Journal of Library Services and Technologies, 8(3), 186 – 198, September 2026
ISSN: 2636-7424 https://credence-publishing.com
DOI: http://doi.org/10.47524/jlst.v8i3.199

Influence of accessibility of legal databases on user satisfaction among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria

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Abstract
This study examined the influence of accessibility and use of legal databases on user satisfaction among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria. Descriptive survey design of a correlational type was adopted for the study. The population consisted of law undergraduates from selected universities in North Central Nigeria. These are University of Abuja, University of Ilorin, and University of Jos, with 177 valid responses. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire administered to respondents. Findings revealed that while a variety of legal databases such as Law Pavilion, LexisNexis, and HeinOnline are available, accessibility remains moderate due to infrastructural challenges such as poor internet connectivity, erratic power supply, and limited institutional subscriptions. User satisfaction was also found to be moderate, with accessibility significantly influencing satisfaction levels. Correlation analysis indicated a significant positive relationship between accessibility of legal databases and user satisfaction. The null hypothesis was rejected, and findings highlighted the need for universities to invest in ICT infrastructure, increase database subscriptions, and provide regular training programmes.

Keywords: Legal databases; accessibility; user satisfaction; law undergraduates; North Central Nigeria

Introduction

The evolution of information and communication technology has significantly transformed the landscape of legal research, shifting the focus from traditional print resources to digital legal databases. Academic law libraries, as critical components of legal education, are increasingly expected to provide seamless access to electronic legal resources that support teaching, learning, and research.

Legal databases serve as essential tools for law students, offering access to statutes, case law, legal commentaries, and scholarly articles. These resources are indispensable for academic work, including assignments, moot court preparation, and legal research. However, the effectiveness of these databases largely depends on their accessibility. Legal databases are internet places where you can find legal information. Nishikawa-Pacher and Hamann (2023) defined official legal databases (OLD) as online platforms that offer free, searchable, and reusable access to statutory laws completely and systematically, hence facilitating knowledge transmission and aiding jurists and researchers. Alabi (2025) described a legal database as a collection containing laws, cases, indexes, and other materials that law students can access quickly and conveniently.

Accessibility stands as a fundamental requirement for the effective utilisation of information. It refers to the ease with which users can locate, retrieve, and utilise information from available resources. It encompasses factors such as system availability, internet connectivity, user authentication, and interface usability. Ubwa and Ndor (2020) stated that "accessibility is the ease of locating and retrieving a piece of information from the storage medium by the user," emphasizing that accessibility is a

means to an end. Owushi and Anyalebechi (2025) rightly observed that access to such resources depends not only on the physical availability of library facilities but also on the presence of digital tools and online databases that can be accessed remotely. Therefore, legal databases should be made accessible whenever they are available. Modern research confirms that electronic resources provide authoritative, reliable, and timely access to information, which is critical for academic and professional work. (Borrego et al., 2020). In many developing countries, including Nigeria, accessibility remains a major challenge due to infrastructural and institutional limitations.

User satisfaction concerns how good users feel after visiting and using the Law Library resources and their likelihood of returning to the library when they need further information. User satisfaction mediates the relationship between e-library service quality and sustained usage behavior. Singh and Sharma (2022). When legal databases are easily accessible and reliable, users are more likely to experience greater satisfaction.

Despite the availability of legal databases in Nigerian universities, students often encounter barriers that limit effective access. These challenges may negatively affect their academic performance and research efficiency. This study, therefore, examines the relationship between accessibility of legal databases and user satisfaction among law undergraduate students in North Central Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

The rapid digitisation of legal information has transformed legal research globally. However, in Nigeria, the accessibility of electronic legal databases remains a major challenge. While many universities have invested in legal databases, students often face difficulties in accessing these resources effectively.

