

# Awareness and Usage of Open Access Journals among Lecturers of Yobe State Tertiary Institutions

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**ABSTRACT:** Open access journals are scholarly publication that can be freely available on internet to access, to download, to read etc without any barrier. But the level of such awareness and usage by lecturers of tertiary institutions in Yobe State remained a question to be answered. It is the mandate of Libraries to provide access to databases of subscribed journals to such academicians of such institutions. The findings of this study indicates that, majority of the respondent showed that they are aware of the open access journal. Therefore, the concept of open access journal is known to lecturers of the study area. It was also found that the greater percentage of the respondent frequently uses open access journals and finally, poor internet facilities serve as the major challenges faced in using open access journal. Quantitative research method was adopted in the study with Yobe State owned tertiary institutions as population of the study. Purposeful sampling technique was used to select sample out of the population of the study, while The sample consist of lecturers from the Yobe State University, Damaturu, Mai Idris Aloomo Polytechnic, Geidam and College of Education Gashua respectively. Questionnaire was designed and sent to respondents to elicit their responses and data collected was analyze using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

**Keywords:** Open Access, Journal, Usage, Awareness, Tertiary Institutions, Lecturers

## I. INTRODUCTION

The declined in libraries budget nowadays leads to subscription stoppage of highly costly database, to fill this gap, open access journals database has to be put in place so as to bridge the available gap. Therefore, awareness of the open access and its usage is very essential to academicians at tertiary institutions under the study area. Open access is a scholarly communication that can be freely available online for reading, citing, downloading etc as ascertain by (Suber, 2006) open access journals are scholarly journals that are available online to the readers without

financial, legal or technical barriers other than inseparable from gaining access to internet itself.

In an academic environment scholarly communication is part of the requirement for promotion and open access is playing a vital role in that part, therefore it is good for the librarians to find out whether they are aware of it or not. Open access provides free access to the research available to the academicians for their usage so as to update their knowledge as well publishing their research in no or less cost. This serve as the alternative to the traditional and commercial journal that of course hinder some to be visible in their field of study as coined by (Agarwal, 2015) in his study impact of open access on CISR-NISCAIR journal where he find out the link between open access and increase in invisibility of the journals, easy availability of the journals increase their use, citation, and impact factor.

## II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Libraries are pivot at which research activities in tertiary institutions revolves, it is therefore its mandate to provide information resources to numerous number of its clientele. Among the resources to be available for easy reference in research conduct by the lecturers are journals of different discipline.

But continuous subscription to data bases that contained various journals in most libraries became a serious challenge due to high cost effectiveness of such data bases. Therefore, it is the mandate of these libraries to resort to directory of open access journals so as to make available published works to the lecturers of those institutions they served.

It is based on these background that the researchers need to explore to what extent does lecturers in the tertiary institutions of Yobe state are aware of and utilizes the open access journals. What type of open access journals they have access to, and the challenges they faced in using the journals in either case. The study equally will

identify solutions to those challenges profound by the respondents.

#### **Objectives of the study**

The study seeks to attain the following objectives:

1. To explore the level of open access awareness among lecturers of tertiary institutions in Yobe state
2. To identify the usage of open access journal by the Yobe state's tertiary institutions lecturers
3. To explore the name of open access journal used by them
4. Find out the challenges they faced in using open access journal
5. To identify the solution to those problems

#### **Research questions**

The research will be guided by the following questions:

1. What is the level of awareness of open access among the lecturers in the area of study?
2. Do the lecturers of tertiary institutions in Yobe state use open access Journals?
3. What are the names of open access journal used by the lecturers of Yobe state tertiary institutions?
4. What are the challenges they faced in using open access journal?
5. How will these challenges be overcome?

### **III. RELATED LITERATURE REVIEW**

Open access journals are scholarly publication that can be freely available on internet to access, to download, to read etc without any barrier apart from the internet that will lead you to the site of the journals. Most of the students in Nigeria are not aware of the open access journal as (Mohammed & Garba, 2013) found out in a research study on awareness of Open Access scholarly publication among postgraduates in the Faculty of Science, Ahmadu Bello University and revealed that majority of the students were not aware of Open Access scholarly publications, even though, they used them for research. This is in line with the outcome of the research conducted by (Botswana & Nasla, 2015) in a study with a title 'The Awareness of Academic Librarians towards Open Access Resources to Support Reference Services: A case of private institutions of higher learning in Gaborone, Botswana' found out that out of 12 academic librarians, only 4 were aware of the open access sources. About 50% respondents updated their awareness on open access by reading current professional literature. Authors recommended that Botswana Library Association and Botswana Consortium can improve academic librarian's awareness and knowledge of open

