

# **Assessing access and use of PERii electronic resources at the University of Dar es salaam: A case of postgraduate students in the School of Education**

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## **OUTLINE**

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## Introduction

- PERii electronic resources are electronic information resources which were provided under the PERii initiative programme –INASP;
  - includes electronic journals, electronic books and other electronic resources.
- They are subscribed by the university through the Consortia of Tanzania University and Research Libraries (COTUL) with the support of INASP

## Objectives

- To assess access to and use of PERii electronic journal resources by postgraduate students in the School of Education at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Specific objectives were:
  - To examine whether postgraduate students in the School of Education were aware of PERii electronic journal resources;
  - To examine whether postgraduate students had access to PERii electronic journal resources;
  - To examine whether postgraduate students use PERii electronic journal resources; and
  - To examine the challenges encountered by postgraduate students in accessing and using PERii electronic journal resources.

## **Methodology**

- The study was conducted at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- It involved postgraduate students in the School of Education (SoED), as well as Reference Librarians of the University of Dar es Salaam Library
- A cross-sectional research design was used

## **Methodology cont.**

- A total of 100 postgraduate students from two departments were involved in the study
  - 30 masters students and 5 PhD students from the Department of Education Psychology and Curriculum Studies, and
  - 60 masters students and 5 PhD students from the Department of Educational Foundations, Management and Lifelong Learning
- All the six Reference Librarians responsible for assisting users to gain access to PERii resources were purposively interviewed.

## Methodology cont.

- A combination of questionnaire for postgraduate students and interviews for Reference Librarians was used to collect data
  - Self-administered questionnaires with both closed-ended and open-ended questions
  - Semi-structured interviews
- Quantitative data were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics and qualitative data were subjected to content analysis

## Findings

Findings revealed that:

- Majority [95 (95%)] of respondents were aware of PERii electronic journals resources
- Through various channels including:
  - Library website,
  - notice board,
  - fliers,
  - posters,
  - IL training,
  - colleagues,
  - librarians and
  - supervisors

## Findings cont.

- Majority [91 (95.8%)] of the respondents accessed to PERii electronic journal resources
- Reasons for accessing PERii electronic resources included:
  - They are reliable and up-to-date [52(57.1%)]
  - They are easily accessed at anytime, anywhere [48 (52.7%)]
  - Free availability [41 (45.1%)]
  - They can be downloaded [37 (40.7%)]
  - They can be printed [24 (26.4%)]

## Findings cont.

- ICT devices used to access PERii electronic resources included:
  - Computers in the library [69 (75.8%)]
  - Computers in Computer lab [38 (41.8%)]
  - Personal laptop [43 (47.3%)]
  - Personal smartphone [18 (19.8%)]
  - Personal iPad [17 (18.7%)]
  - Personal Tablet [6 (6.6%)]

## Findings cont.

- Majority of respondents used these resources for various purposes including:
  - working on the assignments [63 (69.2%),
  - research proposal writing [54 (59.5%),
  - literature review [35 (38.5%),
  - research report writing [29 (31.9%),
  - current awareness [21 (23.1%),
  - leisure [6 (6.6%)
  - for extra exploration of on going scientific debates through peer reviewed papers [1(1.1%)]

## Findings cont.

- Challenges encountered include:
  - power outage,
  - inadequate bandwidth,
  - slow download speed,
  - inability to access the resources from home,
  - lack of training to equip them with search skills,
  - lack of awareness,
  - limited access to computers and difficult in making a search.

