

## USERS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT IN ADAMAWA STATE POLYTECHNIC, YOLA LIBRARY, ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*This study investigated the users' attitudes towards the use of electronic information resources for research development in Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola Library, Nigeria. The study was guided by five objectives with five corresponding research questions. The researcher adopted a survey research design. The population of the study was 210, using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) determination table of sample size, 136 was therefore sample and selected for the study. 136 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents, which were retrieved and found to be useful for the study. The instrument for data collection was the questionnaire and the data generated was analyzed using a frequency table and simple percentage. From the analysis, it was deduced that there are different types of electronic information resources available in the Polytechnic Library studied, and students used the resources for their academic work, though e-newspapers and e-magazines have low extent of usage. Challenges are being faced by the students in using electronic information resources. These include among others limited subscribed titles of electronic information resources and inadequate internet connectivity. The respondents disagreed with the lack of computer literacy, inadequate power supply and lack of relevant e-resources for various disciplines as challenges in the use of electronic information resources in Adamawa State Polytechnic. In light of these findings, the study recommends that lecturers should encourage the use of e-newspapers and e-magazines by users by giving assignments or research work. Also, more titles of the e-resources should be purchased to allow for wide patronage of these resources.*

**KEYWORDS:** *User attitude, Electronic, Library, Information resources, Research Development.*

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## Introduction

Academic libraries are saddled with the responsibility of acquiring information resources for all their community of users, and this information is both in hard and soft (electronic) forms. They not only acquire such information resources to stock their libraries but also provide necessary information to meet the information needs of their users. The essence of polytechnic libraries is to support and enrich polytechnic education by catering for the diverse information needs of the students and staff of polytechnics. The fundamental objective of polytechnic education is the training of professional skilled workers who are supposed to constitute manpower (Abdulsalami & Salami, 2013). Information and communication have provided opportunities for libraries to meet the needs of their users in a much better way, electronic information resources have tremendously helped in improving the academic performance of students by providing them with current and relevant literature to carry out their research.

Polytechnic libraries, unarguably, remain an inseparable part of the polytechnic setup which provides adequate information required to sustain and promote the intellectual activities of such institutions. Polytechnic libraries are repositories of information and educational resources consciously acquired, preserved and made available for the use of the members of polytechnic institutions. They represent the polytechnic's sole instrument capable of infecting the totality of knowledge to their clients (Ogbodo, 2011). The students need information to satisfy their social and psychological needs to promote and enhance their academic pursuits during their course of study in the polytechnic. In the library the user is the last recipient of the information in the communication cycle, the most crucial component of the library is the user. Access to relevant information is very essential, particularly in research and development. The right information sources for the right user can pave the way to new directions to research and progress, it is necessary to achieve this notable objective, we must understand the library user, interact with the information sources, search pattern and information needs of the users. The way individuals think and feel about something is referred to as their attitude. Prejudices or biases, preconceived beliefs, thoughts, anxieties, and convictions about any issue are all examples of attitudes (Taiwo. 2018).

Attitude is related to behaviour because it's one reaction towards any occurrence which shows how one has felt. It is also the root of individual emotions, behaviours and socio-economic and political background. It is also important to note that adequate materials and personnel, as well as the good and efficient use of library resources, determine the types of attitude with which the students regard their academic performance. According to Schneider (2000), "attitudes are evaluative reactions to persons, objects and events. This includes your beliefs

and positive and negative feelings about the attitude object. He also added that attitude can guide our experience and decide the effects of experience on behaviour.

Electronic information resources are those resources that are accessed through a computing or electronic device to provide information. These resources can be accessed and viewed via online services using the Internet or offline without the Internet. They include electronic books, electronic journals, electronic theses and dissertations, electronic magazines, etc.

Research development is the creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge and to devise new applications of available knowledge. Training, developing and implementing cultural change to enhance your research experience is a good attitude which every user of electronic resources can adopt to develop their research work. Adequate electronic information resources in the library will enhance the research development of the students, most especially the final students. It will offer them relevant and current information on their project work.

