignments, Leisure, examinations and entertainments. The basis for the zero utilization of TEEAL for these reasons could be that the materials in the database do not match of their subjects and the contents covered in them are not relevant to the reasons with zero responses. Therefore, the study established that the central purpose for the use of TEEAL database by the academic staff of the faculty is for the enrichment and sustenance of research, teaching and learning in the university. These findings agreed with Akintola (2021) The findings show that most of the respondents attributed their reasons for the use of TEEAL database in the library to include, for better research outputs of publications (88.89%) and (88.89%) for preparation of lectures and instructional course materials.

Table 5: level of satisfaction with using TEEAL database

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Satisfied	34	73.9
Undecided	1	2.1
Not satisfied	11	23.9
Total	**46**	**100**

The respondents were asked to inculcate their level of satisfaction with access of TEEAL information resources in the faculty library. The findings in table 5 showed that 73.9% of the faculty members were satisfied with the use of TEEAL resources, while 23.9% indicated that they were not satisfied. On the other hand, 2.1% of the respondents didn't indicate the level of their satisfaction. Higher positive response by the staff on satisfaction of the use of TEEAL databases from the library was not surprising, since the library is relatively well equipped to cater for the information needs of users to enhance research, teaching and learning.

Table 6: challenges associated using TEEAL database

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Computer System failure	7	15.2
Lack of training	12	26.0
Lack of search skills	13	28.2
Low bandwidth	0	0
Lack of assistance	2	4.3

Electricity Power failure	7	15.2
Lack of current version of database	3	6.5
Difficulty in finding relevant information	2	4.3
Limited time / Library time is not suitable	0	0
Total	**46**	**100**

The findings on table 6 identified major challenges faced by the users of TEEAL resources to include Lack of search skills representing 28.2% which topped the list of the challenges faced by the staff in use of TEEAL, this is followed by lack of training 26.0%, computer System failure and Electricity Power failure which represent 15.2% each, lack of current version of database 6.5%, lack of assistance and difficulty in finding relevant information representing 4.3% respectively. Low bandwidth and Limited time / Library time is not suitable had zero respondents. The findings corroborate the study of Adetoun (2010) where they identified some hindrances that the academic staff in south west universities faced while using e-resources with exception of low bandwidth. This is because TEEAL information resources can be accesses offline on the intranet network of a library. (9.7%) of the respondent identified lack of availability of the resources. This indicated that those respondents are not aware of TEEAL database existence in their institution's library. The number is even lower than12% of the respondents that indicated that they were not aware of the resources as earlier stated in table 1.

Discussion of Findings

The findings were discussed in line with the objectives of the study

Ascertain the awareness and existence of TEEAL database by **staff. in NSUK shabu lafia- Campus**

The result revealed that that majority were aware of the database, as (78.2%) responded positively, while (17.3%) responded in the negative. However (4.3%) of respondents indicated their indecision on whether they know about TEEAL database or not. It was realized staff in NSUK shabu lafia- Campus were quite knowledgeable about the TEEAL availability in the faculty library. The findings agreed with findings of the study of Akinola, (2021), Andrew & Gayus (2017) who found that majority were aware of the database, as 84.4% responded positively, where as12% of the respondents responded in the negative.

Identify the source of information on awareness about TEEAL database in NSUK shabu lafia- Campus.

The findings indicated that significant number respondents had information on awareness about the TEEAL database from librarian and library staff (82.6%). This is in order because librarians are expected to spearhead the awareness creation and recommend use of the databases and enhance greater collaboration between library users. This finding aligned with Akintola (2021) findings on a study conducted on "Academic Staff

Consciousness and Consumption of The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) Database for Teaching and Research in the College of Agricultural Sciences, Joseph Ayo Babalola University", Ikeji-Arakeji, Nigeria. The findings indicated that majority of the respondents knew about TEEAL database from the library and the library staff (55.56%).

Ascertain the frequency of using TEEAL database by academic staff in NSUK shabu lafia- Campus.

