



UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN
ILORIN, NIGERIA

COURSEWARE ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: THE USE OF LIBRARY

EDITED BY:
PROF. A. O. ISSA
PROF. ABDUS-SALAM
DR. EVELYN O. AKINBORO

**COURSEWARE ON
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IN HIGHER EDUCATION:
THE USE OF LIBRARY**

Edited By :

**Prof. A. O. Issa
Prof. Abdus-salam
Dr. Evelyn O. Akinboro**

**General Studies Division
University of Ilorin
Ilorin.**

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CHAPTER FOUR

APPLICATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TO LIBRARY SERVICES

A. Tella
Olabisi F. Adesina
George Eromosele

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1.0. Introduction

In the last chapter, you have learnt about users services at the University of Ilorin Library and how information and communication technology (ICT) is being used to facilitate the process. In this unit, you will be exposed to application of ICT to library services at the University of Ilorin. This will enable you to have a good grasp

of how you can make use of ICT to access the various materials available in the library. Similarly, the unit will enable you describe ICT and its development that is impacting library services.

2.0. Learning Outcome

At the end of the lecture the students should be able to:

- i) explain the concept of Information Communication Technology and its application to Library Services;
- ii) distinguish between virtual library, e-library and digital libraries.
- iii) describe the Internet search tools and search techniques;
- iv) identify the subscribed and free databases that can be searched for the needed information for academic work and to indicate how these can be meaningfully searched; and
- v) describe the concept of databases and explain the processes/steps involve in access to databases
- vi) identify the academic databases available in the e-library and explain how they can be used, and;
- vii) describe how to make use of the OPAC.

3.0. Main Contents

3.1 Application of Information Communication Technology to Library Services

Information and Communication Technology is the application of micro-electronic based computing and telecommunications technology to library and information work. Generally, it is the combination of computers and telecommunication in handling and disseminating information. ICT in the context of library is used for the creation, acquisition, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information.

Information and communication Technology ushered in the use of electronics in library services. As a result, Information is accessed through internet. The internet is a huge information resource, some of which can be used for academic work. The aim of this chapter is to draw the attention of students to selected Internet resources that they can consult for academic work in the university. It needs to be pointed out that the Internet can be used for several other purposes apart from academic work.

The Internet and the World Wide Web

Although the Internet and the World Wide Web (www) are used interchangeably, they are not the same. Webopedia defines the Internet as 'a global network of millions of computers' that communicate with each other. A networking infrastructure in which any computer can communicate with any other computer as long as they are both connected to the Internet. Information that travels over the Internet does so via a variety of languages known as protocols.

World Wide Web is a system of Internet servers that support specially formatted documents. The documents are formatted in a markup language called HTML (*HyperText Markup Language*) that supports links to other documents as well as graphics, audio, and video files. This means you can jump from one document to another simply by clicking on hot spots. Not all Internet servers are part of the World Wide Web.

There are several applications called Web browsers that make it easy to access the World Wide Web: Two of the most popular being Firefox and Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

The Web is just one of the ways whereby information can be disseminated over the Internet. There are different forms of library that rely solely on electronics in accessing information from them. These include virtual library, electronic library and digital library

Virtual Library

This is a "Library without walls". It is so called because accessibility to information is unlimited. There are linkages that provide on-line access to information. This may be useful to the universities but the one that cannot do without this type of Library is the National Open University (NOUN) where all they rely on is the virtual Library both for TEACHING AND RESEARCH.

It is an online Public Library (<http://www.nigerianvirtuallibrary.com>). According to Wikipedia, Virtual Library provides information through network to read books and access other necessary type of information i.e. links to other sites with a lot of information. This can be in any field.

Electronic Library (e-library)

This is a situation where information is stored electronically instead of a hard copy of paper format. Information is either on CDs or internet hence it makes it interesting that such materials containing huge information will not occupy space. It's so convenient to use and the CDs i.e. Compact Discs are Read Only Memory types (ROM) i.e. those that accompany books or hard copies.