The 21st-century academic library's most valuable information and research tool is an electronic resource. Information storage, retrieval, and dissemination have all been significantly impacted by the rapid advancements in communication and information technologies. Students use fewer electronic resources because training programs are only scheduled at the start of the academic year. These must be scheduled regularly to raise students' awareness of the use of electronic resources (Tlakula and Fombad 861). Research scholars are individuals engaged in advanced academic study and research at the postgraduate or doctoral level. They typically pursue research projects under the guidance of faculty advisors or mentors within academic institutions such as polytechnics, universities, research institutes, or laboratories. Research scholars play a pivotal role in expanding the frontiers of knowledge across various disciplines through their original research contributions. Overall, research scholars play a vital role in advancing academic knowledge, fostering innovation, and addressing complex societal challenges through their rigorous and scholarly research endeavours. They contribute to the intellectual vibrancy and research excellence of academic institutions and make significant contributions to their respective fields of study. Faculty members play key roles in teaching, mentoring, and advising students, as well as conducting research and contributing to academic scholarship.

### **Problem Statement**

Recently, an electronic library was commissioned to complement the physical library. The electronic library has significant capacity in terms of the number of computer systems, internet access and subscription to some major databases. There is a team of technical staff and a backup power source. At present, scholars and other library users have free access to the electronic library throughout the working hours of each workday. There

are library workers detailed to assist users who are not computer and ICT literate to meet their information needs.

An ideal library system has been created in the Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola to cater for the needs of the research community and visiting scholars. With this, one would expect to see a busy and adequately patronized library.

However, preliminary observation on the extent of utilization of the Adamawa State Polytechnic Library Yola reveals a significantly low level of patronage and poor utilization of available resources and services. Most often, the seats in the Reader Services Units are underutilized and the counters are less busy. Besides, students are seen crowded around the library building with their laptops and Smart Phones instead of being in the e-library. It becomes imperative to carry out this study to ascertain the reasons for this state of apathy towards library resources and services in the Adamawa State Polytechnic despite the significant improvement in the range, quantity and quality of resources and services provided by the Adamawa State Polytechnic library Yola, these are the issues this study sought to address.

### **Objectives of the Study**

This study aimed to examine users' attitudes towards the use of electronic information resources for research development in Adamawa State Polytechnic. The specific objectives are to:

1. Identify the types of electronic information resources available in Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola.
2. Determine the attitude of students towards the use of electronic information resources in Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola.
3. Determine the extent of use of the electronic information resources by students of Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola.
4. To investigate the purpose of students' use of the electronic information resources in Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola.
5. Identify the constraints faced by students in the use of the electronic information resources in Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study.

- What are the types of electronic information resources available to students in Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola?
- What are the attitudes of students towards the use of electronic information resources at Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola?
- What is the extent of electronic information resources used by students of Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola?

- What are the purposes for the use of electronic information resources by students of Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola?
- What are the challenges faced by students while using electronic information resources at Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola?

### **Literature Review**

Libraries are entities which need a systematic progression to be able to meet the growing demands of their users, in the present era, for library development, libraries are required to use technological advancements for effective storage, processing and dissemination of information by keeping users at the centre stage and making them to cultivate a good habit towards the use of the resources for their research development.

Electronic resources are described as resources which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full textbases, electronic journals, image collections other multimedia products and numerical, graphical or time-based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed (Dhanavandan and Tamizhchelvan, 2012) equally Meitz (2004) define electronic information resources as “library materials produced in electronic format including electronic journals, reference works published online, CD-ROM, bibliographic database and other web-based resources.

Libraries all over the world make available a wide variety of electronic information resources for use by the university community. These electronic information resources form an essential part of the reference services provided by the university libraries.

