

Ibrahim, Lubabatu
School of Midwifery Library Minna, Niger State
Email: lubabatuagaie@gmail.com

Dr G.A. Babalola
Department of Library and Information Technology,
Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State Nigeria
Email: Gaboft7r7@gmail.com; G.babalola@futminna.edu.ng
and

Dr A.O.Ahmed
Department of Library and Information Technology,
Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State Nigeria
Email: ganiyokahmed@yahoo.com

Abstract

The study examined the research productivity of librarians through information and communication technology, with particular reference to Federal University of Technology Minna Nigeria. Survey research which is a case study was employed and total enumeration (census) was used to cover all the twenty-eight librarians in Federal University of Technology, Minna. The study revealed amongst others that funding, time allocated for research and research environment had direct positive influence on the research productivity of librarians in Federal University Technology Minna. The study recommended the following amongst others. That the management of Federal University of Technology, Minna should leave no stone unturned in the provision of funds that could boost the research productivity of librarians. There should be proper timing for the planning and execution of laudable researchers in the university especially as it affects librarians in the institution.

Keywords: Research productivity; Librarians; Information and Communication Technology; Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria

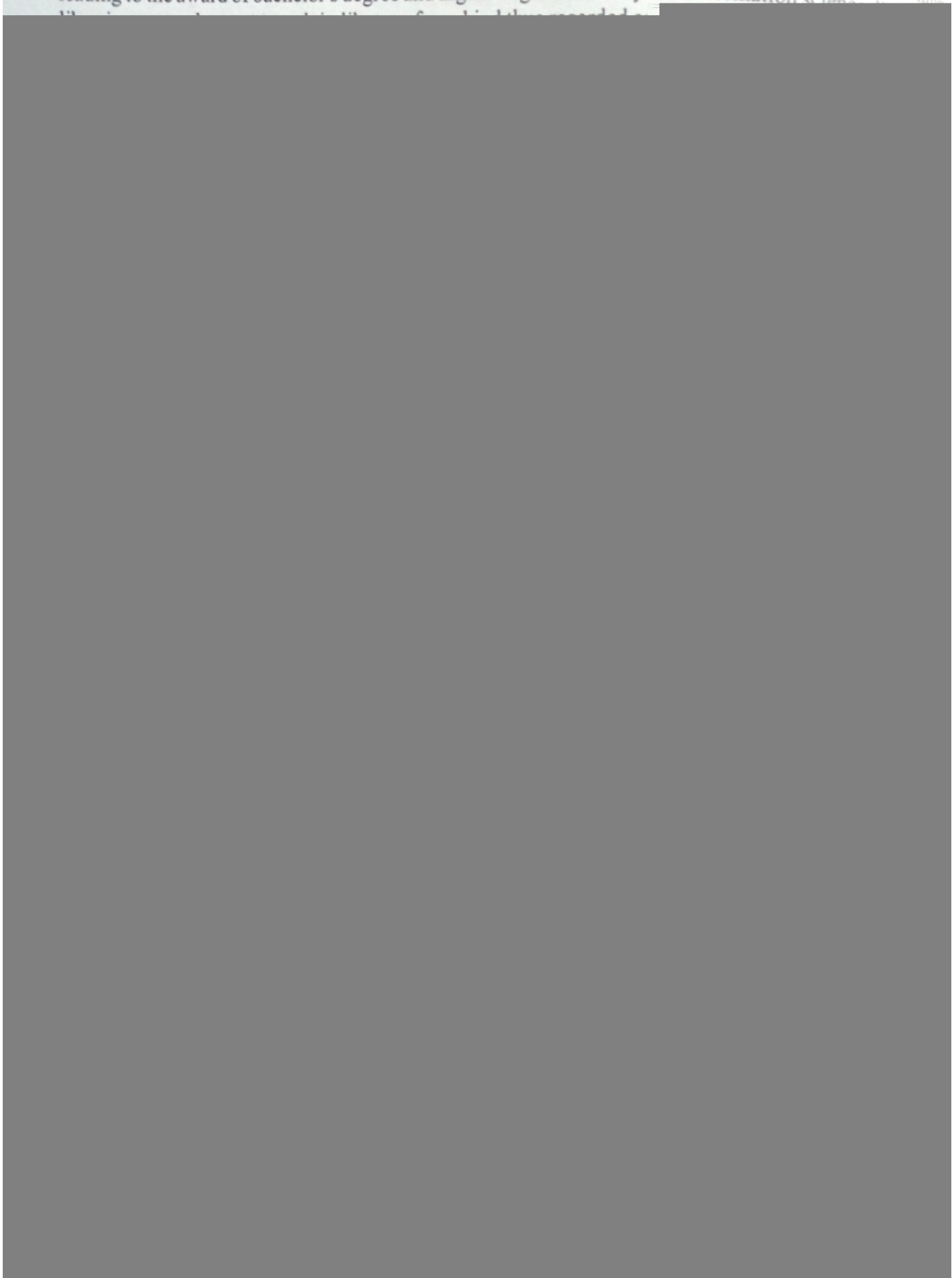
Introduction

Research is a process of discovering new knowledge. It is a systematic gathering and analysis of information designed to contribute to knowledge. It is also a process of investigation; an examination of a subject from different points of view. It's not just a trip to the library to pick up a stack of materials, or picking the first five hits from a computer search. research is a hunt for the truth. It is getting to know a subject by reading up on it, reflecting, playing with the ideas, choosing the areas that interest one and following up on them. research is the way one educates himself/herself: no matter what is being studied, the value of the research depends on how well it is designed and done. therefore, one of the most important considerations in carrying out a good research is to follow the design or plan of all aspects of the research and create what is called a protocol (the research plan) (Connell, 2012). Many librarians work in institutions where they are required to conduct research for promotion and/or tenure. However, given the current emphasis on evidence-based management, all librarians should possess the knowledge and skills to conduct operational researches.

