

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY PROFICIENCIES, ACCESS AND USE OF NON-ENGLISH COLLECTIONS FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH- WEST, NIGERIA.

**Babatunde, T.J. (CLN)<sup>1</sup>**

Email: tommyyoung1stson@gmail.com, 08052778540

**Babalola, G. A. (PhD, CLN)<sup>2</sup>**

Email: g.babalola@futminna.edu.ng, 08034370219

**Ahmed, A. O. (PhD, CLN)<sup>3</sup>**

Email: ganiy.ahmed@futminna.edu.ng, 08056373066

**Chuks-Ibe, P. O. (PhD, CLN)<sup>4</sup>**

Email: pochuksibe@futminna.edu.ng, 08039695496

<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Department of Library and Information Technology, Federal University of Technology,  
Minna, Niger State, Nigeria

### Abstract

*This study was focused on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) proficiencies, access and use of non-English collections for research activities of postgraduate students in universities in South-west, Nigeria. The study was guided by two research objectives with corresponding research questions and one hypothesis. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. A sample size of 380 was drawn out of a population of 52,358 postgraduate students. Copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents out of which 278 were returned and used for the study. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data collected. The study also established that the most germane factors affecting Information and Communication Technology proficiencies, access and use of non-English collections for research activities of post-graduate students in the study area are limited language proficiency, exorbitant cost of procuring ICT facilities, and sluggish Internet connectivity. The null hypothesis formulated in the study showed that there is high correlation and the relationship is highly significant ( $\rho = 0.493$ ,  $p\text{-value} < .001$ ). It is among other recommendations that university libraries put up a series of periodic training on emerging ICT skills needed to access the electronic information resources and should provide access to online resources with multilingual interfaces.*

**Keyword:** Information and Communication Technology (ICT), access and use of non-English collections, research activities, postgraduate students, university libraries, South-west, Nigeria.

### Introduction

Universities are established to promote scholarly research, teaching and learning in various fields of knowledge and also play a major role in the development of libraries. Tom-George (2022) asserted that university libraries are indispensable nerve centres or hubs, which serve as instruments for intellectual development and they are social institutions to which clienteles (faculty members and students) may turn to for accessing information. In essence, no university in Nigeria is established without a library.

The role of university library matters a lot on how postgraduate students perceive the libraries' contribution on their research activities. This is very important because research activities of postgraduate students, demand a lot of independent studies, irrespective of the nature of the discipline



therefore, access and use of library collections, especially non-English collections and services is thus, indispensable to the postgraduate students in order to achieve their academic objectives.

Research activities of postgraduate students in university libraries become iterative and more refined and organised as they become more knowledgeable in their respective fields of study, and their information use varies among disciplines and by programmes. Postgraduate students like other clienteles of the university library make use of both print and non-print (electronic) library materials available and their research activities are also influenced by convenience, speed and ease of access. The importance of Information and Communication Technology proficiency cannot be over emphasised. Onyebinama (2021) emphasised that Information and Communication Technology proficiencies range from basic level to advanced level. Opportunities offered in advances of Information and Communication Technology, with regard to universal and limitless access to information cannot be fully exploited in university libraries if users especially postgraduate students are not sufficiently conversant with Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), hence the urgent need for postgraduate students to improve their Information and Communication Technology (ICT) proficiencies.

Going by our colonial history, English language has been Nigeria's lingua franca, hence the medium of communicating instructions in institutions of learning in the country. As a result of this, a great deal of library collections is written or presented in English language despite having significant population of users of non-English language collections in disciplines such as arts and humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

Non-English collections or multilingual collections are library materials written in any other language other than English language. These include African studies, Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, French, Chinese, and Arabic languages in print and electronic formats. These materials have to be acquired, processed, preserved and organised for use the same way as English collections. Librarians as custodians of information must therefore consciously make every effort to ensure that various facets of non-English collections are available in the library and they get to the users at the shortest time possible. It is against this background that the researcher attempts to examine Information and Communication Technology proficiencies, access and use of non-English collections for research activities of postgraduate students in universities in South-west, Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Research Problem**

In an ideal situation, university library collections that are available to faculty members, students and other users should not be restricted to collections solely in English Language and printed formats such as books and journals. The actual situation is that university libraries place more priority on acquisition and management of English Language collections for the purpose of teaching, learning and research in their various institutions. Non-English collections are important information resources just like English Language collections.

