UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
PEDAGOGY TRAINING PROGRAMME
DATES: 13TH – 14TH JUNE 2019

Theme: "*Excellent learning through effective instruction***"**

Effective utilisation of Library Resources

By

Stephanas Galinnya

Introduction

The major aim of any university library is to support teaching, learning and research activities of its parent institution. University library must therefore, make sure that their resources are well utilized as this is essential for educational development of the students (Onifade, Ogbuiyi and Omeluzor, 2013). These libraries exist to enhance the acquisition of knowledge by their clientele through the provision of reading materials - book and non-book for the purposes of teaching, learning and research.

A university library, according to Mallaiah, Kumbar and Mudhol (2008) occupies the central and primary place in teaching and research, therefore, it has to meet the diverse and growing needs of educational programme at the undergraduate, post–graduate and research levels. Since academic libraries, according to Adetimirin (2007), are to acquire and organised both printed and electronic information for accessibility and use by its clientele. It was therefore necessary to adopt information and communication technologies (ICTs) at Uganda Christian University Libraries in the process of lending and borrowing its collections.

Purpose of an academic Library

The library today is a busy information centre, where information is packaged in various formats to the advantage of the users. The value of the library collection depends not only on the quantity of information sources but on the effective ways and means of providing and interpreting them to users. Some of the terms used in the library activities such as cataloguing, classification, charging and discharging, etc. are not common to the users; hence these should be interpreted in the easiest understandable ways (Mallaiah, Kumbar and Patil,2008).

The primary purpose of University libraries, is to support teaching, learning and research, in ways consistence with, and supportive of, the institution's mission and goals.

In addition, library resources and services should be sufficient in quality, depth, diversity, and currency to support the institution curriculum. As a result of this, university libraries are often considered as the most important resource centre of an academic institution.

University education in Uganda is facing a critical challenge in meeting new demand of 21st Century with its ever increasing population growth, inadequate library facilities and resources. Adequate library resources and services at the appropriate level for degrees offered should be available to support intellectual, cultural, and technical development of students enrolled in Ugandan Universities. The growth of research in all fields of human endeavors is becoming increasingly detailed and sophisticated, faculty members and students have realized that the library has great role to play in the provision of information necessary for their day to day research and their academic work.

The undergraduates of university need information to satisfy their social and psychological needs to promote and enhance their academic pursuit during their course of study in the university.

The purpose of the university libraries is to provide adequate and relevant information resources both in print and non-print formats. The print information resources like journals, textbooks, magazines, newspapers and reference materials and non-print like CD-ROM, audio-visual materials, micro film, micro fiches, databases, and e-resources are to support assignments, projects work, term papers and seminar presentations by providing relevant information and services for effective and efficient achievement of academic excellent.

Electronic Resources Utilisation

This presentation will give an overview of some of electronic resources available for use in libraries. In particular we will focus on electronic journals and scholarly databases.
Some of you may be familiar with some or even all of these resources, but for those who aren't (and even for those who are) it is a useful reminder for people as to the range and characteristics of the kind of resources available.

Session Objectives

- To review what electronic library and information resources are and consider;
  - Their types, features and functionality
  - Why you might want to use them
  - Range of resources available for you
  - Appreciate copyright and using information ethically (citation)
- To run information retrieval demos from publisher content websites
- How to access resources remotely

Electronic library resources (eResources)

By electronic resources we usually mean those which can be accessed by computer—in particular, via email, CD-ROM, or more commonly, via the World Wide Web.

Libraries are increasingly making this type of resource available to their users, through purchase, subscription, or by making their users aware of the many electronic resources that can be accessed free of charge.

Using these resources a wide range of materials and research tools can be accessed—including, electronic journals; scholarly databases; electronic books or e-books; hybrid collections; Internet Gateways, which comprise (often subject based) links to pre-evaluated web sites, selected for their quality and relevance; and the Internet search engines.

A hybrid digital library or library collection is really just a library that contains both paper based resources and electronic ones. Usually, this is accessed through a single OPAC type system, so that users can search for information on a given topic and find resources.

These resources may actually be in the shelves in that library, in an electronic journal that the library subscribes to or included in a document held on the library system someone (e.g. electronic copies of local research papers).

Some links to and examples of such systems can be found from: http://link.bubl.ac.uk/catriona/

Free versus Fee
For each kind of resource there are free and fee paying versions.

