

Information behavior of postgraduate students in accessing and using Theses and Dissertation Database at UDSM (Tanzania)

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DATAD database

- Established in 2003
- Local version of ETD under AAU (Ghana)
- Facilitating access at University level (UDSM DATAD)
- Accessed at abstract level – LAN based
- Software used = Greenstone
- Entries = 2500
- Academic units covered = 12

Study rationale

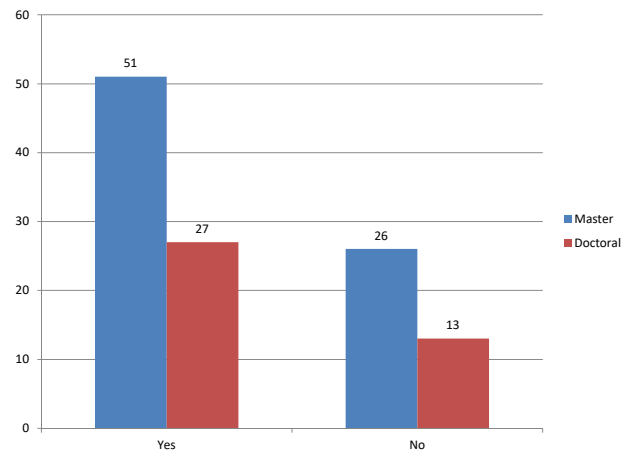
- Awareness levels among students not known
- Ways of accessing databases
- Its perceived usefulness
- Opinion on access to and use of databases

Methodologies

- Research design: case study approach (quantitative & qualitative methods)
- Population: 77 masters; 40 doctoral students; Seven librarians
- Area of study: UDSM, CASS
- Data collection methods: self-administered questionnaires; face to face interviews
- Data analysis: Excel (frequencies)

Results

- Awareness



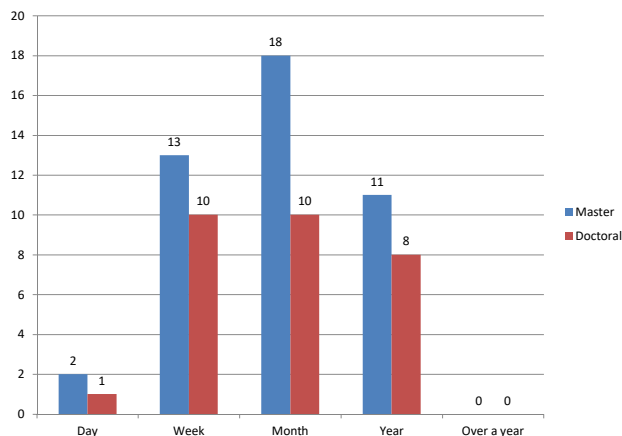
Results...

How they became aware

- Colleagues
- Module tutor
- Brochures
- Face to face
- Orientation week sessions
- Information literacy courses

Results...

- How soon respondents tried out UDSM DATAD



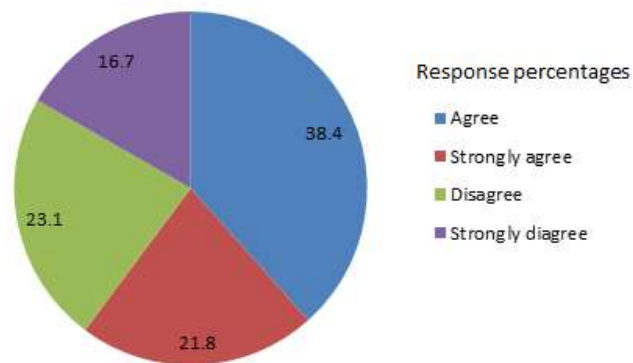
Results

Purpose of using UDSM DATAD

- To find what others have written about a research topic
- To find keywords to assist in searching for information in other databases and on the Internet
- To identify research topic from recommendations given for further research

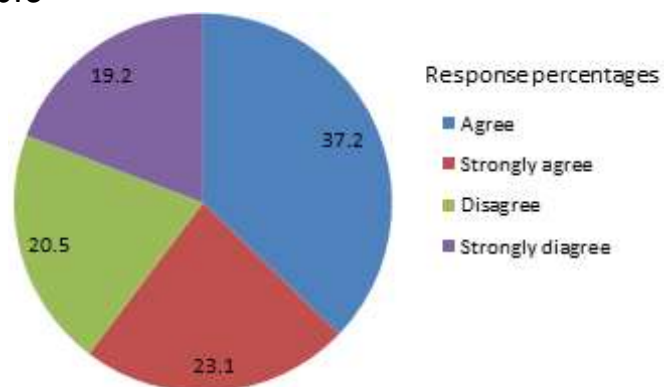
Results...

- Perceived usefulness of UDSM DATAD in making students' work visible in the institution



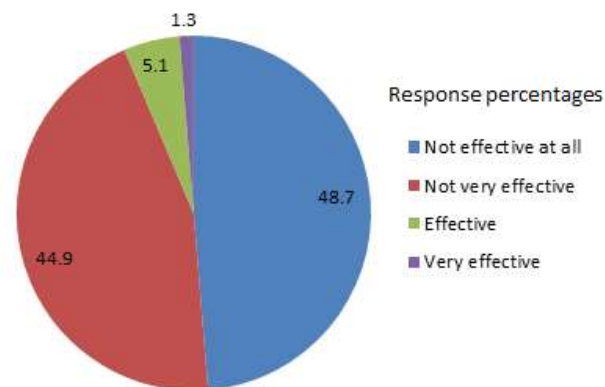
Results...

- Perceived usefulness of DATAD in minimizing duplications of efforts in researching the same topic



Results...

- Perceived usefulness of UDSM DATAD with regard to its search interface



Results...

Challenges

- Failure to access full text
- Not accessible outside campus
- Slow network connection on campus
- Erratic power supply
- Lack of notification mechanisms
- Irregular updates

Recommendations for improving UDSM DATAD usage

- UDSM DATAD should allow access to full-text materials
- The library should promote UDSM DATAD to more users across campus
- More improvements on the UDSM DATAD search interface are needed
- More search options should be added
- UDSM DATAD should be accessible outside campus

Measures resulted after the study

- Formulation of committee for policy formulation – for wide access to full text
- Creating market strategy
- Improving information infrastructure
- Formation of Consortium for country-wide NETD portal

State of the database 2nd round of study

- Entries on database = 700
- Colleges having data entered = 18
- Users (PG) = -ca 4900
- Access = Full text
- Coverage = Local intranet
- Software used = Dspace

Many thanks

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