Information Literacy Skills and Use of ICT in Fighting Insecurity by the Nigeria Police, Ekiti State Command

Shuaib Agboola OLARONGBE[1] Abiodun Charles ADEOYE[2] Sambo Atanda SALIU[3] Ahmed Usman ABDULSALAM[4]

1 Department of Library and Information Science, University of Ilorin, Nigeria

2 Ekiti State Library Board, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria

3 University Library, Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Nigeria

4 College Library, Kwara State College of Education, Ilorin, Nigeria

KWASU Journal of Information, Communication and Technology (KJICT.) 2022, 1(1)
© 2022 Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria.
URL: http://kjict.ng/

Abstract

The level of insecurity in Nigeria has become a major issue of concern to both the citizens and the government. This study investigated information literacy skills, and use of information and communication Technologies (ICT) in fighting insecurity by the Nigeria Police, Ekiti State Command. A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. Four objectives and four research questions were formulated to guide the study. Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) sample size table was used to determine the sample size. Two hundred and eighty three (283) copies of questionnaire were administered on police officers under the Ekiti State Command, and 214 were filled and returned. This gave a response rate of (75.6%). The data collected were analysed with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), and presented with the aid of descriptive statistics, using frequency, percentage and means. The findings of the study revealed that the level of information literacy skills among the police officers in Ekiti State was high. The highest level of information literacy was recorded in information ethics. The findings also revealed that the level of availability of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police in Ekiti State was low. It was also discovered that the level of utilisation of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police in Ekiti State was high. In addition, lack of competent ICT personnel, insufficient data, low level of funding of police schools and colleges, and low level of GIS coverage of the country were the challenges that hinder effective utilisation of ICT in fighting insecurity by the police in Ekiti State, as reflected in this study. Recommendations were proffered for effective and efficient service delivery by the Nigeria police force.

Keywords: Information literacy skills, ICT, insecurity, Nigeria Police, Ekiti State Command

1. Introduction

Over the years, the insecurity situation in Nigeria has necessitated the allocation of huge part of the national budget to fighting insecurity. Yet, no significant levels of achievements have been recorded. There is still increasing rate of crimes, which include kidnapping, armed robbery and banditry, farmers and herders clashes, terrorism, suicide bombing, political clashes, religious killing, ethnic clashes and other kinds of violent crimes in the country. Crime and criminality have therefore, characterised everyday life in Nigeria. The Nigeria Police, as part of the civil society, is one of the government agencies saddled with the responsibility of protecting people and properties and maintaining peace and order in Nigeria. Fundamental to the Nigeria Police is guaranteeing peace, safety and security of the people. The Nigeria police have the primary goals of thwarting and detecting crime, ensuring peaceful society for people and businesses, and enforcing laws and order in line with the constitution. As documented by Haco-Obasi et al. (2021), the functions of the Nigeria police include preservation of public peace, combating and preventing crimes, prosecuting offenders, traffic and other duties that the government may assign to them.

The role of information and communication technology (ICT) in fighting insecurity by the Nigeria Police in the contemporary times cannot be over-emphasised. Considering the new approaches deployed by the police in the Western World in fighting

insecurity and the remarkable achievements that are being recorded, Nigeria Police cannot continue to rely on using outdated approaches and expect remarkable results. It has been observed that one of the surest solutions to the Nigeria's insecurity challenge is the application of ICT like satellite technology and close circuit television (CCTV) in monitoring the movement of criminals (Adegoke, 2014). The application of ICT to checking industrial, social and human challenges has led to positive results in several nations, hence Nigeria cannot be an exception. As advised by Huawei and Computer Warehouse Group Plc (CWG), Nigeria could make use of Internet Protocol surveillance as a hi-tech way out to curb insecurity challenges ravaging the country (The Punch, 2014).