E-journals can come in a variety of different formats.

Full text
Full text e-journals are those where the complete articles are available (rather than just summaries or abstracts). Usually the whole of the journal is available on-line. Around 90% of Science Technology and Medicine journals are available online, but only around 50% of Humanities are.

Some electronic journals are a duplicate of the print version which is then made available electronically, others are *only* available in electronic format (and so allow features such as large data sets, or animation, or audio and video clips to be included)

Moving from paper to electronic-only journals has implications—electronic journals are not necessarily a better resource than paper based journals.

Partial full-text
Some collections of e-journals only contain selected articles and not the whole journal. In this case it is often things like the editorial, or the forthcoming events section that are missing.
In other cases a few selected items from an electronic journal may be accessed for free, but access to the whole journal would only be available to subscribers.

Tables of contents (TOCs) and Abstracts
Often when you access a collection of journals you will find that only the Table of Contents and possibly abstracts of the articles will be available to you. This may be because your institution does not have a subscription to the full-text access rights, or possibly because there is a document delivery option, whereby you can pay online to have the full-text of individual articles

to be sent to you. ToCs and abstracts can be useful for researchers who want to get a quick view of what material is available, what new has been published, etc.

As journals are issued regularly they are often the most up-to-date resource available, and electronic articles are sometimes made available as soon as they have been edited, without having to wait for enough papers to be processed to make up a whole journal issue. This can be important in research fields which move rapidly.

Electronic journals have the additional advantages of allowing remote access (https://ucuelibrary.remotexs.co/user/login), being available to many users at the same time, and possibly being accessed from your desktop PC, if you have the equipment needed to support them.

The electronic format enables value added features such as:

- The ability to search across the whole collection of journals using keywords;
- Cross-linking to other databases or collections of e-journals;
- Direct links from the list references to the cited article;
- Supplementary information, such as detailed experimental data, which there may not have been space for in the print format; the possibility of inclusion of multimedia examples.
- The availability of many free electronic databases and journals gives you access to more resources than might otherwise be available through your local library.

As librarians or researchers we are already aware of the different types of print materials available to us. Many of these are also available electronically plus there are some new formats (e.g. electronic pre-prints).
It's really the academic journals that we are most interested in terms of librarians.

An electronic journal is:
"... any journal, magazine, e'zine, Webzine, newsletter or type of electronic serial publication which is available over the Internet. Within this broad definition, the titles can be electronically accessed using different technologies such as the World Wide Web (WWW), gopher, ftp, telnet, email or listserv. Of course, virtually all modern electronic journals are mostly available via the Web." (Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries)

Journals are publications that are issued at regular intervals - i.e. weekly or monthly. They may also be called serials or magazines. Electronic journals, or e-journals, are journals that can be accessed electronically. Therefore, the same range of types of publication exists - from the refereed academic journals, used by researchers, to the lightweight, but up-to-the-minute, news-giving, bulletins.
However because electronic journals are not tied to the print journal cycle that requires a body of material to be collected together before being sent off for publication, they may be also be issued as their composite units i.e. the research article, as in the case of pre-print publications.

Electronic academic journals are nearly the same as traditional print academic journals that we are all familiar with and serve the same purposes of disseminating information, etc. So this slide does not need much explanation. But the electronic medium does give the chance of journals getting a much wider audience.

Most academic electronic journals just reflect existing paper based resources – although there may be differences in publication dates, amount of information published and access conditions.
These kind of resources are most often subject to fee-based access, which can clearly be a problem with limited budgets. Although PERI resources might appear to be free to users, they in fact represent over US$1 million worth of resources (more than is available to many developed country libraries) for which heavy discounts have been negotiated (around 98%) and funding has been secured for the next few years.
Another difficulty with electronic journals can be that they do not offer a very big back catalogue of material.

These kinds of resources are very useful if there are journals available in your subject area – they often provide an excellent set of links and references to the latest and most important information in a subject or area.
If possible, demonstrate the resources on this and the following slides as you go through them.
MathSciNet (mathematical reviews on the web) is available at http://www.ams.org/mathscinet/search

What is a database?

A database consists of a collection of related documents or information, and the mechanism by which they are stored and retrieved. There are many different types of databases, depending on the type of information involved.
The databases most frequently used for scholarly work are bibliographic databases. These consist of information about publications, which can be journal articles, conference papers, books, technical reports etc. The records in the database contain basic descriptive information about each item, comprising, the title, author, source, abstract, publisher, date etc. Hence a bibliographic database provides all the information needed to identify the item.