## Recommendations

Based on these findings it was recommended that:

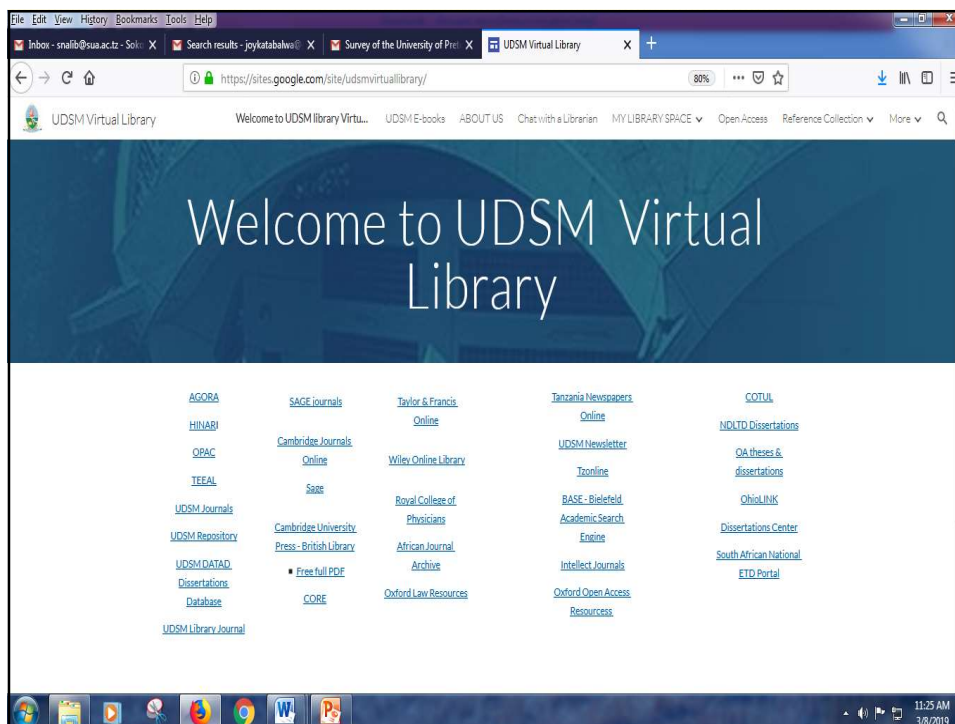
- training on access and use of PERii electronic journal resources be integrated into the University curriculum;
- improve ICT infrastructure;
- ensuring stable and reliable power by buying heavy duty generators;
- improving methods for promotion and marketing of the resources to increase awareness;
- enabling access of PERii electronic journal resources from home; and
- ensuring adequate bandwidth through shaping the available bandwidth allowing certain services such as ICT services to receive a large proportion of bandwidth than other services

## Brief description of improvement made

- The library has increased ICT infrastructures to maximize the access and use of electronic resources
  - Eighty (80) new computers were acquired in the old library
  - Wireless points have also been increased in the library and around the university
- Information literacy training has continued
  - Face to face IL training
  - Online integrated IL onto Moodle online learning platform where users are encouraged to register and learn

## Improvement made cont.

- Google site virtual library (<https://sites.google.com/site/udsmvirtualibrary/>) was created in which links to various electronic databases are listed
  - users are able to get reference services such as chatting with librarians, asking questions and get responses as well as frequent asked questions with their answers
- QR code linking the site was created with the aim of promoting and marketing electronic resources available as well as other services





## Improvement made cont.

- Additionally, the university has managed to build a large modern library full furnished with ICT infrastructures
- The Library has
  - seating capacity of 2600 people,
  - storage capacity of 800,000 books
  - many computers –
    - 45 OPAC computers to access the collection
    - 160 Internet connected computers are based in computer lab to support access of electronic resources
  - bandwidth have been increased
  - powerful solar power panels and a heavy duty automatic generator has been installed

## New University of Dar es Salaam Library



## Computer lab with 160 computers



## The challenge

- Some challenges still persist including the fact that:
  - PERii electronic resources cannot be accessed outside the university
  - instead they are accessed around the university based on IP range.

## Acknowledgement

- I would like to thank
  - Carnegie Corporation of New York
  - University of Pretoria and all the lecturers
  - My supervisor – Prof. Peter Underwood
  - MIT 3 students

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