Deployment of ICT can strengthen crime control by helping police officers to recognise and observe suspects and criminals; accelerating the discovery and reaction to crime; improving evidence collection; fortifying the strategies and deployment of security; and improving communication between security personnel and citizens (Choji, 2021). However, there are many factors that could affect the use of ICT in fighting insecurity. One of these factors is the Information Literacy Skill (ILS) of the police officers. Since policing is a time-critical and knowledge-intensive profession, ILS of police officers plays an essential role in their tasks. In order to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently, police officers need to be equipped with adequate information literacy skills.

Information literacy skills is a fusion of library literacy, computer literacy, media literacy, technological literacy, critical thinking, ethics and communication, which when acquired, would enable users of information to become independent life-long learners (Onyango, 2014). Ojedokun and Lumade (2015) describe information literacy as the ability to locate, evaluate, manage and use information from a range of sources not only for problem solving but also for decision making and research. Information literacy is much broader than the acquisition of traditional information skills. It entails how to find a book on the shelves and how to access electronic databases. It is therefore, very important for Nigeria to borrow a leaf from the advanced countries and deploy the use of ICT in totality to fighting insecurity. Therefore it is pertinent to investigate factors that affect the use of ICT by the Nigeria Police in fighting insecurity with the aim of finding lasting solution to it.

The level of insecurity across the nations of the world, particularly the Middle East and some African countries, including Nigeria, is becoming unbearable. The level of terrorism, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling, cybercrime and ritual killings in Nigeria is a clear evidence that the Nigeria Police needs to be fortified to fight insecurity in the country. It is also perceived that lives and businesses are no longer safe in the country and many people have lost hope in the police as they believed that both the police and government had been overpowered by the criminals and terrorists. Studies such as Uchenna et al. (2018) and Shatimah et al. (2016) have been done in the areas of deployment of ICTs by the Nigeria Police to fortify security in the country. However, it seems that there had not been adequate documentation in the literature to establish how information literacy skills affect the use of ICT in fighting insecurity by Nigeria Police. To this end, this study therefore aims to investigate information literacy skills as predictor of the use of ICT in fighting insecurity by the Nigeria Police, Ekiti State command. Specifically, the study aims to ascertain the level of availability of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police; examine the level of ICT utilisation in fighting insecurity by the police; and identify the challenges to effective utilisation of ICT in fighting insecurity by the police.

2. Literature Review

Information literacy is fundamental to learning and it basically entails changing attitudes and habits, which enable people to comprehend how information fits into their learning. Information literacy requires identifying what information is required, appreciate how the information is organised, recognise the finest sources of information for an identified need, situate those sources, appraise the sources decisively, and share that information (Thanuskodi, 2019). It is the understanding of frequently used research techniques. Information literacy is vitally imperative for police officers as they are surrounded by a growing ocean of information in all formats. The kinds of technology utilised in accessing, manipulating, and creating information is very paramount in Nigeria Police in the contemporary era. Equally, the level of information literacy of the police officers determines to a large extent the level at which they are able to proficiently discharge their duties.

The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professional (2016) aver that an information literate people should have the capability to be lifelong learners and should be able to reflect on what they do. Meanwhile, since insecurity is an issue of national interest and concern, all the agencies providing internal security in the country work hand in hand to make the country a safe place to inhabit. Choji (2021) claims that to ensure security in the country, there is a need for massive deployment of CCTV in many cities and towns across Nigeria. The installation of CCTV

will enable the police to track the criminals that carry out nefarious activities in the cities. The Nigeria Police equally purchases some helicopters for aerial patrol, even though they face challenges of capacity for night patrols (Choji, 2021). The helicopters are used in some strategic places where the Boko Haram terrorists and insurgents operate. The helicopters are also used to monitor the pipeline to prevent oil bunkering and other illicit activities.

Uchenna et al. (2018) conducted a study on the impact of ICT on national security, using Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) as a case. A descriptive survey research design was used for the study while inferential statistics was used for data analysis. It was found that the NSCDC had the needed ICT tools in combating crime. It was also found that information gathering helped the corps in the achievement of its technological goals. The findings of the study suggest that ICT has remarkable impacts on security. In another study by Oludare et al. (2015), it was found that there is high level of availability of ICT tools in fighting insecurity in Nigeria. These ICT tools include mobile phone, internet service, close circuit television (CCTV), surveillance cameras, social networking analysis, satellite imagery, biometry surveillance, IP devices, fax machine, television, radio, and data mining facilities. The study found further that these facilities prove very effective in ensuring the fortification of security in Nigeria.

