



**LIBRARIANS ATTITUDE TOWARDS INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE USAGE IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN SOUTH-SOUTH
AND SOUTH-WEST, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

Following the emergence of ICT, individuals, offices, organizations, institutions and libraries particularly in developing countries are striving to take advantage of this ICT for their services. This has occasioned a new avenue of library services even though this ICT is being underutilized in most university libraries in developing countries, which may lead to poor services in the libraries. Observation has shown that librarians' attitude towards ICT usage is not encouraging. The purpose of this study is to investigate librarian's attitude, towards information and communication technology hardware usage in these university Libraries in South-south and South-west, Nigeria. The population of the study consists of 512 librarians in these University libraries at the time of this study. The census sampling techniques was used to study the entire population of the study, questionnaire was used, to elicit information from the librarians their ICT hardware attitude and usage. The data were collected and statistical mean, standard deviation and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) were used to answer research question and hypothesis, respectively. The study revealed that librarian's have positive attitude towards usage of ICT hardware in University libraries in the South-south and South-west, Nigeria.

KEYWORDS: *Attitude, Information and communication technology, Hardware, Librarian*

Introduction

Librarians' are major stakeholder in the development of libraries, acquisition of library materials, organization and dissemination of information. They play a strategic role in application of ICT in libraries, and so their attitudes are crucial in the usage of ICT in libraries (Ramzan, 2010). Attitude is a learned emotionally toned disposition that enables one to react in a consistent way, either favorably or unfavorably towards persons, objects or ideas (Adekunle, Omobo & Tella, 2002). Anastis (1990) defined attitude as man's inclination and feelings, prejudices and bias, preconceived notions, ideas, fears and all convictions, about any specific topic, and noted that attitude is a tendency to react favorably or unfavorably towards a designated class of stimuli such as a national or ethnic group, a custom or an institution. Attitude cannot be directly observed but must be inferred from overt behavior both verbal and nonverbal. In a more objective term the concept of attitude may relate to response with regard to certain categories of stimuli (Aziz, 2004). According to Edward and David (1995), attitude is a psychological construct or phenomenon that cannot be directly observed. However, it manifests as a relatively permanent way of feeling, thinking and behavior.

In this regard, Huffman (1995) stated that attitude is a learned predisposition to respond to cognitively, effectively and behaviorally to a particular object. Attitudes are basic to all kinds of learning. Libraries globally have undergone a significant change in the 21st century due to the application of (ICT) according to Ramzan (2004). The role and attitudes of librarians in this change

process has been central as they are champions of introducing technology based library resources, services and systems. Furthermore, Odongo (2011) noted that the organizational culture, library leadership and trained library personnel play a vital role in determining the role and status of academic libraries. Corroborating the above, Minishi-Maganga (2007), Odero-Musakali and Mutual (2007) and Sife (2008) as cited in Odongo (2011) have posited that lack of trained personnel and negative attitude of university management on it is a major factor that impede effective adoption of ICT in university library.

Attitudes have been used to represent librarians' perceptions on the value attached to (ICT) in library's technical processing, collection development organization and user services. It represents the conceptual value of these technologies in the minds of the librarians, not the values of these technologies. Librarians' attitude toward ICT is exemplified in their in their personal opinions and beliefs about relevance and substance of ICT hardware, software, Internet and its application and other ICT in library operations, resources and library routines (Ramzan, 2010). Consequently, since librarians' attitude in the application and usage of ICT is fundamental, Ramzan (2010) noted that technology itself does not bring changes, it is the librarian who uses technology as a strategic resource to innovate infrastructure and render library services to users through effective use of ICT.

