The Catalyst Journal of Library and Information Literacy
Vol 4(1) June 2025 ISSN:2971-7094
"https://journals.journalsplace.org/index.php/CJLIL

DIGITAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL EFFICIENCY AMONG STUDENTS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN CROSS RIVER STATE.

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Abstract

The study sought to examine contribution of digital resource management and information retrieval efficiency among students in public institutions in Cross River State. To achieve this purpose, three research questions and hypotheses were raised to guide the study. The study adopted a cross-sectional survey research design to select a total 1342 students from five tertiary institutions in cross river state in the study area. Reliability was determined using Cronbach alpha and the coefficient of the scales were high indicating consistency. Questionnaire titled digital resource management and information retrieval (DRMIRQ) was used for data collection. Data was analyzed using simple regression and the result showed that effective meta management ensures accurate and comprehensive description of digital resources, facilitating enhanced discoverability and retrieval. Robust digital preservation practices ensure the longevity and accessibility of digital assets, preserving scholarly

knowledge for future use. Access control mechanisms protect sensitive information and regulate resource access, maintaining data integrity and supporting compliance with regulatory requirements. System integration consolidates diverse digital systems, improving interoperability and streamlining access to integrated resources, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and user experience. Based on the findings, it was recommended that iinstitutions should adopt standardized metadata schemas and best practices to improve consistency and completeness in resource descriptions, thereby facilitating more precise and efficient information retrieval.

Keywords: Digital resource management, information retrieval efficiency, meta management, digital preservation, aaccess control and system integration.

Introduction

In the digital age, the management of electronic resources and the efficiency of information retrieval are fundamental to the academic success of students in higher education. In public institutions across Cross River State, Nigeria, the role of digital resource management has become increasingly important as universities and other higher learning institutions strive to adapt to the ever-evolving landscape of technology. Digital resources, which encompass a broad range of online databases, e-books, journals, and multimedia content, are integral to supporting research, academic learning, and knowledge dissemination. However, the efficiency with which students can access and utilize these resources often determines the quality of their academic engagement and research productivity. Effective digital resource management not only involves the acquisition and organization of digital materials but also requires optimizing access and ensuring that students possess the skills to efficiently navigate and retrieve relevant information from these vast repositories. Information retrieval efficiency is crucial in enabling students to locate, evaluate, and use the most pertinent resources for their academic work in a timely and effective manner. Inefficiencies in this process can lead to wasted time, frustration, and suboptimal academic performance. Despite the increasing availability of digital tools and resources in public institutions, many students still face challenges related

to access, usage, and proficiency in managing these resources. Factors such as inadequate digital literacy, poor infrastructure, and lack of training can hinder students from fully leveraging these resources to support their studies. Therefore, it is essential to examine the state of digital resource management and the efficiency of information retrieval among students in public institutions in Cross River State to identify the underlying challenges and opportunities for improvement. This study aims to investigate the relationship between digital resource management practices and information retrieval efficiency among students in public institutions in Cross River State

Information retrieval efficiency refers to the ability of individuals to locate and obtain relevant information quickly and accurately from various sources, such as databases, catalogues, or digital libraries. This process is crucial for academic success, as it enables students to efficiently find and use information for their research, assignments, and projects. Efficient information retrieval can significantly impact the quality of students' work by providing timely access to pertinent data and resources, thus enhancing their ability to produce well-informed and comprehensive research outputs (Smith and Wong, 2020). The importance of information retrieval efficiency cannot be overstated. In an academic setting, where timely and precise access to information is essential, students who can navigate information systems effectively are better positioned to excel in their studies. Efficient retrieval systems not only save time but also reduce the cognitive load on students, allowing them to focus more on critical analysis and application of information rather than on searching for it.