Furthermore, Shatimah et al. (2016) investigated the effective use of ICT tools to combat insecurity menace in Nigeria. The study submitted that there is a high availability of ICT tools for fighting insecurity in Nigeria, while government security operatives ensured the security of the nation, using close circuit television (CCTV), online vehicle registration, SIM registration, GPS driver's license, and explosive device detectors. They concluded that with the use of these ICT facilities, security surveillance could yield fruitful results. However, contrary to the findings of Shatimah et al. (2016), Ibikunle and Adefihan (2021) claimed that the Nigerian governments, at both national and state levels, are not doing enough in terms of acquisition of the necessary ICT tools in fighting insecurity in the country, emphasising that the current era is that in which ICT and other sophisticated technologies are used for fighting criminals, for hotspots policing, in finding solutions to violent crimes, and for observing employees' performance. They advised that technologies such as video cameras, data mining systems, heat sensors, biometrics, GPS tracking, internet, and telecommunication systems should be massively deployed for the uncovering, examination, trial, and prevention of crime within the law enforcement community.

A review of literature revealed that there are no adequate ICT facilities to combat insecurity in Nigeria (Okeke & Onyeukwu, 2018; Chinedu et al. 2018; Choji, 2021; Ibikunle & Adefihan, 2021). In their study, Oludare et al. (2015) investigated the use of ICT tools in tackling the insecurity and terrorism problems in Nigeria. It adopted a descriptive survey research design for the study. Questionnaire was administered on 1000 respondents. The study found that the level of using ICT in tackling insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria was high.

The security of a nation extends to the way security issues are handled in institutions of learning such as primary schools, secondary schools, colleges of education, polytechnics, and universities. The Nigeria Police is the security agency saddled with the responsibility of conducting internal security in the country (National Security Strategy, 2014). The National Security Strategy emphasises further that in case of a large-scale breakdown in the administration of internal security by the police, the military would be invited through an invocation of statutory provisions (Choji, 2021). More importantly, Section 215 (3&4) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution (as Amended) makes it clear that the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) "Shall maintain and secure public safety and public order as well as ensure public stability and prevent threats to national security".

The effectiveness of the Nigeria Police in fighting insecurity rests very significantly on the extent of ICT utilisation by the police officers. Sulaiman et al. (2018) aver that the security challenges in Nigeria require massive deployment of ICT for tracking, detecting, and disseminating information about criminals. However, the deployment of ICT facilities to combat insecurity in Nigeria is hindered by some factors. Among the challenges hindering effective utilisation of ICT in fighting insecurity by Nigeria police is inadequate research on the use of ICT and security systems. More importantly, institutions such as the Police Training Schools and Police Colleges are not well-equipped (Buratai, 2017). Uchenna et al. (2018) observes that NSCDC faces several impediments in the effectual application of the ICT in combating crime. These impediments, according to them, include the problem of inadequate data as a result of lack of tactical use of ICT as resourceful tools in combating crime, insufficient government funding of the agency, resulting in lack of appropriate tools and equipment required in cyber threat, and lack of proficient ICT personnel or technical team for critical and sensitive operations.

According to Chinedu et al. (2018), other challenges affecting effective deployment of ICT

in combating insecurity include lack of security consciousness and training, operating system design and security, open-source issues, design complexity, and multiple layer approach. More challenges as identified by Choji (2021) include high cost of acquisition/maintenance, low level of infrastructure, low level of ICT capacity, and low level of GIS coverage of the country.