Yacob (1990) studied the attitudes and perceptions of 120 librarians in government supported special libraries in Malaysia and examined the extent of application of ICT hardware, their use patterns and relationship among the librarians, attitudes ICT and other variables. A significant relationship was determined between the librarians' attitudes and the amount of expenditure of ICT hardware, available in the libraries and librarians awareness of the potential of ICT hardware. Variables like the size of the library, the library budget, the staff size, age, decency of attaining professional qualifications and knowledge in information technology had significant relationship with librarians' attitudes. The study revealed that knowledge in technology, library budget, the size of the library collection and staffs were good predictors of librarians' attitudes toward information and communication technology (Ramzan, 2004).

Attitude towards ICT encompasses librarians' feelings, beliefs and perceptions towards its use. Psychology has emphasized the role of user's attitude and anxiety. These two are factors that affect the knowledge of ICT among individuals. Several studies revealed that negative attitude towards ICT affects performance (Aziz, 2004). Harrison and Davison (1992) conducted their research using data compiled from a 1990 survey of 776 knowledge and information workers from a large university in southern United States, and found that participants with negative computer attitude were less skilled in computer use and were therefore less likely to accept and adapt ICT than those with positive attitude. Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) studied computer attitude and introduced a theory which proposed that computer attitudes affect users' behavioral intentions that in turn affect actual computer usage. They argued that understanding an individual's attitude towards ICT will help to understand intention to use it. Fishbein and Ajzen (1977) also posited that when there is a clear linkage between action and attitudes that are formed, the degree of predictability will be highest. However, Bernard (1997) suggested that effective components of attitudes include the responses to computers such as anxiety, liking and fear. Tamar and Smadar (1998) posited that attitude towards ICT especially computers have four major components, namely: attitude towards the computer as an educational tool; appreciating the computer as an important tool; perception of the computer as a tool of enjoyment; and general computer related stereotyped attitudes.

According to Shariman and Shaft (2000), evidence suggests that computer anxiety is an intervening variable between variables such as demographics and attitude towards computers. Most studies indicated that development and maintenance of positive attitudes towards computers are essential elements for better achievement in the knowledge of ICTs. Simonson, Maurer, Montag and Whitaker (1987) are of the view that the development of positive attitudes towards ICT is crucial for literate persons in addition to attaining traditional cognitive competencies such as programming skills, computer application skills, and computer hardware use of library software and proper utilization of ICTs in the library. This is because negative attitudes towards ICT might result to inadequate use of ICT for library services. It is widely recognized that they are useful in rendering library services. In future, their utility will be directly related to how well librarians are able to use them may enhance or

impede their uses. Nasir (2001) reported a study of librarians' attitude towards them in Kerala. The result of the study revealed that majority of the librarians' showed favorable attitude towards its use, even as the study also indicated that librarians were ready to accept ICT in rendering services. Consequently, Oluwajuwon (2012), reports that staff are currently using ICT facilities in rendering library task and those that are not using it efficiently have positive attitude towards efficient use of ICT facilities. However librarians conceived ICT not as a means to reduce their workload but as a device to render effective library services to library users. Thus, the objective of the study is to examine librarian's attitude towards the use of ICT hardware in university libraries in the South-south and South-west, Nigeria.

Methodology

The population for this study is 512. This number consisted of the total population of librarians in 41 universities at federal, state and private universities located in 12 states of the South-south and South-west of Nigeria. The research adopted the census sampling techniques, because it allows for the study of the entire population, when the population is not too large and when there is enough time to conduct the research. Data were collected through the use of the questionnaire. Simple percentage was used to analyze the demographic information of the respondents. Statistical mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to test the research hypothesis.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	281	54.9
Female	231	45.1
Total	512	100

The Table shows that there is more male Librarians 281(54.9%) than their female counterparts 231(45.1%). In the South- South and South- West of Nigeria the marginal difference of about 9.8% shows that the gender gap among librarians in Nigeria is not very pronounced.

Table 2: Age of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
28-35 years	196	38.3
36 and above years	316	61.7
Total	512	100.0

The Table shows that there are more librarians within the age brackets of 36 years and above- 316(61.7%). However, those within the age brackets of 28-35 years- 196(38.3%) are fewer.