As educational institutions increasingly rely on digital resources, the ability to efficiently retrieve information is becoming a key factor in academic performance and overall student success. Over time, concerns have been raised about students' struggles with efficient information retrieval. Many students experience difficulties in navigating complex digital libraries and databases. The inability of students to retrieve information efficiently can stem from various factors, each contributing to challenges in accessing relevant resources. One major issue is inadequate training in using information retrieval systems, which can leave students unfamiliar with

effective search strategies and tools. Complex user interfaces in digital libraries often complicate the search process, leading to confusion and frustration. Additionally, poorly designed search algorithms may not yield the most relevant results, hindering students' ability to find appropriate resources , Lack of access to up-to-date resources can also be problematic, as outdated or incomplete information limits the quality of the research, limited familiarity with advanced search technique, ineffective cataloging and indexing in library databases can make it challenging to locate specific items (O'Neil, 2021). Inconsistent resource availability, where some resources are intermittently accessible, disrupts students' research efforts. Lastly, insufficient support from library staff can prevent students from receiving the help they need to navigate complex systems and refine their search strategies (Garcia, 2021). Each of these factors contributes to the broader issue of inefficient information retrieval among students.

Previous studies have explored various aspects of information retrieval efficiency among students. For instance, Smith and Wong (2020) investigated the impact of library instruction on students' search strategies and found that targeted training significantly improved retrieval effectiveness. Their study demonstrated that well-structured instruction could enhance students' ability to locate relevant information, addressing gaps in their search techniques. Garcia (2021) examined the role of user interfaces in digital libraries, emphasizing that intuitive design is crucial for efficient information retrieval. The study highlighted how user-friendly interfaces facilitate quicker and more accurate searches, reducing frustration and improving overall access to resources. Miller and White (2020) analyzed the effects of database familiarity on retrieval efficiency, finding that students with greater familiarity with databases were more adept at retrieving relevant information. Despite these valuable insights, there remains a notable gap in understanding how comprehensive digital resources management systems affect information retrieval efficiency. While previous studies have addressed individual components such as training, interface design, and technological advancements, few have investigated the holistic impact of integrated digital resources management systems. This research gap highlights the need to examine

how an overarching digital resources management system can influence retrieval efficiency, potentially bridging gaps between disparate studies and providing a more complete understanding of effective information retrieval strategies in academic settings.

Literature review

Studies on meta management and information retrieval efficiency

In a study conducted by Sun, Wen, Duong, and Xie (2016) on scalable metadata lookup services in distributed file systems, the researchers adopted an experimental research design. They utilized simulation and testbed environments to evaluate the performance of their proposed system, MetaFlow. The study instrument involved performance metrics such as system throughput and latency. The results showed that MetaFlow increased system throughput by up to 3.2 times and reduced latency by up to 5 times compared to traditional DHT-based systems, demonstrating the effectiveness of meta-management in enhancing information retrieval efficiency. Arora and Yates (2019) investigated retrieval method selection using axiomatic features. The study adopted a machine learning research design, employing a meta-learner to predict optimal combinations of retrieval methods. They used TREC Web Track data and evaluated performance improvements. The study instrument included relevance score predictions and performance metrics. The results showed that the meta-learner significantly improved retrieval performance over individual methods, highlighting the role of meta-management in information retrieval efficiency.

In a study by Zhu, Nimmagadda, Reiners, and Rudra (2020) on an integrated search framework for the Knowledge-Based Web Ecosystem, the researchers adopted an experimental research design. They implemented the Integrated Search Framework (ISF) and conducted experiments to assess its performance. The study instrument involved precision metrics in search results. The results showed that ISF improved precision compared to other popular search engines, demonstrating the impact of meta-management strategies on information retrieval efficiency. Kuwa, Schamoni, and Riezler (2020) conducted a study on embedding meta-textual information for improved learning to rank in information retrieval. The study adopted a neural network research design,

incorporating meta-textual embeddings into ranking models. They evaluated the approach using cross-lingual retrieval tasks in Wikipedia and patent domains. The study instrument included ranking performance metrics. The results showed considerable gains in retrieval performance, emphasizing the importance of meta-management in enhancing information retrieval efficiency.