A pilot study carried out by the researcher revealed that disciplines in non-English do not have adequate information resources in university libraries resulting to students having difficulty in accessing non-English collections for research. It has equally been observed that despite the increment in the number of non-English programmes in the Nigerian universities, there has not been a significant development in their collections in the libraries thus, a matter of concern. Information and Communication Technology proficiency is an important requirement for successful postgraduate studies. However, many postgraduate students do not have the requisite digital and research skills to search and obtain current empirical information to aid



their research projects (Bako & Odigie, 2021). If this situation persists, funds invested in procuring, digitizing and web-hosting information in e-libraries would have been wasted.

This study intends to determine the relationships of Information and Communication Technology proficiencies, access and use of non-English collections for research activities of postgraduate students in universities in South-west, Nigeria.

### Research Questions

The following research questions were asked and answered in the study:

1. What are the non-English collections available in various formats for research activities of postgraduate students in university libraries in South-West, Nigeria?
2. What are the factors affecting Information and Communication Technology proficiencies, access and use of non-English collections for research activities of postgraduate students in university libraries in South-west Nigeria?

### Research Hypothesis

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no statistically significant relationship between availability of non-English collections in various formats and research activities of postgraduate students in university libraries in South-west, Nigeria.

### Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research method. The population of the study comprised fifty-two thousand, three hundred and fifty-eight (52,358) postgraduate students in universities in South-west, Nigeria as at 2021/2022 academic session. A cluster sampling was adopted for this study and also using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) Table to select a sample size of three hundred and eighty (380) postgraduate students from five (5) universities that offers postgraduate programmes in non-English specialties in South-west, Nigeria.

Questionnaire was used for data collection. Mean, standard deviation and Spearman's Ranking Correlation were used to analyse the research questions and test the null hypothesis.

### Data Analysis

#### Response Rate

According to Luo (2020), a response rate of 50% - 60% constitutes to fairly good representation. Thus, a response rate of 73% is deemed acceptable and reliable for the study. The response rate is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Response Rate**

S/No	Universities	Total Administered	Total Retrieved and Usable (%)
1	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State	120	81 (67.5%)
2	Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, Ogun State	20	20 (100%)
3	Osun State University, Osogbo, Osun State	10	10 (100%)
4	University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State	140	104 (74.3%)



5	University of Lagos, Lagos State	90	63 (70%)
Total		380	278 (73%)

**Table 2: Descriptive statistics of non-English collections that are available in various formats for research activities of postgraduate students in university libraries in south-west, Nigeria**

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	N	D	SD	FX	N	X	StD	Decision
1	The university library has online databases that comprise non-English (Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, French, Chinese, Arabic and Africana) collections.	39	135	68	34	2	1009	278	3.63	0.89	Agreed
2	The university library has a robust collection of theses and dissertations written in non-English languages by graduate students to aid my research work and contribute to global scholarship.	86	133	44	13	2	1122	278	4.04	0.85	Agreed
3	E-journals and e-books in foreign and indigenous languages are available in the university library.	72	148	47	11	-	1115	278	4.01	0.77	Agreed
4	The university library has adequate non-English textbooks and journals to aid my research.	95	137	31	11	4	1142	278	4.11	0.86	Agreed
5	The university library has non-English language films, documentaries, and educational videos in DVD or digital formats to satisfy my research curiosity.	23	77	111	63	4	886	278	3.19	0.93	Agreed
6	The university library subscribes to	22	64	112	55	25	837	278	3.01	1.05	Agreed



	multilingual electronic databases, offering access to articles, research papers, and resources in multiple languages.											
7	The university library has language learning resources designed to teach non-English languages, such as multimedia content and self-paced language learning.	29	137	61	46	5	973	278	3.5	0.95	Agreed	
8	The university library has government publications such as legal documents, reports, and statistical publications in non-English languages	27	85	110	55	1	916	278	3.29	0.91	Agreed	
9	The university library has adequate newspapers and magazines in languages other than English with coverage of current events, cultural trends, and regional perspectives to help me in my research work.	29	74	115	56	4	902	278	3.24	0.94	Agreed	
10	The university library contains cultural and religious texts, sacred texts, philosophical treatises, and historical writings.	55	97	81	39	6	990	278	3.56	1.03	Agreed	
	Average Weighted Mean								3.15			