Research plays a key role in development and dissemination of knowledge; it leads to development of new knowledge as well as contributing to existing knowledge. It equally provides an important background for faculty including librarians to become more proficient in the discharge of their assignment especially teaching (Lertputtarak, 2010). Academicians who are actively involved in research activities are usually faculty that are domiciled in academic institutions like universities are usually current and up to date with the latest developments in their field or discipline, compared to research dormant academicians. productivity is a means by which faculty contribute their own knowledge to the existing

body of knowledge. This can be in form of; journal articles, technical reports, books, supervision and training of students etcetera. the more research outcomes that are published in different formats the better the productivity of researchers (Okafor, 2011).

A librarian is an individual who has undergone training programmed in approved institution of learning leading to the award of bachelor's degree and higher degree in library and information science.



edited books and textbooks), book chapters, monographs, conference papers, and research proposals written to receive external and internal grants. human beings conduct research every day and they do so in various ways, with different themes and in many different settings. one important domain is education. conducting research in an educational setting should be a significant aspect of every educator's professional life and activities.

however, study of research productivity has attracted growing attention in the field librarianship for more than fifty years and especially since issues of academic tenure have come the fore. Alzahrani (2011) observed that academic research represents the backbone of human activity in the way that it has improved the quality of life by expanding frontiers of academic knowledge and making further research possible throughout the world. academic researcher publishes to establish their claim to a specific result at a specific point in time. when researchers publish their academic studies, it is an opportunity for their peers to access their research and communicate with other academics who might be interested in a similar subject area. Besimoglu (2012) agrees that the publication of research result is a significant link between the areas of communication and academic awards; thus academic societies were founded to encourage communication among their members.

research productivity in any institution is a major index of a librarian's quality and the determination of advancement in term of prestige, recognition for creative thinking, promotion, salary increase and acceptability in the institutional setting (Chiemekwe, Longe, and Shaib, 2009). in addition, research output provides a good justification for librarians to become successful academics. this is so because research activities develop academic knowledge and as well reinforces the skills for effective knowledge transfer. the quality of research output amongst librarians in any university setting depends largely on quality and quantity of information resources at the institution's disposal as well as their self-concept (Okonedo & Popoola, 2012).