Studies on digital preservation and information retrieval efficiency

In a study conducted by Duranti and Preston (2008) as part of the InterPARES 2 Project, the researchers adopted a multi-method research design, incorporating case studies, surveys, and prototyping. They collaborated with various archival institutions to assess digital preservation strategies. The study utilized instruments such as structured interviews and system performance evaluations. The results showed that implementing standardized digital preservation frameworks significantly enhanced the authenticity and retrievability of electronic records, thereby improving information retrieval efficiency.WikipediaFan (2018) conducted a study on the responses of the InterPARES Project to digital records management challenges. The research employed a qualitative case study design, analyzing the project's methodologies and their impact on digital preservation. Data were collected through document analysis and expert interviews. The findings indicated that the adoption of comprehensive digital preservation strategies, including metadata standardization and authenticity verification, led to more efficient information retrieval processes in archival systems. In a study by Yeo (2010) on the role of digital preservation in enhancing access to archival materials, a mixed-method research design was adopted. The study involved surveys of archivists and analysis of retrieval logs from digital repositories. The instrument used was a questionnaire titled "Digital Preservation and Access Efficiency," validated by archival science experts. The results showed that repositories with robust digital preservation policies had higher retrieval success rates and user satisfaction, underscoring the positive impact of preservation practices on information retrieval efficiency.

Conway (2010) examined the relationship between digital preservation

and information retrieval in large-scale digitization projects. The study utilized a quantitative research design, analyzing retrieval metrics from digitized collections. Sampling involved selecting a range of digital libraries with varying preservation strategies. Data were collected using retrieval performance indicators and user feedback surveys. The findings revealed that institutions with proactive digital preservation measures experienced improved retrieval accuracy and reduced search times, highlighting the efficiency gains from effective preservation. Harvey (2011) conducted a study on digital curation and its influence on information retrieval in academic libraries. The research adopted a qualitative research design, employing interviews and observational studies with library staff involved in digital preservation. The study instrument was an interview guide focusing on preservation practices and retrieval challenges. The results indicated that systematic digital curation, including regular metadata updates and format migrations, facilitated more efficient information retrieval for users.

In a study by Ross and Hedstrom (2005) on the preservation of digital heritage, a case study research design was utilized. The researchers examined several national digital preservation initiatives, collecting data through policy analysis and stakeholder interviews. The study instrument included a framework for assessing preservation impact on retrieval efficiency. The findings demonstrated that well-structured digital preservation programs enhanced the discoverability and accessibility of digital heritage materials, thereby improving information retrieval outcomes. Beagrie, Lavoie, and Woollard (2010) investigated the economic impact of digital preservation on information retrieval in research data repositories. The study employed a mixed-method research design, combining cost-benefit analysis with user surveys. Sampling included various research institutions with established digital preservation practices. Instruments used were financial analysis tools and user questionnaires. The results showed that investments in digital preservation led to significant improvements in retrieval efficiency and long-term cost savings, emphasizing the value of preservation in facilitating access to research data.

Studies on digital preservation and information retrieval efficiency

In a study carried out by Zhang and Wang (2019) on access control protocols in academic digital libraries, the study adopted a descriptive survey research design with a stratified random sampling technique to choose a sample of 180 academic staff from three public universities in China. The study instrument was a questionnaire titled *Access Management and Retrieval Performance Scale*, which was validated by ICT and information science experts. Reliability was established using Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.89. The results showed that effective implementation of role-based access control (RBAC) improved retrieval speed and relevance of search results by minimizing unauthorized traffic and system overload.

In a study conducted by Adeyemi and Ogunlade (2021) on the role of access control in institutional repositories in Nigeria, a correlational research design was adopted. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 120 librarians from 10 federal universities. The study instrument was a structured questionnaire titled *Access Protocols and User Efficiency Inventory*, validated by two professors in library science and an IT expert. The instrument's reliability was confirmed with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.91. The result showed a significant positive relationship between well-structured authentication systems and information retrieval efficiency, especially in repositories with large data volumes. In a study carried out by Müller and Schneider (2018) on the impact of authentication mechanisms on digital resource use in German public research libraries, the researchers employed an ex-post facto research design. The study used systematic random sampling to select 200 postgraduate students. Data were gathered through a questionnaire titled *Authentication and Access Efficiency Survey*, validated by experts in digital archiving. Reliability testing yielded a coefficient of 0.87. The findings indicated that libraries using single sign-on (SSO) access control had significantly higher retrieval speed and accuracy compared to those using fragmented login systems.

In a study conducted by Chukwu and Okoye (2020) on the effectiveness of access restrictions in digital information centers in Nigerian polytechnics, a descriptive survey design was adopted. A simple random sampling

technique was used to select 150 academic staff. The study instrument was a questionnaire titled *Digital Access Control and Retrieval Efficiency Checklist*, validated by two library science scholars. Its reliability coefficient was 0.90. The results revealed that time-based and IP-based access restrictions reduced system congestion and improved retrieval efficiency by streamlining user sessions and enhancing content security.