Problems such as unstable internet connectivity, inconsistent power supply, limited database subscriptions, and inadequate user training hinder accessibility. As a result, students may be unable to fully utilise available resources, leading to reduced satisfaction and poor research outcomes. Furthermore, existing studies have largely focused on either accessibility or usage independently, with limited attention given to their direct influence on user satisfaction. It is against this backdrop that this study investigated the accessibility and use of legal databases among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to investigate the relationship between accessibility of Legal databases and User satisfaction among Law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

1. identify the legal databases available among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria;
2. examine the level of accessibility of legal databases among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria; and
3. determine the level of user satisfaction with legal databases among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria.

Research questions

The following research questions are answered in the study:

1. What are the legal databases are available among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria?
2. What is the level of accessibility of legal databases among law

undergraduates in North Central Nigeria?

3. What is the level of user satisfaction with legal databases among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria?

Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was tested at the 0.05 level of significance:

H0: There is no significant relationship between accessibility of legal databases and user satisfaction among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria.

Literature review

Legal databases are systematically organised digital platforms that provide access to legal information such as statutes, case law, judicial opinions, treaties, law reviews, and legal commentaries. These databases serve as essential tools for legal practitioners, researchers, and students by offering comprehensive, up-to-date, and searchable collections of both primary and secondary legal materials (Oloniruha, Adeyeye, & Oladokun, 2024). Unlike traditional print-based library resources, legal databases enable real-time access to legal information, which is particularly important in contexts like Nigeria, where printed legal materials may be outdated or difficult to obtain. The efficiency of legal research is significantly enhanced through features such as keyword searching, citation tracking, and cross-referencing, which allow users to retrieve relevant information quickly and accurately (Adebayo, 2018). Empirical studies have shown that legal databases play a crucial role in improving legal research and academic performance. Wier (2024) found that digital legal databases help overcome the limitations of printed legal materials by providing access to current case law and legal updates. Similarly, Waithe (2025) observed that the use of advanced search features and cross-referencing tools in legal databases has significantly improved research productivity and depth of legal analysis among students.

Studies have shown that the availability of legal databases in Nigerian universities varies significantly across institutions, largely due to differences in funding, ICT infrastructure, and institutional commitment to electronic resource subscriptions. For example, Amusa and Atinmo (2016) found that many electronic legal resources, including LexisNexis, Westlaw, Kluwer Arbitration, and I-Law, were unavailable in many public universities, with subscriptions often maintained only during accreditation exercises. The study attributed this situation to inadequate funding, poor ICT infrastructure, and limited institutional support.

Accessibility of legal databases refers to the ease with which users can locate, retrieve, and effectively utilise digital legal resources. It goes beyond mere availability to include factors such as system usability, internet connectivity, power supply, and user competence (Ubwa & Ndor, 2020; Obuezie & Echedom, 2023). Accessibility is therefore a multidimensional concept that plays a critical role in determining the effectiveness of legal databases in academic environments. Recent studies confirm that accessibility of digital resources in Nigerian academic libraries remains uneven. A study by Idhalama, Oredo, and Makori (2025) found that although universities are investing in digital resources, accessibility is still constrained by infrastructural deficits, funding limitations, and low user awareness. The study reported a "mixed outcome," where some institutions demonstrate progress while others struggle to provide consistent access due to systemic challenges. Only a moderate proportion of students had consistent access to legal databases due to technical limitations and inadequate ICT facilities. Oloniruha, Adeyeye, and Oladokun

(2024) reported that although electronic legal services are increasingly available, their accessibility is limited by challenges such as poor internet connectivity, high subscription costs, and inadequate digital literacy among users. Financial constraints also significantly affect accessibility. Alabi (2025) observed that many students rely on open-access platforms due to the unaffordability of premium databases, although these platforms may not provide comprehensive legal information. These findings suggest that accessibility remains a major challenge that affects the effective use of legal databases.