Key: SA = Strongly Agreed, A = Agreed, N= Neutral, D =Disagreed, SD = Strongly Disagreed,  $\bar{X}$ =Mean, FX = Sum and StD = Standard Deviation (Benchmark mean = 2.50)

**Table 3: Descriptive statistics on factors that affect Information and Communication Technology proficiencies, access and use of non-English collections for research activities of post-graduate students in the university libraries in South-west, Nigeria**

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	N	D	SD	FX	N	X	StD	Dec.
1	Inadequate infrastructure or limited access to ICT tools hinders the effective use of digital resources in the university library	90	115	57	13	3	1110	278	3.99	0.9	Agreed
2	The exorbitant cost of procuring ICT facilities also limits my proficiency in ICT.	81	158	31	8	-	1146	278	4.12	0.71	Agreed
3	Sluggish Internet connectivity hampers my information retrieval skills.	100	126	35	15	2	1141	278	4.10	0.87	Agreed
4	I have limited digital literacy skills, which may result in difficulties in navigating digital repositories and assessing the credibility of non-English materials.	62	100	71	26	19	994	278	3.58	1.14	Agreed
5	Limited availability or poor organization of non-English collections restricts my ability to find relevant materials in the university library	74	111	64	20	9	1055	278	3.79	1.02	Agreed
6	Lack of training or support services may leave postgraduate students without the necessary skills to effectively use ICT tools and leverage non-English resources	76	119	57	21	5	1074	278	3.86	0.96	Agreed



	in the university library.										
7	Lack of cultural awareness may lead to misinterpretation or misunderstanding of non-English resources in the university library.	75	123	61	11	8	1080	278	3.88	0.95	Agreed
8	Limited language proficiency poses a barrier to understanding and utilising non-English resources effectively in the university library.	114	117	38	5	4	1166	278	4.19	0.84	Agreed
9	Limited supportive government policies and funding for language education, research, and library resources can negatively impact the availability and use of non-English collections in university libraries in South-west, Nigeria.	58	145	56	17	2	1074	278	3.86	0.84	Agreed
10	Technological barriers or a lack of user-friendly digital tools and technologies that facilitate translation, text analysis, and comprehension of non-English materials hinders the effective use of non-English resources in the university library.	113	102	45	14	4	1140	278	4.10	0.94	Agreed
	Average Weighted Mean								3.95		

**Key: SA = Strongly Agreed, A = Agreed, N= Neutral, D =Disagreed, SD = Strongly Disagreed,  $\bar{X}$ =Mean, FX = Sum and StD = Standard Deviation (Benchmark mean = 2.5)**



### Hypothesis Testing

**Table 4: Relationship between research activities of postgraduate students and availability of non-English collections in various formats in university libraries in South-West, Nigeria.**

#### Correlation Matrix

		Research activities of PG students	Availability of non-English collections in various formats
Research activities of PG students	Spearman's rho	—	
	Df	—	
	p-value	—	
Availability of non-English collections in various formats	Spearman's rho	0.493	—
	Df	276	—
	p-value	< .001	—

Correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)

### Discussion of Findings

Findings showed that university libraries under study have all the non-English collection listed for the study. Top among the list of information resources available for research activities of postgraduate students are non-English textbooks and journals, theses and dissertations written in non-English languages, e-journals and e-books in foreign and indigenous languages. This is obvious as they constitute materials often used for postgraduate research because postgraduate students basically concentrate on journals, theses and dissertations since they serve as guide for academic discourse. Probably, the availability of these resources in these institutions could be as a result of the acquisition of information resources made because of the accreditation exercise that the university just had. The availability and accessibility of information resources will lead to the use and satisfaction of information needs of the users.