access through continuous advocacy programs and training. In contrast to this, (Kaba & Said, 2015) in their study found that faculty members possess a good knowledge and a positive perception of open access journal. They frequently use open access journal for teaching, learning and research activities. Faculty members with a high level of awareness or use are found to have a highly positive perception of open access journal. This also relates to outcome of the research by (Adeyoyin, Idowu, & Sowale, 2016) on awareness, access and use of electronic information resources among theological faculty members in Nigeria notes that more than 84% of respondents indicated that they are fully aware of electronic information resources and also that they are familiar with the use of such resources

In the study of (Bala & Bansal, 2018) shows the most of the respondents use of open access resources daily with the highest percentage that is 46.99% , weekly and rarely with 36.14% and 16.87% respectively. This is in line the outcome the research conducted by (Ivwhighweta & Onoriode, 2012) where they found almost all the items to indicate the usage of open access such as download, reading, referencing, publishing etc have received the highest turn out. (Jose, 2014) findings indicated that scholars from the Social Science were the most users of Open Access followed by scholars from the Sciences. The low use of this medium of publication was adduced to lack of knowledge about the existence of Open Access journals.

### **IV. METHODOLOGY**

This study adopted quantitative method by using a structured questionnaire. Quantitative Research is an inquiry into an identified problem, based on testing a theory, measured with numbers, and analyzed using statistical techniques. The goal of quantitative methods is to determine whether the predictive generalizations of a theory hold true.

Survey type of quantitative research was employed; surveys include cross-sectional and longitudinal studies using questionnaires or interviews for data collection with the intent of estimating the characteristics of a large population of interest based on a smaller sample from that population. The population of the study comprised of lecturers in the Yobe State owned Tertiary Institutions.

Purposeful sampling technique was used to select sample out of the population of the study. According to Akuezilo and Agu (2002), purposeful sampling "is a non-probability sampling technique in which the researcher selects his

sample to satisfy predetermined criteria. He simply hand – picks his sample because to his judgement, they are typical of what he wants and are representative sample”.

The sample consist of lecturers from the Yobe State University, Damaturu, Mai Idris Alooma Polytechnic, Geidam and College of Education Gashua respectively. Questionnaires was designed and distributed to lecturers from the said institutions for their response. Respondents were not asked to their names in the questionnaire in order to make them comfortable and provide factual answers.

Data collected from the retrieved questionnaires was analyze using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)to obtain simple percentage, frequency counts and mean.

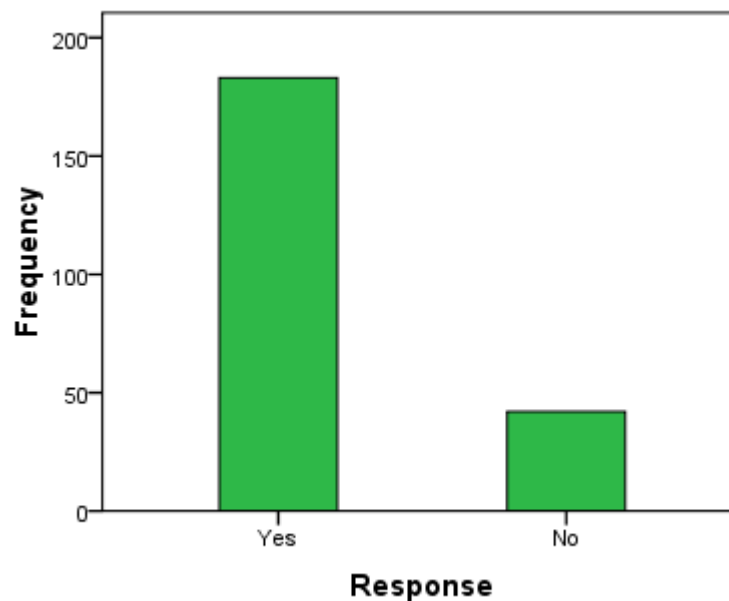
## V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Response Rate

A total number of 225 copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents out of which 100% were returned and found usable. The retrieved copies of questionnaire were sorted out, categorized and analyzed as follows:

**Table 1: Are you aware of open access Journal?**

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	183	81.3	81.3	81.3
No	42	18.7	18.7	100.0
Total	225	100.0	100.0	



The frequency distribution above shows that majority of the respondents representing 81.3% out of the total number of 225 responses are aware of the open access journal. Whereas 42 respondents representing 18.7% are not aware of the open access journal.