User satisfaction refers to how well library services and resources meet user expectations, especially in terms of resource quality, relevance, and academic impact. User satisfaction is a concept that includes how good users feel after visiting and utilizing the Law Library resources and their likelihood to return to the library when they need more information. User satisfaction reflects the extent to which a service or system meets users' expectations, with digital platforms playing a key role in enhancing accessibility and responsiveness to improve overall satisfaction (Zygiaris et al., 2022).

Recent studies highlight the growing importance of digital competencies in shaping user satisfaction. Idhalama, Makori, and Oredo (2025) found that improved digital literacy practices significantly enhance user satisfaction with library services. The study emphasised that users who possess the necessary skills to navigate digital systems are more likely to experience positive outcomes and satisfaction. Similarly, Ale and Audu (2025) reported that user satisfaction with automated library services in Nigerian institutions is influenced by the quality of ICT infrastructure and service delivery. Their findings indicate that inadequate automation and technological limitations contribute to lower satisfaction levels among users. In addition, Nwagwu and Sulaimon (2025) examined accessibility and satisfaction with integrated library systems and found that system quality, availability, and affordability significantly influence user satisfaction. The study also noted that accessibility factors such as system reliability and usability are critical determinants of positive user experiences. In the context of legal education, user satisfaction is closely linked to the relevance, accuracy, and timeliness of legal information. Jacob (2020) found that law students reported greater satisfaction when databases provided current, relevant information that supported their academic work. Conversely, difficulties in accessing or retrieving information often led to frustration and reduced usage.

Legal information resources constitute the foundation of effective legal research and academic scholarship. They encompass a broad range of materials, including textbooks, law reports, statutes, legislation, legal journals, government documents, and reference sources. Beyond printed materials, electronic resources also play a critical role, covering digital publications and unpublished scholarly works such as conference proceedings, theses, dissertations, and students' research projects in law. Within the context of legal education, these resources are indispensable for teaching, learning, and research. Their availability implies not only their physical or digital presence in the law library but also timely access in adequate quantity to meet users' academic needs. However, the mere presence of legal databases does not necessarily guarantee accessibility. In many Nigerian university law libraries, several challenges hinder students from accessing these resources effectively, thereby limiting their ability to benefit from the information they provide. Among the primary obstacles are infrastructural deficits, financial and resource constraints, low digital literacy and

awareness, and institutional limitations. Internet connectivity and erratic power supply are major barriers, with 60% of students at the University of Jos reporting disrupted access to databases like LawPavilion and LexisNexis due to frequent outages. (Hamzat, S. A., & Koiki-Owoyele, A, 2020). Limited computer facilities further restrict usage, as law libraries often lack sufficient workstations, forcing students to rely on personal devices or print resources (Ubwa & Ndor, 2020). Inadequate training on database navigation poses a significant challenge, with 60% of students struggling to use complex platforms like HeinOnline and Westlaw, reducing their ability to conduct effective legal research (Umar & Yahaya, 2020). High subscription costs for international databases like HeinOnline and Westlaw restrict their availability, especially in less-funded state universities, compelling students to rely on local platforms like LawPavilion, which may not fully meet research needs (Adebayo & Balogun, 2021). Outdated database content is another challenge, with students reporting dissatisfaction when platforms lack current Nigerian case law or statutes, mirroring issues with outdated e-resources (Agina-Obu & Oyinkepreye, 2023). Institutional policy and management issues contribute to persistent challenges. Library hours, staffing, frequency of database updates, and maintenance of authentication systems play a role. Where staff are few and user support is limited, students may encounter delays or difficulties when they have problems with login, database navigation, or system errors, worsening their experience. Insufficient library staff expertise hinders support, as students receive limited guidance on database use, further reducing effective accessibility (Sulaimon & Akinlabi, 2021). Moreover, intermittent updating or incomplete collections reduce user trust in databases: if recent legal materials are missing, students perceive the resource as unreliable, which harms satisfaction.