The analysis on research question two revealed that postgraduate students were in agreement with all the items listed to ascertain the factors affecting Information and Communication Technology proficiencies, access and use of non-English collections for research activities of post-graduate students in university libraries in south-west Nigeria. This finding is similar to that of Adejo (2020) who uncovered that epileptic power supply, poor reading culture amongst postgraduate students on language immersion, lack of modern facilities in the library, attitudinal behavior of library staff to researchers, non-acquisition of current resources and poor organization on non-English information resources as the factors that hinders postgraduate students to utilise the information resources and services effectively.

The result of null hypothesis two revealed that there is a statistically significant relationship between research activities of postgraduate students and availability of non-English collections in various formats in university libraries in South-west, Nigeria. It is imperative to mention that a unit increase in research activities of postgraduate students will have more effect on the



availability of non-English collections in various formats in university libraries in South-west, Nigeria. This is similar to the findings of Adamu and Maidabino (2020) in which they found out that availability of information resources, library facilities, and services rendered has great impact on library clienteles' perceptions. Hence, it is expected that university libraries should be able to provide different types of information resources that are current, adequate and relevant to the users; provide functioning facilities; and render befitting services for effective utilisation by the users.

### Conclusion

It could be concluded that Information and Communication Technology, access and use of non-English collections are correlates of research activities of postgraduate students in university libraries in South-west, Nigeria. The findings from the study revealed that the university libraries have both print and electronic non-English resources. Top among the list of information resources available for research activities of postgraduate students are non-English textbooks and journals, theses and dissertations, e-journals and e-books in foreign and indigenous languages. As a result, the information resources will be paramount to learning, teaching and research to postgraduate students, faculty members and the community.

However, limited language proficiency and utilisation of non-English, exorbitant cost of procuring Information and Communication Technology facilities, sluggish Internet connectivity, and technological barriers or a lack of user-friendly digital tools are factors affecting Information and Communication Technology proficiencies, access and use of non-English collections for research activities of post-graduate students in university libraries in south-west Nigeria. Therefore, for university libraries to succeed, there is the need for them to acquire information resources that is current and relevant to their users' needs in order to improve information services.

### Recommendations

1. University libraries in South-west, Nigeria should ensure the acquisition and provision of up-to-date non-English collections in various formats such as print, digital, audio-visual, and braille. The libraries should give priority to collection of materials in Nigerian and international languages such as Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, French, Arabic, Chinese, German, and other local languages. University library management should also ensure organisation and cataloguing of non-English collections using standardised classification schemes.
2. There is need for university libraries in South-west, Nigeria to put up a series of periodic training on emerging Information and Communication Technology skills needed to access the electronic information resources. University libraries should provide access to machine translation tools help postgraduate students to translate texts. Furthermore, university libraries should provide access to online resources with multilingual interfaces.

### References

- Adamu, R., & Maidabino, A. (2020). Postgraduate students' expectations and perceptions on quality-of-service provision by university libraries in Nigerian universities: evidence based investigation. *Indian Journal of Library and Information Science*, 14(1), 2231-4911



- Adejo, A. A. (2020). Factors mitigating the utilization of information resources and services in the Nigeria French Language Village Library, Badagry. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 12(2), 56-63.
- Bako, N. Z. & Odigie, I. O. (2021) ICT skills and library use purpose among undergraduates in two federal universities, South-West, Nigeria. University of Ibadan - Journal of Library and Information Science (UI-JLIS). 4(1), 15-26.
- Luo, M. N. (2020). Student response rate and its impact on quantitative evaluation of faculty teaching. *The Advocate*, 25(2), 6.
- Onyebinama, C. O. (2021). Information and communication technology (ICT) skills usage amongst Undergraduate Students in Universities in Imo State. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 5523. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5523/>
- Tom-George, N. W. (2022). Provision of Library Services and Utilization of Resources by Undergraduate Students in Federal University Libraries, South-South Nigeria. *British Journal of Library and Information Management*, 2(1), 1-17.