This finding therefore doesn't corroborate with the research outcome conducted by

Mohammed and Garba (2013), where they observed that most of the students in Nigeria are not aware of the open access journal. In contrast to Mohammed and Garba, (Kaba & Said, 2015) in their study found that faculty members possess a good knowledge and a positive perception of open access journal which corroborate with the findings of this study.

**What is the source of your awareness of open access Journal?**

Source	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Journal	84	37.3	37.3	37.3
Seminar/Workshop	42	18.7	18.7	56.0
Google Search	87	38.7	38.7	94.7
Through Colleagues	12	5.3	5.3	100.0
Total	225	100.0	100.0	

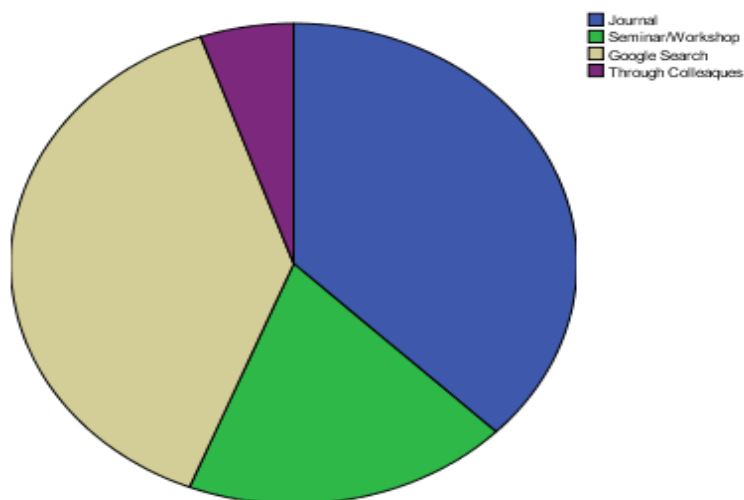


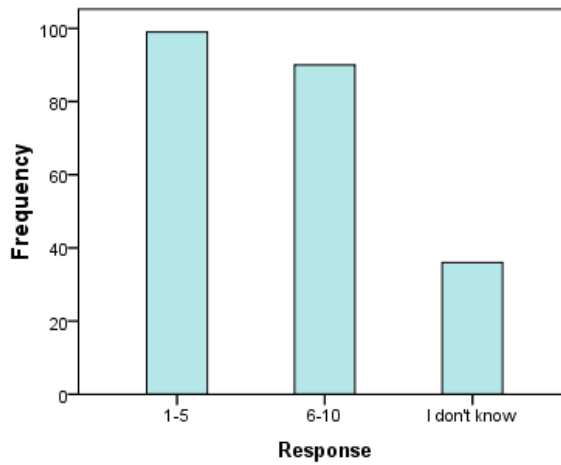
Table 2 above shows that majority 87 (38.7%) of the respondent gets to know about the open access journal through google search. 84 (37.3%) of the responses on the source of awareness of open access journal is through Journal, followed by 42(18.7%) who indicated that their source of awareness is through Seminar/workshop. Finally, the least response 12(5.3%) out of the 225 respondent indicated that

the source of awareness of open access journal is through colleagues.

The majority of the respondents indicated that their source of awareness of open access journal is through google search, this may have link to the fact that most of them have Master degree and Ph.D. as their highest qualification. Which has given them opportunity to publish papers for their graduation and carrier development.

**For how long do you get to know the concept of Open Access Journal?**

Range of Years	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-5	99	44.0	44.0	44.0
6-10	90	40.0	40.0	84.0
I don't know	36	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	225	100.0	100.0	