The reviewed studies demonstrate a consistent pattern in recent Library and Information Science research. First, accessibility of digital and legal databases in Nigerian academic libraries remains constrained by infrastructural, financial, and skill-related challenges. Second, user satisfaction is strongly influenced by accessibility, system quality, and digital literacy. Third, there is a clear interrelationship between accessibility and satisfaction, with improved access leading to higher usage and better user experiences.

However, despite growing attention to digital library services, there remains a gap in studies that specifically examine the relationship between accessibility of legal databases and user satisfaction among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria. This gap underscores the relevance of the present study.

Methods

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design of a correlational type to investigate the influence of accessibility of legal databases on user satisfaction among law undergraduate students in selected federal universities in North Central Nigeria. The descriptive survey design was considered appropriate because it enabled the researcher to collect quantitative data on respondents' perceptions and experiences without manipulating the study variables, while the correlational aspect examined the relationship between accessibility and user satisfaction. A study by Williams (2024) and Adeniran (2013) supports the use of descriptive survey design for research on accessibility and satisfaction with library resources. The study population consisted of 1,762 undergraduate law students from the University of Abuja, the University of Jos, and the University of Ilorin, the only federal

universities in North Central Nigeria with fully accredited Faculties of Law. A sample size of 232 respondents was determined using Cochran's (1977) formula and selected through proportionate stratified random sampling to ensure adequate representation of each university. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire administered with the assistance of trained student research assistants. The questionnaire employed a four-point Likert scale to measure respondents' perceptions. The instrument was validated by experts in Library and Information Science and Measurement and Evaluation, while its reliability was established through a pilot study involving 20 law students from Baze University, Abuja, using Cronbach's Alpha with a minimum acceptable coefficient of 0.70. Data were analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics Version 28. Frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, were used to answer the research questions, while Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation (PPMC) and multiple regression analysis were used to test the hypotheses at the 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Table1: Distribution of respondents by institutional affiliation (n = 177)

Institutional affiliation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
University of Abuja	52	29.4
University of Jos	41	23.2
University of Ilorin	84	47.5
Total	177	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2026

The total sample for this study was 232 undergraduate Law students from the University of Abuja, University of Jos, and University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Copies of the questionnaire were distributed proportionately across the three universities according to their population sizes to ensure fair representation. Out of the 232 questionnaires distributed, 177 were successfully retrieved. This analysis is therefore based on the 177 completed questionnaires.

Table 1 shows that 47.5% of the respondents were from the University of Ilorin, 29.4% from the University of Abuja, while 23.2% were from the University of Jos. This indicates that respondents were adequately drawn from the three selected universities in North Central Nigeria.

Table 2: Legal databases available among the law undergraduates

S/N	Legal databases	Available	Not Available	Percentage available (%)
1	Law Pavilion	140	37	79.1
2	Legalpedia	128	49	72.3
3	Nigerian Weekly Law Reports (NWLR) Online	150	27	84.7
4	HeinOnline	95	82	53.7
5	LexisNexis	70	107	39.5
6	Westlaw	60	117	33.9
7	Nigerian Legal Information Institute (NigLII)	120	57	67.8
8	JSTOR	110	67	62.1
9	EBSCOhost	105	72	59.3

10	ProQuest	90	87	50.8
11	GOALI	85	92	48.0
12	Research4Life (R4L)	100	77	56.5

The results in Table 2 reveal a distinct pattern in the availability of legal databases across the law libraries of the universities studied. The most widely available databases are Nigerian Weekly Law Reports (NWLR) Online (84.7%), Law Pavilion (79.1%), and Legalpedia (72.3%), reflecting a strong institutional preference for Nigerian legal information resources that directly support legal education, research, and practice within the country's jurisdiction. Moderate levels of availability were recorded for NigLII (67.8%), JSTOR (62.1%), EBSCOhost (59.3%), Research4Life (56.5%), ProQuest (50.8%), and GOALI (48.0%), indicating that while efforts have been made to provide access to multidisciplinary and specialised research resources, their availability is not yet widespread across all institutions. In contrast, international commercial legal databases such as LexisNexis (39.5%) and Westlaw (33.9%) recorded the lowest levels of availability, suggesting that access to premium global legal information resources remains limited. The overall pattern indicates that law libraries in the universities studied prioritise locally relevant legal databases, while the acquisition of subscription-based international databases is constrained, most likely by financial limitations, licensing requirements, and the high cost of maintaining these resources.