3. Materials and Method

The study adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised all the police officers in Ekiti State Command across the 26 police divisions available and existing within the Ekiti State Command. It also comprised all the police officers who were on the payroll of the command irrespective of their duty posts. At the time of collecting data for this study, the total number of police officers in Ekiti State Command stood at 1,018 (NPF Ekiti, 2022). The sample size for the study was 283 police officers in 25 police divisions in Ekiti State Command. Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) sample table was used to determine the sample size. According to Krejcie and Morgan (1970), a sample size of 278 (27.8%) is adequate for a population of 1000. As such, the adoption of a sample size of 283 which is 27.8% for a population of 1,018 is even greater than the minimum recommendation of Krejcie and Morgan. Therefore, the sample size was more than adequate for the study. The instrument for data collection for this research was a self-administered questionnaire titled: "Information Literacy Skills as Panacea for the Use of ICT for Fighting Insecurity by the Nigeria Police Questionnaire (ILSPUIFINPQ)".

The instrument was designed to generate data concerning information literacy skills and the use of ICT for fighting insecurity by the Nigeria Police. Expert opinion was used to validate it. Two specialists were recruited from library department and one specialist from educational measurement and evaluation department to examine the objectives of the study and research questions alongside the instrument's items to see if the instrument covered what it was supposed to measure and that the language of expression was comprehensible enough to generate the required data. The elements in the instrument were restructured and modified based on their perspectives. Test-retest methods were used to assess the instrument's reliability. For this, 20 copies of the questionnaire were administered on police officers at Osun State Police Command who were not part of the original study.The use of staff in each of the police stations as research assistants helped to achieve the high response rate. The researcher distributed the questionnaire with the help of three police officers as research assistants in the police command who were familiar with the respondents. A period of two weeks was used for administration and collection of the instruments.

A total of 283 copies of the questionnaire were therefore, administered and 214 were filled and returned. This gave a response rate of (75.6%). The response rate of 75.6% is considered adequate for the study because the standard and the acceptable response rate for most studies is 60% (Dulle et al., 2010). Results generated were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) and were presented in percentage, mean and standard deviation. Answers for the responses were based on four (4)-point rating scale: Very High Level (VHL), High Level (HL), Low Level (LL), and Very Low Level (VLL). Based on the four (4)-point rating scale, a mid-point mean of 2.5 was used as positive response criterion mean and accepted as a positive response because the average of individual mean score was 2.5.

4. Result and Discussion

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Demographic Variables		Freq.	Perc %.
Name of Division	Okella	17	8.41
	Ise	09	4.21
	Oye	08	3.74
	Ido	08	3.74
	IIawe	08	3.74
	Ado Central	14	6.54
	Efon	07	3.27
	Ode	07	3.27
	Otun	07	3.27
	Emure	06	2.81
	Iyin	06	2.81
	Igede	05	2.34
	Omuno Division	04	1.87
	IIupeju	04	1.87
	Omuo Oke	03	1.40
	IIasa	03	1.40
	Ologede	13	6.07
	Aramoko	13	6.07
	Odo Ado	13	6.07
	Iworoko	13	6.07
	Ikole	12	5.61
	New Iyin Road	11	5.61
	Ipoti	02	0.94
	Iye	02	0.94
	IIupeju Ikere	11	5.14
	Total	**214**	**100**
Gender	Male	145	67.76
	Female	69	32.24
	Total	**214**	**100**
Marital Status	Married	152	71.03
	Single	53	24.77
	Widowed	07	3.27
	Divorced	02	0.93
	Separated	0	0
	Total	**214**	**100**
Education	O'Level	98	45.80
	ND/NCE	64	29.90
	BSc./BA	43	20.09
	MSc.	9	4.21
	PhD	0	0
	Total	**214**	**100**
Years of Experience of the Respondents	1-5 Years	53	24.76
	6-10	79	36.91
	11-15	49	22.89
	16-20 years and above	33	15.42
	Total	**214**	**100**

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents 17(8.41%) were from Oke-Ila Division. It also reveals that 145(67.76%) of the respondents were male and that 152(71.03%) of the respondents were married. The table equally shows that 98(45.80%) of the respondents had Ordinary Level (O/L) certificate, while 79(36.91%) of the respondents had spent between 6 and 10 years on the job.