Ivwithreghweta and Ejitagha (2022) examine the use of electronic information resources and digital literacy among students attending private institutions in the Nigerian states of Edo and Delta. The research found that these students use electronic resources to a significant extent and that they have high digital literacy abilities while using them. Equally Bashorun et al (2022) studied the degree to which students used electronic information literacy and their level of information literacy ability at the University of Ilorin in Nigeria. The study's findings demonstrated that students had acquired a wide range of information literacy abilities, allowing them to recognize their information requirements, find relevant material and efficiently retrieve it. Williamson (2012) contended that many students suffer low grades in schools because of their attitude towards their studies. Also, failure to use the school library and its resources to expand their study has a negative effect on their academic performance.

Adeleke & Nwalo (2017) also conducted a study on the availability, use and constraints of electronic information resources by postgraduate students at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. Samples of 300 postgraduate students within seven out of 13 Faculties were randomly selected. Data were collected using a questionnaire designed to elicit responses from respondents and data were analyzed using

descriptive statistics methods of percentages, mean, and standard deviation. Results indicated that the internet was ranked most available and used in the university. Low level of usage of electronic resources, in particular, text databases is linked to several constraints: Interrupted power supply was ranked highest among other factors as speed and capacity of computers, retrieval of records with high recall and low precision, retrieving records relevant to information need, lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively, non-possession of requisite IT skills and problems accessing the internet. The study recommended that the usage of electronic resources be made compulsory, intensifying awareness campaigns concerning the availability, training on the use of electronic resources and the problem of power outages be addressed. The reviewed study adopted a descriptive survey design which is the same as the current study. Both studies use descriptive statistical methods of percentages and mean. In as much as there are similarities in both the reviewed and present studies, they exist some differences in the studies. This can be seen in the geographical location used, the population used, as well as the type of research design adopted for both studies.

In a similar study, Amankwah (2014) investigated the use of electronic resources by undergraduate students of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) to find out if students utilize electronic resources. It specifically targeted the level 300 students of GIMPA. Awareness, usage, training, access, usefulness importance and problems of use were explored. A survey method was employed and structured questionnaires were utilized to solicit data for the study. The findings revealed that, though students are aware of electronic resources, they do not fully utilize them to support their academic pursuits due to poor levels of information literacy skills. However, few students had not participated at all in information literacy skills training organized by the library. Results from the study also showed that a significant number of students do access electronic resources when on campus and off campus and mostly use electronic devices such as laptops, iPads, desktop computers, and mobile phones. The findings indicated that students used the electronic resources to complete assignments, write project work, update lesson notes, research, and update themselves on new information in their fields of study. Some of the major problems respondents indicated 24 using electronic resources include inadequate computers in the library, poor internet connectivity, power outages, insufficient search skills, etc. In conclusion, the use of electronic resources in GIMPA has enhanced research, teaching and learning. This implies the need to plan and develop strategies for effective and efficient use of Information and Communication Technology infrastructure for the utilization of electronic resources to support academic study in GIMPA.

Ankrah & Atuase (2018) conducted a study on the use of electronic resources by postgraduate students of the University of Cape Coast. The main purpose of this study was to examine the use of electronic resources by postgraduate students of the University of Cape