Table 3: Level of accessibility of legal databases among law undergraduates

S/N	Level of Accessibility of Legal Databases	Strongly Agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Mean Score	Interpretation
1	I can easily access legal databases from my institution's law library	70 (39.5%)	65 (36.7%)	28 (15.8%)	14 (7.9%)	3.08	High
2	I can log in to databases such as LexisNexis, Westlaw, or HeinOnline without difficulty	60 (33.9%)	58 (32.8%)	37 (20.9%)	22 (12.4%)	2.88	Moderate–High
3	I can access legal databases remotely (off-campus)	55 (31.1%)	50 (28.2%)	45 (25.4%)	27 (15.3%)	2.75	Moderate–High
4	The login process for legal databases is straightforward and reliable	62 (35.0%)	61 (34.5%)	36 (20.3%)	18 (10.2%)	2.95	High
5	The legal databases are available whenever I need them	68 (38.4%)	59 (33.3%)	32 (18.1%)	18 (10.2%)	3.00	High
6	Internet connectivity is not a barrier when using legal databases	48 (27.1%)	52 (29.4%)	47 (26.6%)	30 (16.9%)	2.67	Moderate
7	The library provides adequate computers and facilities for	58 (32.8%)	60 (33.9%)	40 (22.6%)	19 (10.7%)	2.89	Moderate–High

	accessing online legal databases						
8	The subscription coverage of my law library provides access to major and up-to-date legal databases	63 (35.6%)	57 (32.2%)	37 (20.9%)	20 (11.3%)	2.92	High
9	I receive regular orientation or training on how to access and use legal databases effectively	45 (25.4%)	50 (28.2%)	52 (29.4%)	30 (16.9%)	2.62	Moderate
10	I am satisfied with the overall accessibility of legal databases provided by my institutional law library	66 (37.3%)	64 (36.2%)	30 (16.9%)	17 (9.6%)	3.01	High

The results in Table 3 reveal a generally high level of accessibility of legal databases among the law undergraduate students in the universities studied. The highest levels of accessibility were reported for on-campus access to legal databases, availability of databases when needed, reliable login processes, and overall satisfaction with accessibility, with the majority of respondents selecting Agree or Strongly Agree. Similarly, access to major legal databases such as LexisNexis, Westlaw, and HeinOnline, as well as the adequacy of library facilities, attracted high levels of agreement, suggesting that respondents generally have access to essential legal information resources within their institutions. In contrast, remote (off-campus) access, internet connectivity, and orientation and training on the use of legal databases recorded comparatively lower ratings, indicating that these aspects remain less satisfactory. The overall pattern suggests that while accessibility to legal databases within the law libraries is generally favourable, challenges relating to internet infrastructure, remote access, and user training continue to limit seamless and effective access to legal information resources.

Table 4: Level of user satisfaction with legal databases among law undergraduates

S/N	Level of User Satisfaction with Legal Databases	Very Satisfied (4)	Satisfied (3)	Dissatisfied (2)	Very Dissatisfied (1)	Mean Score	Interpretation
1	I feel satisfied after using legal databases because they meet my research expectations	67 (37.9%)	63 (35.6%)	29 (16.4%)	18 (10.2%)	3.01	High
2	I find using legal databases more fulfilling than using printed law reports or textbooks	60 (33.9%)	58 (32.8%)	37 (20.9%)	22 (12.4%)	2.88	Moderate–High