Research Question 1: What is the level of information literacy skills among the police officers in Ekiti State?

Table 2: Level of Information Literacy Skills among the Police Officers in Ekiti State

Information literacy skills	Very High Extent	High Extent	Low Extent	Very Low Extent	Mean (X)	STD
Information Ethics	46 (21.5%)	99(46.3%)	62(28.9%)	7(3.3%)	2.86	.787
Information Fluency	42(19.6%)	94(43.9%)	66(30.8%)	12(5.6%)	2.78	.826
Evaluation of Information	40(18.7%)	95(44.3%)	68(31.7%)	11(5.1%)	2.77	.812
Research Skills	40(18.7%)	92(43.0%)	72(33.6%)	10(4.7%)	2.76	.809
Searching Skills	40(18.7%)	91(42.5%)	69(32.2%)	14(6.5%)	2.73	.839
Information Competencies	26(12.1%)	99(46.3%)	87(40.6%)	2(0.9%)	2.70	.689
User Training	29(13.6%)	91(42.5%)	93(43.5%)	1(0.5%)	2.69	.704
User Education	11(5.1%)	70(32.7%)	129(60.2%)	4(1.9%)	2.41	.620
Digital Literacy Skills	5(2.3%)	25(11.6%)	122(57%)	62(28.9%)	1.87	.697
Bibliographic Instruction	8(3.7%)	25(11.6%)	109(50.9%)	72(33.6%)	1.86	.765
Average Mean						2.54
Criterion Mean						2.50

As shown in Table 2 the average mean (X=2.54) is higher than the criterion mean (X=2.50). This means that the level of information literacy skills among the police officers in Ekiti State was high. The highest level of information literacy is recorded in information ethics (X=2.86, SD=0.787). This is followed by information fluency (X=2.78, SD=0.826), and evaluation of information (X=2.77, SD=0.812). However, low level of information literacy is recorded for user education (X=2.41, SD=0.620), digital literacy skills (X=1.87, SD=0.697), and bibliographic instruction (X=1.86, SD=0.765).

Research Question 2: What is the level of availability of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police?

Table 3: Availability of ICT Facilities for Fighting Insecurity by Police

ICT Facilities	Very High Level	High Level	Low Level	Very Low Level	Mean (X)	STD
Mobile phone	64(29.9%)	110(51.4%)	22(10.3%)	18(8.4%)	3.03	.861
Radio	47(21.9%)	112(52.3%)	32(14.9%)	23(10.7%)	2.86	.884
Television	50(23.4%)	90(42.1%)	14(6.5%)	60(28.0%)	2.61	1.128
Fax machine	47(21.9%)	77(35.9%)	24(11.2%)	66(30.8%)	2.49	1.145
Data mining facilities	37(17.2%)	58(27.1%)	27(12.6%)	92(42.9%)	2.19	1.168
Closed-circuit television (CCTV)	48(22.4%)	93(43.5%)	38(17.8%)	35(16.4%)	2.16	.740
Surveillance cameras	10(4.7%)	24(11.2%)	135(63.1%)	45(21.0%)	2.00	.715
Automatic license plate recognition	21(9.8%)	69(32.2%)	8(3.7%)	116(54.2%)	1.98	1.124
Internet service	7(3.3%)	20(9.3%)	133(62.1%)	54(25.2%)	1.91	.686
Language translator	13(6.1%)	66(30.8%)	22(10.3%)	113(52.8%)	1.90	1.037
Diagramming system	11(5.1%)	62(28.9%)	30(14.0%)	111(51.8%)	1.87	1.001
Video sunglass	11(5.1%)	41(19.2%)	54(25.2%)	108(50.5%)	1.87	1.658

Camera pen	19(8.9%)	42(19.6%)	30(14.0%)	123(57.5%)	1.80	1.044
Wrist phone	10(4.7%)	33(15.4%)	48(22.4%)	123(57.5%)	1.67	.901
Body camera	10(4.7%)	28(13.1%)	49(22.9%)	127(59.3%)	1.63	.882
Average Mean						2.30
Criterion Mean						2.50

As shown in Table 3, the average mean (X=2.30) is less than the criterion mean (X=2.50). That means that the level of availability of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police in Ekiti State is low.