Coast, with a view of giving recommendations based on findings. The major objectives of the study are: (1) To determine postgraduate students' awareness of electronic resources in the library. (2) To find out the frequency of usage of e-resources by students. (3) To determine the computer literacy level of postgraduate students. And (4) To identify the likely problems in the utilization of electronic resources by postgraduate students. The cross-sectional survey design was used for the study. The objectives of the study as depicted by the research questions guided the choice of questionnaire as the sole data collection instrument for the study. The total population for this study was 915 postgraduates. A sample size of 275 which is 30% of 915 postgraduate students was attained. Simple random sampling was used to sample the respondents. Quantitative analysis including frequencies, percentages, tables and charts was used as a data analysis technique. The findings revealed that most of the postgraduate students were aware of the e-resources in the library. The findings of this study also revealed that most postgraduate students rather preferred to access information from Google Scholar, and other web-based databases more frequently than the databases in the library. The respondents identified poor internet connection as the most significant constraint for ineffective access to e-resources. 183(72.6%) respondents were of the view that poor internet connectivity was the major challenge they faced in accessing e-resources. Another 173(68.7%) confirmed that power outages in the library were a limitation they encountered in accessing electronic resources. In addition, 165(65.5%) claimed insufficient skills hindered their ability to access e-resources while 157(62.3%) respondents indicated that they could not access e-resources effectively due to limited subscribed titles. A total of 143(56.7%) respondents said they did not have effective access to e-resources in the library because of inadequate computers. Also, 32(12.7%) of them perceived that an overload of e-resources was a challenge. Further, other postgraduate students stated other limitations such as passwords and user names on the e-databases of the library and the absence of a research centre for postgraduate students as hindrances to effective access to e-resources. To alleviate these challenges to ensure maximum use of e-resources, library management should put in place mechanisms to ensure that e-resources are fully accessed and utilized by users. The reviewed study is different from the present study in that, the reviewed study uses postgraduate students as the population while the present study uses all categories of students who are registered members of the library

Oduwale & Akpati (2003) also indicated a lack of ICT and power outages as constraints to the use of electronic resources. In the same vein, Watts and Ibegbulam (2006) discovered the inadequate ICT infrastructure and affordable online access as well as the absence of in-depth ICT skills as key problems. In addition, lack of information searching skills, and cost of using the cybercafé are identified as barriers to the use of electronic resources. Also, studies have revealed that developing countries are not at par with developed countries in terms of research productivity. Ojo and Akande (2005) in a survey of students'

access and usage of electronic resources at the University College Ibadan, Nigeria found very low usage. Similarly, Achonna (2008) in a study of students' awareness and utilization of electronic resources at Yaba College of Technology, Nigeria, also found low usage of e-resources and services.

A study conducted by Bashorun, Tunji & Adisa (2011) also showed that low usage is reported for e-books, bibliographic databases and e-journals. These attitudes may be the result of a lack of awareness about the e-resources provided by the library. There are issues like a large mass of irrelevant information. Other problems are download delays, failure to find information, lack of search skills, high cost of access, power outages, unavailability of some websites, inaccessibility of some websites and difficulties in navigating through e-resources.

According to Afolabi (2017), the most effective option for academic libraries to provide access to electronic books/journals is through subscribing to online databases that can be

Accessed over the Internet. Online databases are collections of electronic information sources (ejournals/e-books) published by publishers from a variety of fields and disciplines. Some of these databases are provided free of charge by publishers or vendors to libraries in underdeveloped nations. Researchers and students can access thousands of scholarly publications in their fields of speciality or research through this initiative (Fatoki, 2014).

## Methodology

The study is essentially a descriptive research, which employed a survey research design. The population includes all registered library users of National Diploma Two of Adamawa State Polytechnic Library Yola. According to Awudu (2019), a researcher can't use a subject for every member of a large population for reasons of limitations in financial resources, efforts, transportation, time, and scope. The population of the study is 210 Using Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) determination table of sample size 136 was therefore sample and selected for the study.

A structured questionnaire was designed to solicit information from the students of Adamawa State Polytechnic containing 28(twenty-eight) items, 136 respondents to the items on the questionnaire were returned and found to be useful. The questionnaire was administered to the respondents through the help of a research assistant. Collected questionnaires were analysed using frequency tables and simple percentages.

## Results

**Question 1:** Types of electronic library information resources available in Adamawa State Polytechnic

**A: Available, NA: Not available**

S/N	ITEM	A	PERCENTAGE	NA	PERCENTAGE	DECISION
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1	e-books	126	92.6	10	7.3	Available
2	e-journals	126	92.6	10	7.3	Available
3	e-projects	131	96.3	5	3.7	Available
4	e-newspapers	120	88.2	16	11.8	Available
5	e-magazines	110	80.8	26	19.1	Available
6	online databases	130	95.5	6	4.4	Available

**Key: Available (A), Not available (NA)**

The above data gathered on types of electronic library information shows that electronic library information resources are available in the library.