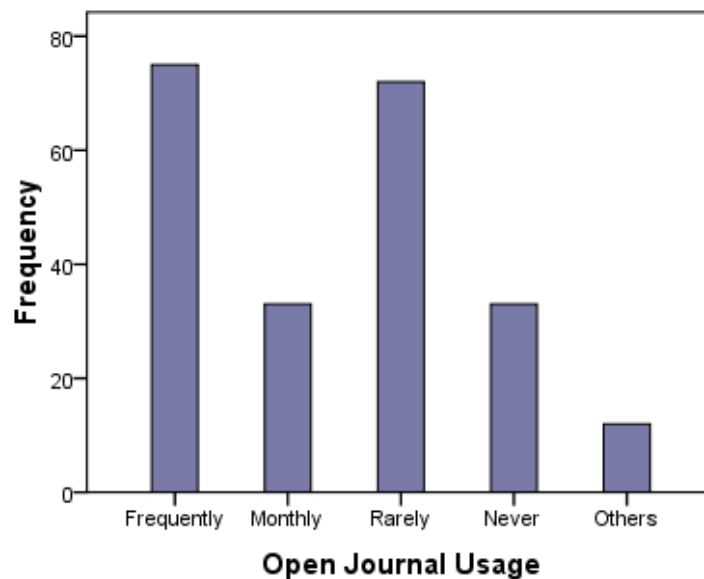
The frequency distribution of responses above shows that majority 99 (44.0%) of the respondent get to know about the concept of open access journal in less than five years, followed by 90 (40.0%) of the respondent with range 6-10 years. While, the least 36 (16.0%) of the

respondent indicates that they don't know about the concept of open access journal.

The majority of the responses indicates that the knowledge of the concept Open access journal became conversant to them less than five years is link to the previous question.

**How often do you use Open Access Journal?**

Journal Usage	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Frequently	75	33.3	33.3	33.3
Monthly	33	14.7	14.7	48.0
Rarely	72	32.0	32.0	80.0
Never	33	14.7	14.7	94.7
Others	12	5.3	5.3	100.0
Total	225	100.0	100.0	



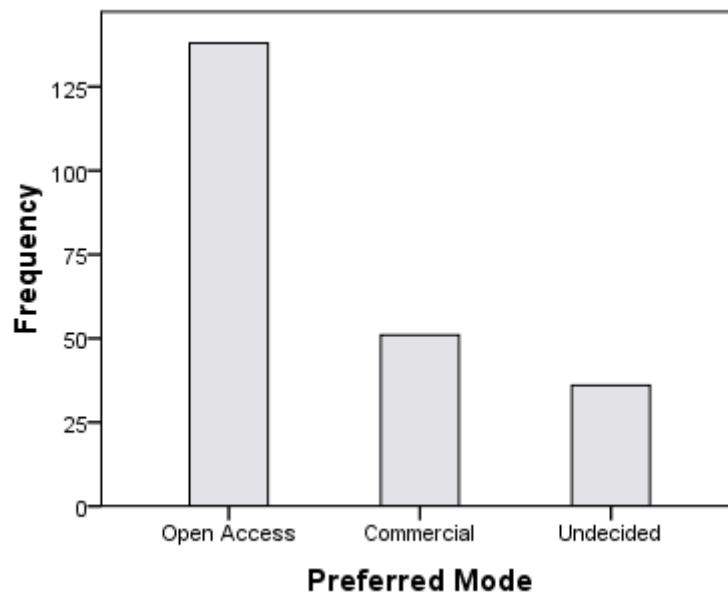
From the table and frequency distribution above, the majority 75(33.3%) of the respondent indicates that they frequently use open access journal. 72 (32.0%) of the respondent rarely use open access journal followed by the 33 (14.7%) of the respondent that monthly use open access journal and followed by another 33 (14.7%) of the respondent indicating that they use open access journal. Finally, and the least 12 (5.3) of the

respondent didn't take any decision on the usage of open access journal.

The outcome of this study corroborate with the findings of Bala& Bansal (2018), which shows that most of the respondents use open access resources daily with the highest percentage. It was equally found that majority of the respondent in this study were of the opinion that they frequently use open access journal.

**Which mode of publishing do you prefer?**

Preferred Mode	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Open Access	138	61.3	61.3	61.3
Commercial	51	22.7	22.7	84.0
Undecided	36	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	225	100.0	100.0	

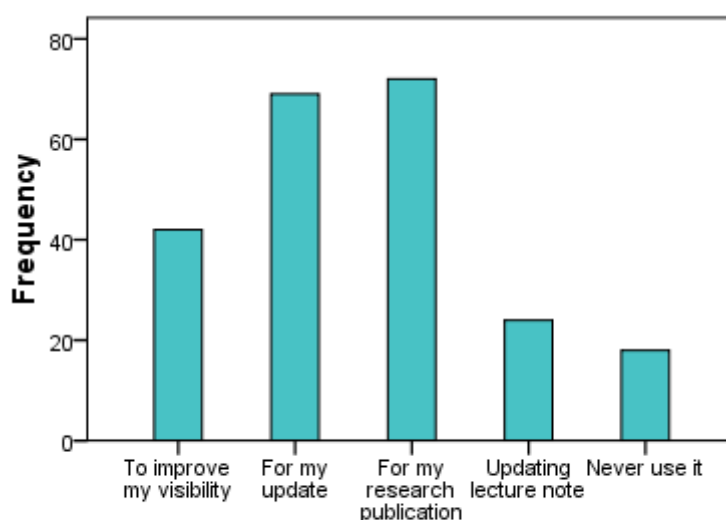


Responses to the above question shows that majority 138 (61.3%) of the respondent prefer open access publishing. Whereas, 51 (22.7%) of the respondent indicates that they prefer commercial publishing. The least 36 (16.0%) of the respondent remained undecided to the preferred mode of publishing.