Research Question 3: What is the level of utilisation of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police?

Table 4: Utilisation of ICT Facilities for Fighting Insecurity by Police

ICT Facilities	Very High Level	High Level	Low Level	Very Low Level	Mean (X)	STD
Mobile phone	76(35.5%)	134(62.6%)	2(0.9%)	2(0.9%)	3.33	.544
IP devices	79(36.9%)	101(47.1%)	10(4.7%)	24(11.2%)	3.10	.927
Satellite imagery	61(28.5%)	106(49.5%)	34(15.8%)	13(6.1%)	3.00	.831
Television	62(28.9%)	101(47.1%)	16(7.5%)	35(16.4%)	2.89	1.005
Radio	58(27.1%)	97(45.3%)	34(15.8%)	25(11.6%)	2.88	.942
Fax machine	59(27.6%)	80(37.3%)	26(12.1%)	49(22.9%)	2.70	1.108
Close circuit television (CCTV)	28(13.1%)	80(37.3%)	92(42.9%)	14(6.5%)	2.57	.800
Surveillance cameras	22(10.3%)	75(35.0%)	70(32.7%)	47(21.9%)	2.34	.934
Internet service	19(8.9%)	71(33.2%)	78(36.4%)	46(21.5%)	2.29	.905
Video sunglass	19(8.9%)	68(31.7%)	55(25.7%)	72(33.6%)	2.25	1.682
Automatic license plate recognition	32(14.9%)	81(37.9%)	8(3.7%)	93(43.5%)	2.24	1.166
Data mining facilities	41(19.2%)	57(26.6%)	29(13.6%)	87(40.7%)	2.24	1.178
Camera pen	24(11.2%)	83(38.8%)	25(11.6%)	82(38.3%)	2.23	1.083
Wrist phone	15(7.0%)	77(35.9%)	48(22.4%)	74(34.6%)	2.15	.983
Diagramming system	22(10.3%)	72(33.6%)	30(14.0%)	90(42.0%)	2.12	1.077
Language translator	23(10.7%)	72(33.6%)	24(11.2%)	95(44.3%)	2.11	1.097
Body camera	15(7.0%)	71(33.2%)	43(20.0%)	85(39.7%)	2.07	1.004
Average Mean						2.54
Criterion Mean						2.50

Table 4 above shows that the level of utilisation of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police in Ekiti State is high. This is seen as the average mean (X=2.54) is higher than the criterion mean (X=2.50). However, the level of utilisation of surveillance cameras (X=2.34, SD=0.934), Internet service (X=2.29, SD=0.905), video sunglass (X=2.25, SD=1.682), automatic license plate recognition (X=2.24, SD =1.166), data mining facilities (X=2.24, SD=1.178), camera pen (X=2.23, SD=1.083), wrist phone (X=2.15, SD=0.983), diagramming system (X=2.12, SD=1.077), language translator (X=2.11, SD=1.097), and body camera (X=2.07, SD=1.004) is low.

Research Question 4: What are the challenges of effective utilisation of ICT in fighting insecurity by the police?

Table 5: Challenges of Effective Utilisation of ICT in Fighting Insecurity by Police

Challenges	Yes		No		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lacks of competent ICT personnel or technical team	207	96.7	7	3.3	214	100
insufficient data	204	95.3	10	4.7	214	100
Low level of funding of police schools and colleges	199	93	15	7	214	100
Low level of GIS coverage of the country	197	92.1	17	7.9	214	100
data loss through theft or corruption and disclosure of confidential data	196	91.6	18	8.4	214	100
Low level of ICT capacity	195	91.1	19	8.9	214	100
Lack of Security Awareness and Training	194	90.7	20	9.3	214	100
Low level of infrastructure	192	89.7	22	10.3	214	100
inadequate research on the use of ICT and security system	191	89.3	23	10.7	214	100
operating system design not specifically for fighting insecurity	185	86.4	29	13.6	214	100
High cost of acquisition/maintenance	182	85	32	15	214	100

The challenges of effective utilisation of ICT in fighting insecurity by the police in Ekiti State, as reflected in this study, include lack of competent ICT personnel or technical team (207, 97.7%), insufficient data (204, 95.3%), low level of funding of police schools and colleges (199, 93%), and low level of GIS coverage of the country (197, 92.1%).