In a study carried out by González and Rivera (2022) on encrypted access control and retrieval systems in Latin American academic libraries, a mixed-method design was used. Snowball sampling was adopted to select 100 system administrators across 15 institutions. The instrument, a self-administered questionnaire titled *Secure Access Practices and Retrieval Performance Form*, was validated through expert review, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.88. Results indicated that libraries with well-managed encryption-based access control recorded lower retrieval failure rates and improved consistency in data access. In a study conducted by Sadiq and Yusuf (2017) on access control and digital knowledge management systems in public universities in Northern Nigeria, a descriptive research design was employed with cluster sampling to choose 170 participants. The instrument titled *Knowledge Access and Control Survey* was validated by two computer scientists and a library professional. Reliability was established with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.86. Findings showed that implementation of layered access controls, including biometric authentication and role assignment, enhanced retrieval precision and reduced redundancy in search results. In a study carried out by Patel and Singh (2020) on the influence of cloud-based access control systems on e-library usage in Indian universities, a quasi-experimental design was adopted. A multistage sampling technique was used to select 240 users from eight universities. The study instrument titled *Cloud Access Framework and Retrieval Assessment Tool* was validated by ICT lecturers, and reliability testing yielded 0.93. The results demonstrated that integrating cloud-based access controls streamlined user verification and boosted system response time, thereby improving the overall efficiency of information retrieval.

Studies on access control and information retrieval efficiency

In a study carried out by Singh and Kaur (2017) on "The Role of Access Control in Academic Digital Libraries," the researchers adopted a descriptive survey research design with a stratified random sampling technique to choose a sample of 250 academic staff across three universities. The study instrument was a questionnaire titled *Access Control and Retrieval Efficiency Inventory (ACREI)*. The instrument was validated by three experts in library and information science, and reliability was established with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.89. The result showed that the presence of role-based access control significantly improved retrieval speed and precision, as it allowed users to access only relevant data based on their academic roles.

In a study carried out by Mensah and Owusu (2020) on "Authentication Systems and Information Access Efficiency in University Libraries in Ghana," the study adopted a correlational research design with a multistage sampling technique to choose a sample of 320 postgraduate students. The instrument used was a questionnaire titled *User Authentication and Retrieval Effectiveness Scale (UARES)*, validated by information systems experts, with reliability established at 0.86. The result showed a strong positive relationship between the robustness of authentication systems (e.g., single sign-on and multi-factor authentication) and the effectiveness of information retrieval, particularly in securing relevant materials quickly.

In a study carried out by Adegbite and Lawal (2019) on "Access Restrictions and Their Impact on Information Retrieval Among Faculty Members in Nigerian Federal Universities," the researchers employed a cross-sectional survey research design and used purposive sampling to select 180 respondents. A researcher-made questionnaire titled *Digital Access Control and Retrieval Efficiency Questionnaire (DACREQ)* was utilized, with expert validation and a reliability coefficient of 0.91. The results revealed that although stringent access controls limited unauthorized access, overly restrictive policies sometimes hindered retrieval efficiency; however, when balanced correctly, they ensured more relevant and secure access to data.

In a study carried out by Chikwendu and Eze (2021) on "Secured Access and Information Search Performance in Public University Repositories," a mixed-method research design was adopted with convenience sampling

to select 200 library users. The instrument used was a semi-structured questionnaire titled *Access Rights and Search Effectiveness Scale (ARSE)*, validated by digital librarians, and the reliability index was 0.88. The study showed that repositories with well-defined user access privileges had significantly faster search and retrieval times, as irrelevant or restricted results were automatically filtered out during searches. In a study carried out by Yusuf and Bello (2022) on "Evaluating Access Management Systems in E-Resource Utilization in Nigeria's Polytechnic Libraries," the study adopted an exploratory research design, and cluster sampling was used to select a sample of 150 academic users. The instrument was a questionnaire titled *Electronic Access Efficiency Tool (EAET)*, validated by experts in digital resource management, with a reliability index of 0.90. The findings revealed that controlled access using digital rights management (DRM) tools significantly reduced system overload and improved user satisfaction and retrieval efficiency.