In response to the above question, it was found that majority prefer open access publishing which is not unconnected to the fact that majority frequently uses open access journal. As such, the more open in publishing they are the more visible and shared research outcome they may become.

**Why do you use Open Access?**

Reasons	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
To improve my visibility	42	18.7	18.7	18.7
For my update	69	30.7	30.7	49.3
For my research publication	72	32.0	32.0	81.3
Updating lecture note	24	10.7	10.7	92.0
Never use it	18	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	225	100.0	100.0	



**Reasons for Choosing Open Access Journals**

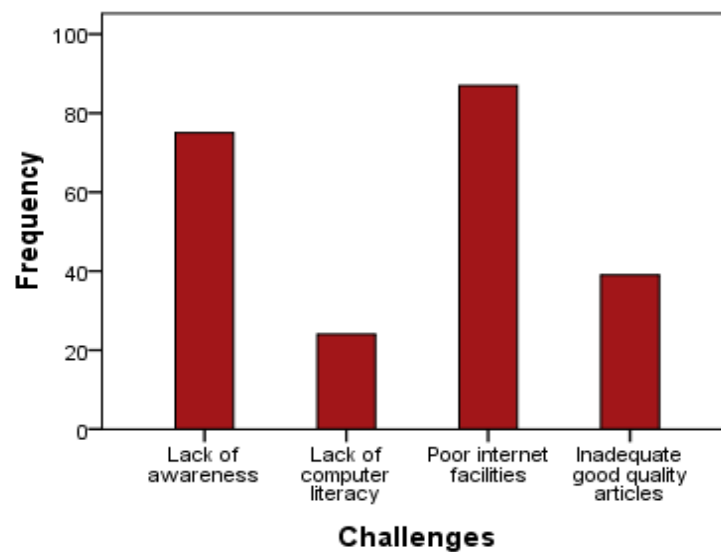
From the frequency distribution and table above the majority 72 (32.0%) of the respondent indicates that the reason for choosing open access journal is for their research publication. 69 (30.7%) of the respondent indicates that they choose open access journal for their update. While, 42 (18.7%) of the respondent show that their reasons for

choosing open access journals is to improve their visibility, 24 (10.7%) of the respondent indicate that their reason for choosing open access journals is for updating lecture notes. Finally, and the least 18 (8.0%) of the respondent indicates that they never use open access journal.

**What challenges do you faced in using Open Access?**

Challenges	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Lack of awareness	75	33.3	33.3	33.3
Lack of computer literacy	24	10.7	10.7	44.0
Poor internet facilities	87	38.7	38.7	82.7
Inadequate good quality articles	39	17.3	17.3	100.0
Total	225	100.0	100.0	





From the table above and the frequency distribution it shows clearly that the majority 87 (38.7%) of the respondent indicates that poor internet facilities has been the major challenges faced in using open access journals. 75 (33.3%) of the respondent also indicates that lack of awareness constitute the challenges they faced in using open access journals, followed by 39 (17.3%) of the respondent indicating that inadequate good quality articles serves as the major challenge they faced in using open access journal. The least 24 (10.7%) of the respondent indicates that lack of computer literacy is the challenge they faced in using open access journal.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that 81.3% of the respondent showed that they are aware of the open access journal. Therefore, the concept of open access journal is known to lecturers of the study area. 75 (33.0%) of the respondent frequently uses open access journals

and finally 87 (38.7%) showed that poor internet facilities serve as the major challenges faced in using open access journal. Based on the findings from the research therefore, we wish to recommend that:

- i. The libraries of the tertiary institutions in the State should provide remote access to open access journals since greater percentage of the lecturers are aware of the concept of access journal.
- ii. Since poor internet facilities serves as the major challenge faced in using open access journal, it is recommended that the libraries of such institutions should provide offline remote access to open access journal for use by the lecturers.

## VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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