

## Socioeconomic Status and Use of Web-Based Information Resources by Public Polytechnic Students in Southwestern Nigeria

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**Abstract :** Web-based Information Resources (WBIR) are increasingly becoming essential tools for students to accomplish academic tasks. Preliminary observation revealed that many polytechnic libraries in Southwestern Nigeria do not subscribe or renew subscriptions to WBIR academic databases, and students use free-based electronic resources. Hence, this study was carried out to investigate socioeconomic status and use of WBIR by public polytechnic students in Southwestern Nigeria. Six public polytechnics out of the 16 offerings of Higher National Diploma (HND) programs were selected by stratified random sampling to reflect federal and state polytechnics. A proportionate size sampling technique was used to select 1,463 HND students. The instruments used were Socioeconomic status (SeS) ( $\alpha=0.81$ ) and WBIR used for Academic Tasks ( $\alpha=0.98$ ) scales. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Pearson's product-moment correlation at a 0.05 level of significance. Students' SeS ( $\bar{X}=79.10$ ) was moderate. Online reference sources ( $\bar{X}=3.97$ ), Web 2.0 ( $\bar{X}=3.50$ ), and social media ( $\bar{X}=3.00$ ) were regularly used WBIR. WBIR use ( $\bar{X}=53.34$ ) was moderate. The students used WBIR for project writing ( $\bar{X}=3.46$ ) and class assignments ( $\bar{X}=3.42$ ). The Students' SeS ( $r=0.59$ ) had significant relationships with WBIR use. Socioeconomic status directly influenced the use of WBIR for academic tasks. Management of polytechnics should provide WBIR subscriptions for students' use in the polytechnic e-libraries.

**Keywords :** public polytechnic students, polytechnic libraries, socioeconomic status, Web-based information resources

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