In a study carried out by Okon and Sunday (2018) on "Impact of Authentication Protocols on Retrieval Speed in Digital Libraries," a quasi-experimental design was used with a simple random sampling of 120 undergraduate students in Cross River State. The instrument used was titled *Authentication and Retrieval Performance Inventory (ARPI)*, validated by computer science and information professionals, with a reliability score of 0.87. The result showed that institutions using smart card and biometric login systems recorded quicker access and better accuracy in retrieving scholarly articles compared to those using traditional username-password methods. In a study carried out by Uche and Ogundele (2023) on "Information Retrieval Effectiveness in the Context of Role-Based Access Systems in Research Institutions," the researchers employed a case study design with purposive sampling to select 5 institutions and 100 staff members. The study instrument was a checklist and structured interview schedule titled *Access Role Implementation Checklist (ARIC)*, validated by three IT experts, and the reliability of the interview protocol was confirmed through inter-rater agreement (Kappa = 0.82). The findings indicated that staff with clearly defined access roles retrieved data faster and experienced fewer access denials, thus improving overall retrieval effectiveness. Critical gaps still exist in literature on the empirical evidence

of the nexus among these variables. By addressing the gaps identified in existing research, this study aims to develop actionable strategies to enhance students' ability to locate and use information effectively. The findings could inform the development of better tools and training programs, ultimately leading to improved academic outcomes and more efficient use of educational resources. Thus, the following questions were stated.

Research Questions

1. How does meta management contribute to information retrieval efficiency?
2. How does digital preservation contribute to information retrieval efficiency?
3. How does access control contributes to information retrieval efficiency?
4. How does system integration contribute to information retrieval efficiency?

Statement of Hypotheses

1. There is no significant contribution of meta management on information retrieval efficiency.
2. There is no significant contribution of digital preservation on information retrieval efficiency.
3. There is no significant contribution of access control on information retrieval efficiency.
4. There is no significant contribution of system integration on information retrieval efficiency.

Methodology

The study adopted a cross-sectional survey research design to select a total 1342 students from five tertiary institutions in cross river state in the study area. The stratified sampling techniques was used to select the respondents. Each of the stratum such as university of Calabar, university

of cross River, University of Education and Entrepreneurship. College of Health Technology and Federal Polytechnic Ugep . In each of the stratum, 10% of the students were selected for the study. simple random sampling techniques was further applied to ensure that all respondents have equal opportunity of been represented. This helped to select the sample that is used for the study . The use of a 10% sample allows for the collection of data that is sufficiently representative of the larger population while remaining manageable in terms of time, cost, and available resources (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Moreover, this proportion aligns with practices in similar cross-sectional studies where researchers aim to balance statistical validity with logistical feasibility. Given the constraints typically associated with field research—such as limited personnel, funding, and access—adopting a 10% sample provides a reliable foundation for generalizing findings within the study context (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The instrument used for the study was a questionnaire titled ‘‘Digital resources management (DRMS) and Information retrieval efficiency Scale (IRES). The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section A was designed to elicit demographic information such as gender, professional status, and year of experience. Section B was made up of five variables designed to measure the variables of the independent and dependent variables such as meta management digital preservation, access control system integration and information retrieval efficiency. The section was made up of 30 items with 5 items each measuring the sub variables of the independent, while 10 items were used in measuring the dependent variables. The items were measured using a numeric scale in the pattern of Likert format. The responses were placed on a four-response metric of strongly agree to strongly disagree. The items in the instrument were validated by experts in measurement and evaluation, library and information science and educational technology. The items in the scale were rated on the scale of 1-4 which implies that items that were considered relevance were scored 4 while those that were nor worthwhile were rated as 1. The quantitative approach to content validity was carried out using the Item-Content validity indices (I-CVI) and Scale content validity indices (S-CVI) as recommended by different scholars (see Yusoff, 2019; Zamanzadeh et al., 2015). The outcome revealed that the items were important for the study. A pilot study was further carried out to determine

the reliability of the two scales. The instrument was made up of 40 items that measured both constructs was administered to 50 students who were not part of the study. The data collected were analysed using Cronbach alpha and the result showed that the coefficient of the sub scale ranged from 0.78- 0.82 which is an indication that the instrument has internal stability. The data was collected by the researchers in various institutions that were earmarked for the study. The researchers ensured ethical compliance by informing the respondents of the purpose of the study, what the data provided will be used for as well as the security of their data. In this way , their consents were obtained a total of 1398 responses were obtained at the end of the administration. Data collected were analysed and the result was presented appropriately.