Research Productivity of Librarians

research plays a key role in development and dissemination of knowledge; it leads to development of new knowledge as well as contributing to existing knowledge. it also provides an important background for academic staff to become successful lecturers. It enhances the quality of teaching effectiveness and reinforces many of the skills that are required for effective teaching (Lertputtarak, 2010). Lecturers that are actively involved in research activities are usually in touch with the latest developments in their field and are more likely to be in the forefront of their discipline, compared to the research dormant lecturers. Furthermore, several academic and research institutions' reward system base the promotion criteria on quantity and quality of research productivity. university lecturers are today being asked to increase their research output and productivity, in order to meet the ever changing demands of the 21st century. Research productivity includes research publications in professional journals and in conference proceedings, writing a book or chapter, gathering and analyzing original evidence, working with post-graduate students on dissertations and class projects, obtaining research grants, carrying out editorial duties, obtaining patents and licenses, writing of monographs, developing experimental designs, producing works of an artistic or creative nature, engaging in public debates and commentaries. Olorunfoba and Ajayi, (2006) observed that research publication in the university is a major or most significant indicator of academic staff productivity, and that research attainment is determined by the number of published articles in refereed journals and conference proceedings of repute. Research productivity in academic institutions is reflected in the number and quality of articles published by the affiliated faculty. often, departments evaluate their faculty on their "publication count" (Hadjinicola and Soteriou, 2005).

research productivity in academic institutions is reflected in the number and quality of articles published by the affiliated faculty often, departments evaluate their faculty on their "publication count" (Frantz et al, 2010). research productivity evaluation has a significant impact on tenure decisions and promotions in general, salary raises, and mobility, especially in research-oriented schools. Hiroyuki et al (2016) posits that most researchers have been spending a lot of public funds to execute researches. Researchers have responsibilities to ensure that the research output at their institutions are both finable and accessible to the public. the possibilities of publishing research outputs have considerably improved since the development of the internet.

Research Design

This study adopts survey research method. Survey method was used for the study because data would be collected so as to describe and interpret the factors of enhancing the research productivity of librarians in Federal University of Technology, Minna. the survey research method allows the selection of random samples from large and small populations to obtain empirical knowledge of a contemporary nature. According to Oyedum (2015) the survey research is also used to assess a situation with a view to correcting inadequacies or effecting improvements.

Ali (2006) stated that survey method is a type of descriptive research which uses sample data to describe and explain what is in existence or non-existence on the present status of a phenomenon that is being investigated.

Population of the study

the population of the study consisted of twenty-eight librarians in (Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida Library) of Federal University of Technology, Minna. The data were analysed using simple percentage count and descriptive analysis statistics which was based on the opinions to predict research output using the independent variables of funding, time and environment of the respondents.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Accessibility of funds for research activities

Source	Frequency	percentage(%)
university funding	8	28.6
personal funding	12	42.8
donor funding	8	28.6
Total	28	100

Table 1 indicates that 8 (28.6%) of the respondents agreed that funds can be easily accessible by university, 12 (42.8%) of the respondents indicate that personal finances were adequate and easily accessed for their research output. 8 (28.6%) are neutral on the case of access of funds from government and donor; similarly, the respondents disagreed that research funds from university and donors respectively are adequate for research. this study revealed that funding has direct positive influence on the research productivity of librarians.