The findings showed that 34.8% of the respondents used TEEAL on weekly basis. This is followed by (23.9%) respondents who indicated that they use it on monthly basis. The respondents who rarely used TEEAL information resources represents 21.8%. While 8.6% of the respondents never used TEEAL information resources. These findings agreed with the findings of Andrew & Gayus (2017) who found that 46.3% of the respondents used TEEAL on weekly. This is followed by respondents who used it on monthly basis representing 21%. Furthermore, 8.5% of respondents indicated that they do not used TEEAL information resources. The likely reason for not using TEEAL may be attributed to lack aware of the TEEAL availability in their institution library. Similarly, a study by Akintola (2021) revealed that poor frequency rate of using of TEEAL has a frequency of (88.89%) while (88.89%) used it occasionally.

Identify Reasons for using TEEAL database by the academic staff in NSUK shabu lafia-Campus.

The findings showed that majority of the respondents attributed their reasons for the using of TEEAL database in the faculty library to include, for better research outputs which representing (50%), followed by personal development (23.9%), updating knowledge has (12.2%), and for preparation of lectures and instructional course materials had (10.9%). The study also indicated a zero percentage for reasons related to General reading, class assignments, Leisure, examinations and entertainments as none of the respondents used TEEAL for these reasons highlighted above. The basis for the zero utilization of TEEAL for these reasons could be that the materials in the database are not related to the focus of their subjects and the contents are not relevant to the respondents' reason that had zero responses. Therefore, the study established that the central purpose for the use of TEEAL database by the academic staff of shabu-lafia is for the enrichment and sustenance of research, teaching and learning in the university. This finding agreed with Akintola (2021) who study found that most of the respondents attributed their reasons for the use of TEEAL database in the library to include, for better research outputs of publications (88.89%) and (88.89%) for preparation of lectures and instructional course materials.

Determine the level of satisfaction with the use of TEEAL database in shabu lafia-Campus

The findings showed that 73.9% of the were satisfied with the use of TEEAL database while 23.9% of the respondents indicated that they are not satisfied. 2.1% of the respondents could not indicate the level of their satisfaction. Based on the forgoing, the positive response by the academic staff on satisfaction derived in the use of TEEAL database from the library was not surprising since the library is relatively well equipped to cater for the information needs of users in enhancing research, teaching and learning.

Identify the challenges associated with the use of TEEAL database in NSUK shabu lafia- Campus.

The findings identified the major challenges associated with the use of TEEAL database to include Lack of search skill. This is followed by lack of training, Computer System failure and Electricity Power failure, lack of current version of database, lack of assistance and difficulty in finding relevant information. Low bandwidth and limited time / library time is not suitable had zero respondents. The findings corroborated findings of Adetoun (2010) study who identified some hindrances that the academic staff in south west universities faced in using e-resources with exception of low bandwidth, to include lack of availability of the resources.

Conclusion

The study investigated the staff awareness and use of TEEAL database Nasarawa State University shabu-lafia campus. TEEAL database is considered very important information resources for enhancing research, teaching and learning in the academic environment. Therefore, staff relied on TEEAL and other e-resources for their teaching and research activities because it contained relevant, and up-to-date information. The study revealed that the staff were aware of and used TEEAL resources satisfactorily. Awareness level was generally high and they expressed their satisfaction in using TEEAL database. The study identified some challenges associated with the use of TEEAL database by staff to include lack of search skills, lack of training, difficulty in finding relevant information in the database, recurrent power outage and as few respondents reported lack support/help from library staff among others.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendation were made

1. The library staff should carry out periodic awareness creation on available library resources

2. Library management should extend the means of publicizing the activities and services of university library via university bulletin.

3. The Academic (mentors) should encourage younger colleague to frequently use TEEAL database.

4. Reasons for using TEEAL should not only be limited to enrichment and sustenance of research, teaching and learning alone but also for versatility leisure, examination and enterterment.
5. There should always be feedback from users to ascertain the level of satisfaction derived from the use of TEEAL database.
6. The library management should organize workshop and other capacity building programs training and retraining on e-searching skills for current version of databases
7. Library management should provide subscribe on large bandwidth, regular power supply in order to promote conducive environment for access and use of library resources.
8. library staff should always be ready to assist the users who may face some difficulty in using TEEAL database.

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