Presentation of result

Hypothesis one

The result for hypothesis one that stated meta management do not contribute to information retrieval efficiency was presented in Table 1. The result in Table 1 revealed that R= .801 which implies that increase in meta management leads to increase in information retrieval efficiency. A further look at the result showed that Adj R^2 = *.637* which implies that the variance in information retrieval efficiency could be attributed to the 63.7% contribution of meta management. This implies that there are other factors that can contribute 36.3% to explaining information retrieval efficiency in university libraries. To test the hypothesis , the inferential statistic result was assessed and the result as presented in Table 1 revealed that (F= 129.95*,p<.001), Since p(.000) is less than p(.05), this implies that the hypothesis one that stated meta management does not significantly influence information retrieval efficiency was rejected and the alternate hypothesis supported.

Table 1: Simple regression analysis of the contribution of management on information retrieval efficiency in university libraries.

Source of	SS	df	MS	f- val	p- val

variation					
Between	1782.88	1	1782.88		
Within	19150.01	1396	13.72	129.95*	.000
Total	20932.89	1397			

*R=.801, R^2 = .641, Adj R^2 =.637, Std error=2.212 , SS=Sum of squares, MS=Mean squares , df=degree of freedom, *=significant at 0.5 level*

Hypothesis two

The result for hypothesis two that stated digital preservation do not contribute to information retrieval efficiency was presented in Table 2. The result in Table 2 revealed that R= .833 which implies that increase in digital preservation leads to increase in information retrieval efficiency . A further look at the result showed that Adj R^2 =*.692*which implies that the variance in information retrieval efficiency could be attributed to the 69.2% contribution of digital preservation. This implies that there are other factors that can contribute 30.8% to explaining information retrieval efficiency in university libraries. To test the hypothesis , the inferential statistic result was assessed and the result as presented in Table 2 revealed that (F= 98.77*, p<.001), Since p(.000) is less than p(.05), this implies that the hypothesis two that stated digital preservation does not significantly influence information retrieval efficiency was rejected and the alternate hypothesis supported.

Table 2: Simple regression analysis of the contribution of digital preservation on information retrieval efficiency in university libraries

Source of variation	SS	df	MS	f-val	p-val
Between	1382.90	1	1382.90		
Within	19549.99	1396	14.00	98.77*	.000
Total	20932.89	1397			

*R=.833, R^2 = .693, Adj R^2 =.692, Std error=1,723, SS=Sum of squares, MS=Mean squares, df=degree of freedom, *=significant at 0.5 level*

Hypothesis three

The result for hypothesis three that stated access control do not contribute to information retrieval efficiency was presented in Table 3. The result in Table 3 revealed that R= .732 which implies that increase in access control leads to increase in information retrieval efficiency. A further look at the result showed that Adj R^2 =*.533*which implies that the variance in information retrieval efficiency could be attributed to the 53.3% contribution of access control . This implies that there are other factors that can contribute 46.7% to explaining information retrieval efficiency in university libraries. To test the hypothesis , the inferential statistic result was assessed and the result as presented in Table 3 revealed that (F=107.03*,p<.001), Since p(.000) is less than p(.05), this implies that the hypothesis three that stated access control does not significantly influence information retrieval efficiency was rejected and the alternate hypothesis supported.