Table 2: Time allocated for research

Response	Frequency	percentage(%)
adequate	10	35.7
inadequate	15	53.6
None	3	10.7
Total	28	100

shows that 10 (35.7%) of the respondents agreed that time allocated for research activities is adequate while 15 (53.6%) of the respondents indicate that time allocation is inadequate for one to embark on meaningful research activities. Three (10.7%) respondents revealed that there is no relationship between time dedicated to research and publication. Findings of the study indicated that indicated time is an important factor that enhances research productivity among librarians.

Table 3: Satisfaction with the university environment

Response	frequency	percentage (%)
Satisfied	21	75
not satisfied	7	25
Total	28	100

Table 3 shows that 21 (75%) of the respondents are satisfied with the university environment while 7(25%) of the respondents are not satisfied with university environment. It is good to put all necessary facilities that could improve the research productivity of librarians in the university environment.

Conclusion

It is apt to conclude from the study that the factors that were examined in the study such as: funding, time allocated for research and research environment had direct positive influence on the research productivity of librarians in Federal University Technology, Minna. If adequate funding is given, the research productivity of librarians would receive a boost. Equally, no effort should be spared to improve the work environment of the librarians with the ultimate aim of boosting their research output.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following plausible recommendations are made.

1. The management of Federal University of Technology, Minna should leave no stone unturned in the provision of funds that could boost the research productivity of librarians
2. There should be proper timing for the planning and execution of laudable researchers in the university especially as it affects librarians in the institution.
3. The university management should take bold step to improve the working environment of the librarians if their research productivity is to receive a boost.

References

- Ejedafiru & Isebe. (2011). ict-enhancing library service; opportunities and challenges for disabled person in nigeria. grown research in education. vol.1(1): pp. 1-2
- Alzahrani, J. A. (2011). overcoming barriers to improve research productivity in saudi arabia *international journal of business and social science* 2(19) [special issue - october 2011]
- Besimoglu, C. (2007). akademisyenlerin elektronik dergi kullaniminda disiplinler arasindaki fark. ms thesis, hacettepe university.
- Chiemeke, S.; Longe, O. B.; Longe, F. A.; & Shaib, I.O. (2009). research outputs from nigerian tertiary institutions: an empirical appraisal. library philosophy and practice. available at: <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/chiemeke-longe-shaib.pdf>
- Frantz, J. M., Rhoda, A., Struthers, P., Phillips, J. (2010). Research productivity of academics in a physiotherapy department: a case study' *african journal of health professions education*, 2 (1)
- Hadjinicola C. G., & Soteriou C. A., (2005). 'factors affecting research productivity of production and operations management groups: an empirical study' *journal of applied mathematics and decision sciences* vol. 2006, article id 96542
- Hiroyuki, T., Masaki, N., Yuan, S. & Xiaomin, L. (2016). a study on the academic and research impact of shared contents in institutional repositories in related to performance indicators of university rankings. by jsps kakenhi grant numbers 25330388, 25280121.
- Lertputtarak, S., (2010). 'an investigation of factors related to research productivity in a public university in thailand: a case study'. unpublished thesis, victoria university, australia.
- Okafor, V. N. (2011). comparative analysis of research output of federal universities in southern nigeria. *library philosophy and practice*. retrieved from <http://www.webpages.edu/~mbolin/okafor.htm>
- Okiki, O. C. (2013). Research productivity of teaching faculty members in nigerian federal universities: an investigative study. chinese librarianship: an *international electronic journal*, 36. URL: <http://www.iclc.us/cliej/cl36okiki.pdf>
- Okiki, O. C.; & Mabawonku, I. (2013). Impact of information literary skills on academic staff research productivity in Nigerian federal universities. *information and knowledge management*, 3(2): 9-18.

- Okonedo, S., (2015). Research and publication productivity of librarians in public universities in south-west, nigeria. *library philosophy and practice (e-journal)*. paper 1297. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1297>
- Oyedum, G.U., Abduldayan, F.J., Abedoh, G.O. & Chukwu, P. (2015). Undergraduate student's use of e-resources in university libraries in niger state. *Benue journal of library, management and information science (blmis)*5(2): 79-91