**Question 2:** What is the user's attitude towards the user of electronic library information resources in Adamawa State Polytechnic?

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	SD	D
1	I prefer books to e-resources due to their flexibility	100 (73.5%)	20 (14.7%)	6 (4.4%)	10 (7.3%)
2	It enhances access to a wide range of information	40 (29.4%)	60 (44.1%)	15 (11.0%)	21 (15.4%)
3	It provides access to up-to-date information	90 (66.1%)	20 (14.7%)	20 (14.7%)	6 (4.4%)
4	It makes my research work accurate and relevant	100 (73.5%)	30 (22.0%)	0 (0%)	6 (4.4%)
5	It saves time	95 (69.8%)	20 (14.7%)	11 (8.0%)	10 (7.3%)
6	It increases users' ICT skills	95 (69.8%)	20 (14.7%)	9 (6.6%)	12 (8.8%)

**Key: Strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly disagree (SD), Disagree (D)**

According to the table above 73.5% strongly agree that they prefer books to e-resources due to their flexibility, 14% agree, 4.4% strongly disagree and 7.3% disagree. It enhances access to a wide range of information has 29.4% strongly agree, 44.1%stronglydisagree, 11.0% disagree and 15.4% disagree. It provides access to up-to-date information, 66.1% strongly agree, 14.7% agree, 14.7% strongly disagree and 4.4% disagree. It makes my research work accurate and relevant, 73.5% strongly agree, 22.0% agree, and

4.4% disagree. From the response on saving time, 69.8% strongly agree, 14.7% agree, 8.0% strongly disagree and 7.3% disagree. It increases users' ICT skills, 69.8% strongly agree, 14.7% agree, 6.6% strongly disagree and 8.8% agree.

**Question 3:** To what extent do you use electronic library information resources in your library? Using: **VGE: Very great extent, GE: Great extent, LE: Low extent, VLE: Very low extent**

S/N	STATEMENT	VGE	GE	LE	LVE
1	e-books	120(88.2%)	0(0%)	16(11.8%)	0(0%)
2	e-journals	100(73.5%)	10(7.3%)	16(11.8%)	10(7.3%)
3	e-projects	120(88.2%)	7(0.1%)	6(4.4%)	3(2.2%)
4	e-newspapers	15(11.0%)	5(3.7%)	100(73.5%)	16(11.8%)
5	e-magazines	20(14.7%)	6(4.4%)	100(88.2%)	10(7.3%)
6	online databases	120(88.2%)	15(11.0%)	1(0.7%)	0(0%)

**Key: Very great extent (VGE), Great extent (GE), Very low extent (VLE), Low extent (LE)**

The analysis above shows that e-books (88.2%), e-journals (73.5%), e-projects (88.2%) and online databases (88.2%) have very high extent of use while e-newspapers (73.5%) and e-magazines (88.2%) have low extent of use.

**Question 4:** What are your purpose for using electronic library information resources your library?

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	SD	D
1	I always explore/use electronic library information resources for my project work	100 (73.5%)	16 (11.8%)	10 (7.3%)	10 (7.3%)
2	To enhance my study, I often use electronic library information resources	90 (66.1%)	20 (14.7%)	10 (7.3%)	16 (11.8%)
3	I always consult electronic library information resources for my assignment	20 (14.7%)	80 (58.8%)	16 (11.8%)	20 (14.7%)

4	Electronic information resources of the library have boosted my knowledge	26 (19.3%)	90 (66.1%)	8 (5.8%)	12 (8.8%)
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**Key: Strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly disagree (SD), Disagree (D)**

Question four (4) above reveals that the purpose for which the respondents use electronic information resources includes my project work, 73.5% strongly agree, 11.8% agree, 7.3% strongly disagree, and 7.3% disagree. To enhance their study 66.1% strongly agree, 14.7% agree, 7.3% strongly disagree and 11.8% disagree. For assignment 14.7% strongly agree, 58.8% agree, 11.8% strongly disagree and 14.7% disagree. 19.3% strongly agree, 66.1% agree, 5.8% strongly disagree, and 8.8% responded that electronic information resources of the library have boosted their knowledge respectively.