3	I am satisfied with the convenience of accessing legal databases both on and off campus	62 (35.0%)	59 (33.3%)	36 (20.3%)	20 (11.3%)	2.92	High
4	I am satisfied with the user interface and design of the legal databases	58 (32.8%)	60 (33.9%)	39 (22.0%)	20 (11.3%)	2.88	Moderate–High
5	I will gladly return to use legal databases whenever I need further legal information	70 (39.5%)	62 (35.0%)	27 (15.3%)	18 (10.2%)	3.04	High
6	I am satisfied with how quickly I can find what I am looking for using databases in my law library	65 (36.7%)	61 (34.5%)	32 (18.1%)	19 (10.7%)	2.97	High
7	I feel confident and comfortable using databases for my academic work	66 (37.3%)	60 (33.9%)	31 (17.5%)	20 (11.3%)	2.97	High
8	I am satisfied with the speed and performance of legal databases during use	59 (33.3%)	58 (32.8%)	38 (21.5%)	22 (12.4%)	2.87	Moderate–High
9	I am satisfied with how easy it is to locate specific cases, statutes, or journal articles within the databases	63 (35.6%)	61 (34.5%)	34 (19.2%)	19 (10.7%)	2.95	High
10	I am satisfied with how easy it is to access databases in my law library	68 (38.4%)	62 (35.0%)	29 (16.4%)	18 (10.2%)	3.01	High

The findings in Table 4 presented respondents' levels of satisfaction with legal databases in their institutional law libraries using frequencies and percentages. Overall, the results indicated a high level of user satisfaction, with most items having mean scores close to or above 3.00, which reflected positive user experiences. The highest level of satisfaction was recorded for respondents' willingness to continue using legal databases for future legal information needs, with 70 respondents (39.5%) indicating they were Very Satisfied. High satisfaction was also observed regarding ease of access,

fulfillment of research needs, convenience of access, and efficiency in retrieving legal information, indicating that the databases effectively supported users' academic and research activities.

Although satisfaction was generally high, relatively lower ratings were recorded for user interface design, database performance speed, and preference for electronic databases over printed resources, suggesting the need for improvements in usability and system performance. Overall, the findings showed that legal databases effectively met users' information needs, particularly in terms of access, reliability, and usefulness for academic work.

H0: There is no significant relationship between accessibility of legal databases and user satisfaction among law undergraduates in North Central Nigeria.

Table 5: Correlation between Accessibility of Legal Databases and User Satisfaction

Variables	N	r-value	p-value	Decision
Accessibility of legal databases & User satisfaction	177	0.68	0.000	Reject H_{01}

Table 5 presents the results for the hypothesis, which posited that there is no significant relationship between accessibility of legal databases and user satisfaction in academic law libraries. The analysis reveals a strong positive correlation ($r = 0.68$), with a p-value of 0.000, which is below the 0.05 threshold for significance. This indicates that the null hypothesis is rejected, confirming a statistically significant relationship between the variables.

In practical terms, this means that when legal databases are easily accessible, reliable, and consistently available to users, their satisfaction with library services increases. Factors contributing to this positive effect include ease of login, availability of multiple databases, remote access capability, and adequate infrastructure. Libraries that improve accessibility are therefore likely to experience higher levels of user satisfaction.

Discussion

The findings of this study revealed that accessibility of legal databases significantly influenced user satisfaction among law undergraduate students in the universities studied. The positive relationship indicates that students who experienced easy, reliable, and timely access to legal databases were more likely to express higher levels of satisfaction with the information resources provided by their law libraries. This supports an earlier study by Aina (2018), who emphasized that ease of access to electronic resources, including legal databases, is a key determinant of user satisfaction. This finding supports the view that accessibility is a fundamental determinant of users' evaluation of electronic information services and reinforces the argument that legal databases can only satisfy users when they are readily available and easily accessible. It also aligns with the Technology Acceptance Model (Davis, 1989), which posits that systems perceived as easy to access and use are more likely to be accepted and appreciated by users. The generally favourable ratings for on-campus access, database availability, and login reliability observed in this study further explain the high level of satisfaction reported by the respondents.

