

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Online Information Retrieval at the University of Dar es Salaam Library, Tanzania.

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Abstract

For some years the written words has been a sole means of providing information to academic community at the University of Dar es Salaam. The University Library, the largest academic library in Tanzania is well stocked with books some dating as far back as 1950s. However, with the introduction of Information Technology in the provision of information, the community gradually move from a book-dependent one to a community that uses Information and Communication Technology to provide information to the members. The University library boasts to have a well-wires Reference Department that enable library users to access vast sources of information by using the Internet, CD-ROM, data bases and Telnet. Despite this promising endeavour, many students seems not to realize the potential that ICT can offer in solving the acute shortage of books facing the University. Instead they use the facility mainly for correspondence by using web-based e-mail facility. This study set out to find out why ICT is not much used to solve problems of shortage of books.

Keywords:

Information and Communication Technology; University of Dar es Salaam; Online Information Retrieval; Tanzania