**Question 5:** What are the challenges of using electronic library information resources in Adamawa State Polytechnic?

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	SD	D
1	Lack of computer literacy	20 (14.7%)	10 (7.3%)	90 (66.1%)	16 (11.8%)
2	Inadequate power supply	10 (7.3%)	15 (11.0%)	50 (36.7%)	61 (44.8%)
3	Lack of relevant e-resources in various disciplines	10 (7.3%)	15 (11.0%)	50 (36.7%)	61 (44.8%)
4	Limited subscribe titles of electronic library information resources	80 (58.8%)	20 (14.7%)	16 (11.8%)	20 (14.7%)
5	Lack of qualified staff to assist users	50 (36.7%)	70 (51.4%)	10 (7.3%)	6 (4.4%)
6	Inadequate internet connectivity	90 (66.1%)	10 (7.3%)	20 (14.7%)	16 (11.8%)

**Key: Strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly disagree (SD), Disagree (D)**

On challenges of using electronic information resources, the above table shows that 14.7% strongly agree, 7.3% agree, 66.1% strongly disagree and 11.8% disagree respectively that lack of computer literacy, Inadequate power supply, 7.3% strongly agree, 11.0% agree, 36.7% strongly disagree and 44.8% disagree. Limited subscribe titles

of electronic library information resources 58.8% strongly agree, 14.7% agree, 11.8% strongly disagree and 14.7% disagree. Lack of qualified staff to assist users, 36.7% strongly agree, 51.4% agree, 7.3% strongly disagree and 4.4% disagree. On Inadequate internet connectivity, 66.1% strongly agree, 7.3% agree, 14.7% strongly disagree and 11.8% disagree.

### **Discussion of Findings**

This study investigates users' attitudes towards the use of electronic library information resources for research development in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola Adamawa State, Nigeria. The study found that there are different types of electronic library information resources available in the library from the respondent analysis. From the analysis, the respondents prefer books to electronic resources because of their flexibility, which makes their research work relevant and accurate this agrees with Amankwah (2014) in his study investigated the use of electronic resources by undergraduate students of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) find out that the use of electronic resources in GIMPA has enhanced research, teaching and learning, it saves time and increase their ICT skills.

Another finding from the analysis indicates that e-books, e-journals, e-projects and online databases have high extent of use. This agrees with Ivwighrehweta and Ejitagha (2022) The research found out that these students use electronic resources to a significant extent and that they have high digital literacy abilities while using them. Furthermore, the study revealed that the student's purpose for using electronic information resources ranges from for their project work, to enhance their study, for their assignment and to boost their knowledge. From the analysis challenges using electronic library information resources include Limited subscribed titles of electronic library information resources, Lack of qualified staff to assist users and inadequate internet connectivity this finding corroborates with Ankrah & Atuase (2018) limited subscribed titles of electronic information resources and poor internet connection. The respondents disagree with Lack of computer literacy, Inadequate power supply and Lack of relevant e-resources in various disciplines.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, electronic information resources are been embraced by many libraries for their service to be better and more effective to its users and to also follow the global trend in the field of information and communication. Based on the findings of this study indicate that electronic information resources are available in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola and the students use them for their academic work, though e-newspapers and e-magazines have a low extent of usage. There are challenges faced by the students in using electronic information resources which include, Limited subscribe titles of electronic library information resources and Inadequate internet connectivity.

## Recommendations

In line with the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

11. The lecturers should encourage the use of e-newspapers and e-magazines by giving assignments or research work so that the resources will be put into use
12. More titles of the e-resources should be purchased to allow for wide coverage of the resources
13. More qualified staff should be employed to assist the students. In addition, the Library staff should be given in-house training on the use of e-resources.
14. The library management should improve on the strength of the bandwidth and also enhance the Internet connectivity.

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