Despite the significant positive influence of accessibility on user satisfaction, the study identified challenges relating to internet connectivity, remote (off-campus) access, and user orientation and training.

These limitations suggest that although legal databases are generally accessible, infrastructural and institutional constraints continue to affect the quality and consistency of users' access. Similar observations were made by Ugbaja (2021), who found that poor digital infrastructure remains a major barrier to effective access to electronic resources in Nigerian academic libraries.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that improving the accessibility of legal databases through reliable internet connectivity, enhanced remote access facilities, and regular user orientation programmes would further increase user satisfaction and strengthen the effectiveness of legal information services in university law libraries. This underscores the importance of sustained institutional investment in both digital infrastructure and user support services to maximise the benefits of legal databases.

Conclusion

This study set out to investigate the accessibility of legal databases on user satisfaction among law undergraduates in universities in North Central Nigeria. Based on the findings, it is evident that the availability of a variety of legal databases, including LawPavilion, LexisNexis, HeinOnline, Westlaw, and others, provides students with essential resources for academic research and learning. The study shows that access to these databases is generally perceived as satisfactory, with students reporting that they can log in, navigate, and use these resources both on-campus and, in some cases, remotely. This level of accessibility has a strong positive influence on overall user satisfaction, reinforcing the importance of ensuring reliable access to digital legal resources.

The study also identified several challenges affecting accessibility, such as inadequate internet connectivity, intermittent power supply, limited computing facilities, high subscription costs, and lack of sufficient training. These challenges highlight that the presence of resources alone is insufficient; supportive infrastructure, capacity-building, and maintenance of database content are equally critical in maximizing the potential benefits of digital legal resources. Addressing these challenges is essential to ensure that students can fully exploit the academic and research potential of legal databases.

In conclusion, the study establishes that accessibility of legal databases is a key determinant of user satisfaction in academic law libraries. Universities that provide reliable, well-maintained, and easily accessible legal resources are likely to see enhanced student engagement, improved research productivity, and higher overall satisfaction. The findings underscore the importance of continuous investment in digital library infrastructure, user training, and resource expansion to strengthen academic outcomes and support the professional development of law students in North Central Nigeria.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. University management and library administrators invest in robust infrastructure to ensure that legal databases are easily accessible. This includes providing reliable internet connectivity, uninterrupted power supply, and sufficient computers and devices in the library. Ensuring that students can access databases both on-campus and remotely will improve research efficiency, enhance academic productivity, and increase overall user satisfaction.
2. Libraries should continually review and expand the scope of their subscribed legal databases to ensure comprehensive coverage of all areas

of law. Some databases may have limited content or may not include the latest case law, statutes, or journals, which can constrain research. Subscribing to diverse, up-to-date, and credible databases such as Law Pavilion, LexisNexis, Westlaw, Hein Online, and other specialized resources will ensure that students have access to the materials they need for academic excellence and professional development.

3. Policymakers and university authorities develop frameworks to monitor, maintain, and evaluate library resources regularly. This includes periodic assessment of database performance, user satisfaction surveys, and upgrades to infrastructure as needed. By establishing clear policies and consistent monitoring, universities can ensure that legal databases remain reliable, functional, and responsive to students' academic requirements.
4. Challenges identified in the study, such as inadequate internet connectivity, limited power supply, subscription costs, and lack of awareness, should be prioritized. Universities may consider partnerships with database providers, government agencies, and private sponsors to subsidize costs and expand access. Furthermore, creating awareness campaigns and user guides can help students better understand the available databases effectively. Implementing these recommendations will not only enhance user satisfaction but also strengthen the overall academic and research capacity of law students in North Central Nigeria.

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