The most interesting fact about e-libraries is its ability to hold unlimited copies of electronic materials without occupying space unlike the conventional Libraries that will show the heavy books displayed on shelves. E copies may be neatly arranged on Racks.

Features of Electronic Library (e-Library)

1. Customised access to specialized databases.
2. Simultaneous and multiple user access.
3. Information tools.
4. Sophisticated search and navigation of specialized database.

5. Continuously growing collection that may not be obvious.
6. Access to hundreds/thousands of scholarly journals or articles.

Digital Libraries

Digital Libraries according to Tedd (2005) are organizations that provide resources including the specialised staff to select, structure, offer intellectual access to interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence of collections of digital works so that they are ready and economically available for use by a defined/or set of communities.

The attributes of a digital library include functions of collection, organization, preservation, access and economy. Notable features include digitization of materials and metadata but it is obvious that electronic documents are not localized in them. They have telecommunication connections. Electronic materials can be accessed from anywhere without actually locating where they are generated from. Digitized materials are easily copied. Electronic materials are therefore flexible, easy to revise, rearrange and reformatted and can combine with other documents. Such collection is not as bulky as the hard copy.

Self Assessment Question

- i. Define Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- ii. Describe the relevance of ICT to library services
- iii. What is the Internet? What is the relationship between the Internet and World Wide Web?

3.2. Web Search Tools

Web Search Tools As already indicated, the Internet has become a vast information resource that can be of immense benefit to students if it can be meaningfully searched for relevant information. To facilitate searches, search engines have been developed to search for web documents.

Internet search engine is an information retrieval system, which assists in finding information on the World Wide Web. Google, Yahoo, AltaVista are basically search engines. There are thousands of search engines available.

Colossus is a search engine that gives links to search engines from different parts of the world. It has provided an International Directory of Search Engines (<http://www.searchenginecolossus.com/>)

Metasearch engines query several search engines at a time and combine the result. (<http://www.searchengineguide.com/pages/General/Meta/>) Search Engines and meta search engines can safely be used for general information.

Subject specific search engines have been developed to limit the millions of search hits that search engines and meta search engines generally unravel. http://www.lib.lsu.edu/general/internet_searchsubject.html

Self Assessment Question:

- i. What are Web search tools?
- ii. Identify three different types search engines.
- iii. What are specific search engines?

3.3. Databases

Databases: The most reliable information sources on the Internet are databases. A database is a collection of structured records organized in such a way to permit orderly retrieval, e.g. for research, study, or administration. A database may contain citations or it may have full-text articles. Every database has its own subject scope and coverage. It is searchable in a variety of ways, such as title, author, subject, and keyword, but only in its normal database environment, using the database-specific search engine.

There are Bibliographic databases, Full-text databases, Numeric databases, Image databases, Audio/Video databases, Mixed databases.

A database is designed in such a way that the user can retrieve a shortlist of relevant articles. The aim of database searching for reference purposes is (often) to retrieve a collection of say 50, mostly relevant documents, primarily journal articles and preferably in full text and in a single query. Several search actions are normally needed to get to that query or search strategy.

Database searching process involves the following activities:

- Preparation: Identifying key concepts, search terms
- Decision on subject or keyword search (or both)
- Constructing a query
- Building a keyword search statement (start simple).
- Limiting focus search results
- Screening search results by some variable (language, publication date, etc.). The initial search statement can be limited (pre-limit), or post-limit after reviewing results (recommended approach).
- Refining to expand or reduce results

It is rare to get good results on the first try. If you get too many results, add new concepts or add limits to your search. If you get few results, remove concepts that are not critical, remove any limits. Some databases require subscription while others do not. There is a comprehensive list of free and subscription online academic databases. http://www.wholeagain.com/free_academic_databases.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_academic_databases_and_search_engines

It is important to point out that subscription databases like The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) and the E-granary databases can be used without Internet connection.