The study found that the level of information literacy skills among the police officers in Ekiti State was high. The finding of the study in this respect is in agreement with that of Pezeshki-Rad and Zamani (2017) who posited that the security architecture of a nation can be fortified if the security personnel have information literacy skills. The study also found that the level of availability of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police in Ekiti State was low, though the level of availability of ICT facilities in respect of social networking analysis, mobile phone, satellite imagery, and radio was high. The level of availability of biometry surveillance, fax machine, data-mining facilities, close circuit television (CCTV), automatic license plate recognition, internet service, language translator, diagramming system, video sunglass, and body camera was rated low.

In addition, the finding of the study on availability of some ICT facilities is in agreement with that of Ibikunle and Adefihan (2021) who found that the Nigerian government at both national and state levels is not doing enough in terms of acquisition of the necessary ICT in fighting insecurity in the country. However, the finding does not wholly agree with the discovery by Uchenna et al. (2018) whose study showed that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps had the needed ICT tools in combating crime. The finding also disagreed with that of Oludare et al. (2015) and Shatimah et al. (2016) who found that there is a high level of availability of ICT tools in fighting insecurity in Nigeria.

Furthermore, the finding of the study on the level of utilisation of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police in Ekiti State rated high is in line with the position of Choji (2021) that the Nigeria Police Force adequately deployed digital technologies through a Complaint Rapid Response Unit (PCRRU) for Nigerians to connect with the police through dedicated phone numbers for calls and SMS and around-the-clock presence on social media. It also corroborated Ibikunle and Adefihan (2021) who reported a high level of use of ICT by the police, and Oludare et al. (2015) who found that the level of using ICT in tackling insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria was high.

The study discovered several challenges besetting the fighting of insecurity by the police officers in Ekiti State. These include lacks of competent ICT personnel or technical team, insufficient data, low level of funding of police schools and colleges, low level of GIS coverage of the country, data loss through theft or corruption and disclosure of confidential data, low level of ICT capacity, lack of security awareness and training, low level of infrastructure, inadequate research on the use of ICT and security system, operating system design not specifically for fighting insecurity, and high cost of acquisition/maintenance. This is in line with Buratai (2017) who reported that inadequate research on the use of ICT and security systems, and poor funding were affecting effective utilisation of ICT in fighting insecurity by Nigeria

police and Choji (2021) who reported poor funding as hampering the effective functioning of the police institution as well as Uchenna et al. (2018) who revealed that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps still faced several obstructions in the effective utilisation of ICT in fighting crime. Similar to the finding of this study, Chinedu et al. (2018) revealed that paucity of funds constituted serious challenge to the police force.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

The study investigated information literacy skills as determinant of the use of ICT in fighting insecurity by the Nigeria Police. It established that the level of information literacy skills among the police officers in Ekiti State is in consonance to the need of the country and concluded that the method employed by police officers in fighting insecurity is in line with best practice in the world, though facilities are not adequately available for them to combat insecurity in the country. In line with the findings of this study, therefore, and to improve the level of ICT utilisation in fighting insecurity by the police, the following recommendations are made: The Nigeria Police should organise information literacy programmes for the police officers to increase their level of information literacy skills as this will help in fighting insecurity in the state; the Nigeria Police should make sophisticated ICT facilities available to the police officers to enhance the level of availability of ICT facilities for fighting insecurity by the police; and the Nigeria Police should devise ways the police officers can upgrade their level of ICT utilisation in fighting insecurity by organising training on the use the modern ICT facilities.