Table 3: Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
BA/B.Sc/HND	243	47.5
M.Sc/Ph.D	269	52.5
Total	512	100.0

The Table shows that there are more librarians that possessed an M.Sc./Ph.D- 269(52.5%) than those with BA/B.Sc/HND - 243(47.5%). What it means is that librarians' have the quest for further knowledge.

Research Question

What is the attitude of librarians towards the use of Information and Communication technology hardware in university libraries?

The Mean responses of the attitude of librarians towards the use of ICT hardware in university libraries is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Mean Responses of the Attitude of Librarians towards the use of ICT hardware
Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean		Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic
Librarian's Attitude towards the use of ICT Hardware	512	3.64	.026	.584
Valid N (listwise)	512			

Acceptance Point = 3.00

Table 4 shows the librarians attitude towards the use of ICT hardware. With a mean statistic of 3.64 which is above acceptance point of 3.00, it therefore means that librarians in university libraries in the South-south and South-west regions of Nigeria have positive attitude towards the use of ICT hardware. The result from the present study agrees with that of Nasir (2001), which revealed that majority of the librarians' showed favorable attitude towards the use of ICT, and also indicated that librarians were ready to accept it in rendering library services.

Hypothesis:

There is no significant relationship in librarians' attitudes and use of ICT hardware in university libraries.

The hypotheses, is to ascertain whether there is any significant relationship between librarians' attitude towards ICT hardware and their use of ICT hardware in University libraries in the South-South and South-West Region, the scores of librarians' attitude towards ICT hardware were cross tabulated with the level of ICT hardware usage by the librarians and the result is shown in Table 5:

Table 5: Correlation between librarians' attitude and the level of ICT hardware usage
Correlations

		Librarian's Attitude towards the use of ICT Hardware	Level of ICT Hardware Usage by the Librarians
Librarian's Attitude towards the use of ICT Hardware	Pearson Correlation	1	.510**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	512	512
Level of ICT Hardware Usage by the Librarians	Pearson Correlation	.510**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	512	512

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

From Table 5, since the significant value is 0.00 (which is less than 0.05), it can be concluded that there is a significant correlation between librarians' attitude and their level of ICT hardware usage in the South-South and South-West regions of Nigeria. This implies that librarians' attitude (positive or negative) influences the use of the ICT hardware. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected implying that there is a significant relationship between the librarians' attitudes and their use of ICT hardware in university libraries in the South-south and South-west regions. This result agrees with the finding by Nasir (2001) and Yacob (1990) respectively, Yacob (1990) studied the attitude and perception of 120 librarians in government supported special libraries in Malaysia and examines the extent of application of ICT hardware, their usage patterns and relationship among the Librarians.



The result indicated a significant relationship between the Librarians attitude towards ICT hardware. Nasir (2001) reported finding of Librarians attitude towards ICT hardware in Karela. The finding revealed that majority of the Librarians showed favorable attitude towards the use of ICT hardware, this result supports Ramzan (2010) who reported that librarians had a positive attitude towards impact of IT (ICT). Although the above finding is at variance with the finding by Harrison and Davison (1992) who reported from their study of knowledge and information workers from a large university in Southern United States, that participants with negative computer attitude, were less skilled in computer use (ICT) and were therefore less likely to accept and adopt to ICT hardware use than those with positive attitude.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study established that librarian's attitudes and usage of ICT hardware in university libraries in the South-south South-west, Nigeria is positive. The implication is that librarians in university libraries have the drive to use ICT hardware in carrying out library routine/services, and recommended that university management and university librarian (library administrator) should ensure that this show of positive attitude towards the usage of ICT hardware is sustained through training and retraining of librarians, inclusion of ICT usage policy in library and ensure that the working environment is ICT friendly, that librarians are familiar with ICT and are they are allowed to be part of the design and installation process in the library. This will enable librarians cope with the challenges of information service delivery and the usage of ICT hardware in university libraries in the 21st century.

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