The information contained in these databases typically consists of a reference to a published document along with a summary of what the document contains.

Importance of a database to a scholar or researcher
Scholarly databases are used to find out what has been published in your field, and to help you identify material which you need to obtain.

They can be used retrospectively, to gain knowledge of the research background and activity in your own area of research.

They can also be searched regularly to keep up-to-date with any new developments. Often databases provide an alerting service which regularly runs your search strategy and emails the results to you.

What are eBooks?

The latest development in the e-resources area is the provision of e-books, which are books which can be accessed electronically in a full-text digital format. Access may be from your PC, or from specialised hand-held e-book readers.

Another major e-resource is the Internet which can be searched using search engines, such as Google, Alta Vista, and Excite etc. Huge amounts of information can be retrieved through the Internet, however one has to be aware that the quality of what is retrieved is not always reliable, and often not particularly relevant.

Nevertheless, buried among the heaps of irrelevant, trivial and pointless materials on the Internet there is much that is extremely worthwhile and valuable. In order to help users to retrieve this many Internet Gateway resources have been developed. These select and evaluate Internet web sites and collect them according to subject area. For example, EEVL (http://www.eevl.ac.uk/) is a gateway for engineering, mathematics and computing information on the Internet

What is Copy right?

Copyright is a law with the intent is to advance the progress of knowledge by giving authors an economic incentive to keep on creating! These legal rights control everything from images to sound files and even whether or not you can photocopy. That protects the creator – gives creators the right to control how theirs works are used.

The guidelines apply to use:
...without permission,
...of portions,
...of lawfully acquired copyrighted works,
...in educational multimedia projects,
...created by educators or students,
...as part of a systematic learning activity,
...by nonprofit educational institutions.

Common Knowledge: Facts or information that is likely to be known by many people.
Public Domain: Publications are in the public domain if they are not subject to copyright. They are free for anyone to use without asking for permission or paying royalties.

E.g. Publications of the Ugandan government: e.g.: Ugandan laws, ministerial and public parastatal body publications and the Ugandan Constitution
Copyright has been waived by the author (Software called Freeware or FOSS)
Works on which the copyright has expired (Works by William Shakespeare)

Plagiarism

You commit plagiarism when you present someone else's published or unpublished work/ideas as if they were your own new and original ideas, without acknowledging or crediting the source. This intellectual or academic theft: it is an offence.

When you research a topic you may use information from articles, books, or the web to support your ideas but you MUST credit the original authors of these sources by citing them.
To cite means you state where you found the information so that you can others can find the exact items again. In this way we build upon the ideas and knowledge of other people.

Institutional Repository

Uganda Christian University Digital Institutional Repository (UCUDIR). This is the University's official Institutional Repository. It aims to collect, preserve and showcase the intellectual output of staff and students of UCU. This growing collection of research includes peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, working papers, theses, and more. The UCUDIR can be access at: http://ucudir.ucu.ac.ug/

References

Adetimirin, A. E. 2007. Availability, Accessibility and Use of Information and Communication Technologies by Undergraduates in Nigerian Universities: What Role for University Libraries? A paper presented at 2007 NLA National Conference and AGM on 9-14 Sept., pp35-43

Mallaiah, T. Y., Kumbar, S. S. and Mudhol, M. V. 2008. Use of Library in Mangalore University Library: A Study of Users Opinion. In Patil, D. B. and Kooganuramath, M. M. (2008) ed. Library and Information Science. New Delhi: A P H Publishing Corporation, pp.154 – 166

Mallaiah, T. Y., Kumbar, S. S. & Patil, D. B. 2008. Use of Library in Mangalore University Library: A Study of Users Opinion. In Patil, D. B. and Kooganuramath, M. M. (2008) Ed. Library and Information Science. New Delhi: A P H Publishing Corporation, pp.133 – 156

Onifade, F. N., Ogbuiyi, S. U. and Omeluzor, S. U. 2013. Library Resources and Services Utilisation by Postgraduate students in Nigerian private universities. *International Journal of Library and Information Science.* 5(9) 289-294. Retrieved on 29/04/2016 from http://www.academicjournals.org/IJLIS