Abstract

This research study examined the awareness and perception of School Librarians (SLs) who are also referred to as School Library Media Specialists (SLMS) towards Digital Library Services (DLS) in Nigeria. This research is an avenue for gaining deeper understanding of the needs evolving from the professional cum operational use of digital libraries by information professionals all over the world. A Survey method was used for the study. A sample size of ninety professionally trained school librarians/SLMS; constituting 83.3% of the one hundred and eight participants that attended the 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and National Conference of the Nigerian School Library Association (NSLA) were selected through random sampling technique. The Critical Appraisal of Digital Library Awareness and Perception Questionnaires (CADLAPQ) which was an adapted Questionnaire was used to collect data. The ensuing data from the field exercise were analysed using descriptive statistical tools such as tables, charts, graphs, percentages and frequency distribution. The results showed that school librarians have very low perception and awareness on the existence of digital library. Also, their perceptions were adjudged to be quite different from what the digital library services really
entails and or is really all about. The study, therefore, recommended, that, school libraries in Nigeria should endeavor to include the teaching and learning of digital library services into the school library syllabi. School Library trainings should also include the inculcation of the right type of skills, perception, and awareness in addition to covering the cognitive domain of the utilization of information resources in digitized formats to offer quality and timely services to school library clienteles..

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Index Terms

Computer Science Information Systems

Keywords

Digital library Survey, School Library Media Specialist, Digital library Perceptions, Digital library Awareness. Digital Library Services, Nigeria.