References

Adegoke, N. (2014). The Nigeria police and the challenges of security in Nigeria. *Review of Public Administration and Management,* 3(6), 21-35.

Buratai, T. (2017). The impact of science, technology and innovation on national defense and security: The Nigerian Army perspective. Lecture delivered to Participants of SEC 39 NIPSS, Kuru

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) (2006). A short introduction to information literacy. Available at http://www.cilip.org.uk/professionalguidanceinformatiooliteracy/definitioolintroduction

Chinedu, P. U., Okeke, C., & Onyeukwu, C. (2018). The impact of ICT on national security: A case of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. *International and Public Affairs*, 2(3), 48-61. DOI: 10.11648/j.ipa.20180203.11

Choji, I. D. (2021). Strengthening science, technology and innovation (STI) institutional frameworks for internal security in Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 6(3), 1130-1133.

Dulle, F. W., Minish- Majanja, M. K., & Cloete, L. M. (2010). Factors influencing the adoption of open access scholarly communication in Tanzanian public universities. Available at http://www.ifla.ifla.org/files/gh/peper/ifla/138/dulle-en.pdf

Global Peace Index (2014). Available at http://www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/2014%20Global%20Peace%20Index%20REPORT.pdf

Haco-Obasi, F. C., Osuji, C. E., Agim, N. C., & Edem, A. A. (2021). Police officers information needs and seeking behaviour in the three geopolitical zones of Imo State, Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice*. Available at https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5275

Ibikunle, F., & Adefihan, B. (2021). Effectiveness of information and communication technology (ICT) in policing in Nigeria. *Scottish Journal of Arts, Social Sciences and Scientific Studies*. Available at http://scottishjournal.co.uk

Krejcie, R. V., & Morgan, D. W. (1970). Table for determining sample size from a given population. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 30(3), 607-610. Available at https://www.faculty.kfupm.edu.sa

Nigeria Police Force (2008). Annual report of the Nigeria Police Force, 2008. Ikeja 'F' Department of the Nigeria Police.

Ojedokun, A. A., & Lumade, E. (2015). The Integration of information literacy skills into a credit-earning programme at the University of Botswana. *Africa Journal of Library, Archive and information Scienc*e, 5(3), 22-39.

Oludare, A. I., Omolara, O. E., Umar, A. M., & Kemi, D. V. (2015). The Use of ICT Tools in Tackling Insecurity and Terrorism Problem in Nigeria. *Network and Complex Systems*, 5(5), 21-40.

Onyango, R. A. (2014). Global information and Africa: On the crest of a mirage? *Library Management*, 21(4), 197-204.

Pezeshki-Rad, G., & Zamani, N. (2005). Information seeking behavior of Iranian extension managers and specialists. Available at http://informationr.net/ir/10-3/paper229.html.

Shatimah, A. A., Adamu, H., Modu, A. A. (2016). Effective use of ICT tools to combat insecurity menace in Nigeria. *International Journal of Modern Trends in Engineering and Research*, 3(5), 357-362.

Sajjad, U. R. & Alfaressi, S. (2009). Information literacy skills among female students in Kuwaiti high schools. *Library Review,* 58(8), 607 – 616.

Sulaiman, Y. Y., Umar, M. A., & Bari, A. S. (2018). Confronting Nigeria's security challenges through information and communication technology: Way forward to terrorism. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research | Sciences, Technology & Engineering*, 4(6), 124-131.

Sultan, M. A., & Sajjad, U. R. (2007). A study of the information literacy capabilities of the Kuwaiti police officers. *The Electronic Library,* 25(5), 613 – 626.

Thanuskodi, S. (2019). Information literacy skills among library and information science professional in India. *Library Philosophy and Practice*. Available at http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2126

The Punch (2014, May 4). Information Technology CWG, Huawei Canvass IP Surveillance. The Punch Newspaper - Sunday

Uchenna, C. P., Chukwuemeka, O., & Chukwuka, O. (2018). The impact of ICT on national security: A case of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. *International and Public Affairs*, 2(3), 48-61.