

Availability and Use of Information Technologies in Nigerian University Libraries

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Information technology has four distinct phases – input, processing, distribution and output. Information technology is widely used in the developed world, but its status in the developing countries is not very clear due to the dearth of published information on the subject. Many reasons have been advanced by producers for the inability of developing countries to acquire and use information technology, but it is not the objective of this study to confirm or dispute these reasons. Rather, a fresh viewpoint from the perspective of the end-user and not of the technology producer, is sought with a view to understanding the problems and attempting to solve them.

Nevertheless, information technology is vital today. In a world in which paper has become a menace to information storage and retrieval, the productivity and efficiency of workers are greatly reduced as timely retrieval of information becomes an uphill task. The paper explosion has to be tamed if productivity and efficiency are to be restored in the working environment. This is why information technology is welcome. This study focuses on the inventory and use of input, processing, distribution and output phases of information technology in the libraries of both state and federal universities in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- make an inventory of available information technology in Nigerian University Libraries;
- find out the uses to which available information technology is put;
- find out the advantages and disadvantages arising from the use of information technology in Nigerian University libraries;
- identify deficiencies in the availability and use of information technology in Nigerian university libraries;
- identify the constraints on the availability and use of information technology in these libraries.

Methodology

The survey method was used to collect data for this study. The whole population of 30 university libraries in Nigeria was surveyed. To this end, a