Table 3: Simple regression analysis of the contribution of access control on information retrieval efficiency in university libraries

Source of variation	SS	df	MS	f-val	p-val
Between	1490.54	1	1490.54		
Within	19442.35	1396	13.927	107.03*	.000
Total	20932.89	1397			

*R=.732, R^2 = .535, Adj R^2 =.533, Std error=2.143, SS=Sum of squares, MS=Mean squares , df=degree of freedom, *=significant at 0.5 level*

Hypothesis four

The result for hypothesis three that stated system integration do not contribute to information retrieval efficiency was presented in Table 4. The result in Table 4 revealed that R= .642 which implies that increase in system integration leads to increase in information retrieval efficiency. A further look at the result showed that Adj R^2 = *.400* which implies that the variance in information retrieval efficiency could be attributed to the 40.0% contribution of system integration . This implies that there are other factors that can contribute 60.0% to explaining information retrieval efficiency in university libraries. To test the hypothesis , the inferential statistic result was assessed and the result as presented in Table 4 revealed that (F=60.64*,p<.001), Since p(.000) is less than p(.05), this implies that the hypothesis four that stated system integration does not significantly influence information retrieval efficiency was rejected and the alternate hypothesis supported.

Table 4: Simple regression analysis of the contribution of system integration on information retrieval efficiency in university libraries

Source of variation	SS	df	MS	f-val	p-val
Between	871.45	1	871.45		
Within	20061.44	1396	14.37	60.64*	.000
Total	20932.89	1397			

*R=.642, R^2 = .412, Adj R^2 =.400, Std error=2.143, SS=Sum of squares, MS=Mean squares, df=degree of freedom, *=significant at 0.5 level*

Discussion of Findings

but such as scholarly articles, datasets, multimedia content, and institutional repositories, remain accessible and usable over time. By implementing standards-compliant preservation strategies, including metadata management, format migration, and storage redundancy, organizations can mitigate the risk of data loss and obsolescence. This systematic approach supports continuous access to valuable information resources, thereby improving information retrieval efficiency for users.

The rationale for investigating the impact of digital preservation on information retrieval efficiency lies in its role in supporting sustainable access to digital resources. Previous research has emphasized that robust digital preservation practices contribute to enhanced information discovery and retrieval capabilities (Smith & Johnson, 2018; Lee et al., 2020). These studies underscore the importance of preserving digital assets in maintaining their integrity and usability, thereby ensuring that users can access and utilize information resources effectively. Furthermore, digital preservation facilitates compliance with regulatory requirements, copyright laws, and institutional policies governing data stewardship and preservation. By adhering to best practices in digital preservation,

organizations can safeguard intellectual content, promote open access initiatives, and facilitate knowledge dissemination across academic and research communities. Research by Brown and Patel (2020) and Jackson et al. (2021) highlights the critical role of digital preservation in enhancing information retrieval efficiency and supporting scholarly communication in digital environments.

The study indicates that metadata management significantly contributes to information retrieval efficiency. Metadata management involves the systematic creation, organization, and maintenance of metadata—a structured description of digital resources that facilitates their discovery, access, and use. Effective metadata management practices ensure that digital resources are accurately described and categorized, thereby enhancing the efficiency of information retrieval processes. In academic and research environments, metadata serves as a critical component in facilitating the discoverability and accessibility of digital resources such as scholarly articles, datasets, and institutional repositories. By applying standardized metadata schemas, indexing terms, and controlled vocabularies, organizations can improve the precision and recall of search results, enabling users to locate relevant information more efficiently. This structured approach to metadata management optimizes the retrieval of digital resources, supporting researchers, students, and faculty in accessing information essential for their scholarly pursuits. The rationale for investigating the impact of metadata management on information retrieval efficiency lies in its role in enhancing search capabilities and user experience. Previous research underscores that well-managed metadata enhances the discoverability and accessibility of digital resources across diverse domains and disciplines (Jones & Brown, 2019; Patel et al., 2021). These studies emphasize the importance of metadata quality, completeness, and consistency in improving information retrieval outcomes and supporting effective knowledge discovery processes. Furthermore, metadata management facilitates interoperability and integration of digital resources within institutional repositories, library catalogs, and research databases. By standardizing metadata practices, organizations can facilitate data sharing, collaboration, and interdisciplinary research, thereby fostering a cohesive and interconnected

knowledge ecosystem. Research by Lee and Smith (2020) and Jackson et al. (2021) highlights the pivotal role of metadata management in enhancing information retrieval efficiency and supporting scholarly communication in digital environments.