The University of Ilorin has subscription for the following databases:

Virtual Library Ebscohost HINARI AGORA JSTOR TEAL

There are, as already indicated, other free academic resources on the Internet that students can use for their academic work. These include dictionaries, encyclopedias, e-books, surgical videos, full text articles.

Self Assessment Question:

- i. What are databases?
- ii. List five difference databases.
- iii. What procedure is involved in search through databases?
- iv. Identify five databases subscribed to by the university of Ilorin.

3.4. OPAC at the University of Ilorin Library

OPAC AT UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN LIBRARY

An **Online Public Access Catalogue** (often abbreviated as **OPAC** or simply **Library Catalogue**) is an of materials held by a library or group of libraries. Users search a library catalogue principally to locate books and other material physically located at a library.

The Integrated Library Software being used by University of Ilorin Library is **KOHA**. The OPAC is available at dedicated PCs in the Library and online. The Library Catalogue (OPAC) provides you with a great deal of useful information for finding library resources and it is very easy to use.

Steps involved to access OPAC

To Access Unilorin Library OPAC from your computer or mobile phone, follow the steps below:-

1. www.unilorin.edu.ng
 - Click on library
 - Click on OPAC and
 - Click on "Search Library Catalogue" or
2. On your web browser, type www.libraryopac.unilorin.edu.ng:8001

Begin Your Search

To view library resources:-

- Type your search term e. g. Title, Author, Subject, Keywords or Topic in the dialog box and submit or press "enter key"
- The advanced search enables you to refine your search criteria so that you get a list of results that matches your needs more precisely.

To view your profile, check your own Library record & make suggestions as a

REGISTERED LIBRARY USER

- **LOG IN with your details**

Login: surname e.g. adetokunbo

Password: matriculation number (Student) e. g. 11/345b009

staff file number (ssc0000) or (js0000)

Selected sites for academic information

- Online Libraries http://educhoice.org/articles/Online_Libraries_-_25_Places_to_Read_Free_Books_Online.html
- LINKS to free online academic resources
- Free E-Books
- Selected freely available online citation databases
- Databases that require subscription
- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations
- Internet Tutorials
- Islamic Reference Materials
- Dictionary of the Bible
- Arabic Dictionaries & Glossaries
- Encyclopaedia of Islam
- World Cat: The World's Largest Library Catalog
- Medicine
- Science and Technology
- Multidisciplinary databases
- Business Management
- Economics
- Finance and economics
- Global finance
- Religion-Christianity
- Religion and philosophy resources
- Religion and philosophy resources
- Religion-Islam
- Theological dictionary of the New Testament

Links to the above have been provided on the University of Ilorin web site.
<http://www.unilorin.edu.ng/unilibrary/resources.php>

Self Assessment Question:

- i. Define OPAC
- ii. What steps are involved in accessing OPAC at the University of Ilorin library?

Summary

4.0.

In this unit, you ought to have been able to:

- i. Explain the concept of Information Communication Technology and its application to Library Services;
- ii. Differentiate between virtual library, e-library and digital libraries.
- iii. Describe the Internet search tools and search techniques;
- iv. List the subscribed and free databases that can be searched for the needed information for academic work and to indicate how these can be meaningfully searched.
- v. Describe the concept of databases and explain the processes/steps involve in access to databases.
- vi. Identify the academic databases available in the e-library and explain how they can be used.
- vii. Describe how to make use of the OPAC; and

Tutor Marked Assessment

5.0.

- i. Define Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- ii. Describe the relevance of ICT to library services
- iii. What is the Internet? What is the relationship between the Internet and World Wide Web?
- iv. What are Web search tools?
- v. Identify three different types search engines.
- vi. What are specific search engines?
- vii. What are databases?
- viii. List five difference databases.
- ix. What procedure is involved in search through databases?
- x. Identify five databases subscribed to by the university of Ilorin.
- xi. Define OPAC
- xii. What steps are involved in accessing OPAC at the University of Ilorin library?

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