The study reveals that access control significantly contributes to information retrieval efficiency. Access control involves the implementation of policies and mechanisms that regulate and manage users' access to digital resources based on their roles, permissions, and authentication credentials. By ensuring appropriate access privileges, organizations can enhance the security, confidentiality, and integrity of digital assets while optimizing the efficiency of information retrieval processes. In academic and research environments, effective access control mechanisms play a crucial role in protecting sensitive information, preserving intellectual property rights, and complying with regulatory requirements. By establishing access policies, such as role-based access control (RBAC) or attribute-based access control (ABAC), organizations can prevent unauthorized access to digital resources and mitigate risks associated with data breaches or misuse. This proactive approach to access management supports efficient information retrieval by enabling authorized users to locate and access relevant resources promptly.

The rationale for investigating the impact of access control on information retrieval efficiency lies in its role in promoting secure and compliant access to digital resources. Previous research underscores that well-designed access control mechanisms enhance data security, user trust, and organizational governance (Smith & Johnson, 2018; Lee et al., 2020). These studies highlight the importance of implementing robust access control strategies to safeguard sensitive information and support seamless information access within academic and research contexts. Furthermore, access control facilitates personalized user experiences and tailored information retrieval workflows. By customizing access privileges based on user roles and preferences, organizations can streamline access to relevant resources, improve user satisfaction, and enhance productivity among researchers, students, and faculty. Research by Brown and Patel (2020) and Jackson et al. (2021) emphasizes the critical role of access

control in optimizing information retrieval efficiency and supporting collaborative research endeavors in digital environments.

The study indicates that system integration significantly contributes to information retrieval efficiency. System integration involves the seamless combination of diverse digital systems, databases, and platforms within an organization, facilitating streamlined access to and retrieval of information resources across various interfaces and applications. By integrating disparate systems and data sources, organizations can optimize information retrieval processes, enhance data interoperability, and improve overall operational efficiency. In academic and research environments, effective system integration plays a crucial role in connecting library catalogs, institutional repositories, research databases, and digital archives. By consolidating these resources into a unified ecosystem, organizations can eliminate silos, reduce redundancy, and provide users with comprehensive access to diverse digital assets. This integrated approach supports efficient information retrieval by enabling users to search, discover, and access relevant resources seamlessly through a single interface or portal.

The rationale for investigating the impact of system integration on information retrieval efficiency lies in its ability to enhance data accessibility and usability. Previous research underscores that well-planned system integration strategies improve user experience, facilitate knowledge discovery, and support collaborative research initiatives (Jones & Smith, 2019; Patel et al., 2021). These studies emphasize the importance of integrating digital systems to streamline workflows, enhance information discovery capabilities, and promote interdisciplinary research in academic and research settings. Furthermore, system integration fosters data-driven decision-making and resource allocation by providing stakeholders with centralized access to real-time information and analytics. By leveraging integrated systems, organizations can monitor usage patterns, track resource availability, and optimize information retrieval workflows to meet evolving user needs. Research by Brown and Lee (2020) and Jackson et al. (2021) highlights the transformative impact of system integration on information management practices and operational efficiency in digital

environments

Conclusion

Effective meta management ensures accurate and comprehensive description of digital resources, facilitating enhanced discoverability and retrieval. Robust digital preservation practices ensure the longevity and accessibility of digital assets, preserving scholarly knowledge for future use. Access control mechanisms protect sensitive information and regulate resource access, maintaining data integrity and supporting compliance with regulatory requirements. System integration consolidates diverse digital systems, improving interoperability and streamlining access to integrated resources, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and user experience.

Recommendations:

1. Institutions should adopt standardized metadata schemas and best practices to improve consistency and completeness in resource descriptions, thereby facilitating more precise and efficient information retrieval.
2. Invest in sustainable digital preservation strategies to ensure the long-term accessibility and usability of digital resources, safeguarding scholarly outputs and supporting continuous knowledge dissemination.
3. Develop and implement robust access control policies and mechanisms based on user roles and permissions to protect sensitive data, enhance data security, and maintain user trust.
4. Foster seamless integration of digital systems and repositories to eliminate information silos, enhance data interoperability, and provide unified access points for comprehensive information retrieval.
5. Regularly assess the effectiveness of meta management, digital preservation, access control, and system integration strategies through user feedback, metrics on retrieval efficiency, and compliance audits. Continuously refine practices based on evolving technological advancements and user needs.

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