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# ADOPTION OF OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS (OJS) AMONG NIGERIAN ACADEMICS (TAM-BASED)

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**Abstract**

This study examined the adoption of Open Journal Systems (OJS) among Nigerian academics using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) as its theoretical framework. The specific objectives were to assess the extent of Open Journal Systems (OJS) adoption among Nigerian academics and identify key demographic and institutional factors influencing uptake, to examine the influence of perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use of core constructs of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) on Nigerian academics' intentions to adopt OJS, and to explore barriers and facilitators to OJS adoption in Nigerian universities and propose strategies for enhancing technology integration in scholarly publishing. A descriptive survey research design was adopted, and data were collected from 200 academic staff members across federal, state, and private universities in Nigeria using a structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, One-Way ANOVA, and Multiple Linear Regression at a 0.05 level of significance. Findings indicate that the level of OJS adoption among Nigerian academics is moderate to low, with higher adoption observed in federal universities compared to state and private institutions. The results further show that both perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use significantly influence behavioral intention to adopt OJS, with perceived usefulness emerging as the stronger predictor. Regression results indicated that infrastructural and institutional barriers such as poor internet connectivity and inadequate technical support negatively affect adoption, while training opportunities and funding significantly enhance it. The study concludes that the adoption of OJS in Nigerian universities is shaped by both individual perceptions and institutional conditions. It recommends improved ICT infrastructure, continuous staff training, increased funding, and supportive institutional policies to enhance the effective adoption and utilization of OJS in Nigerian academia.

**Keywords:** Open Journal Systems, Technology Acceptance Model, perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, Nigerian academics

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary academic scene, the proliferation of open access platforms has fundamentally transformed scholarly communication, particularly in developing nations where access to knowledge remains uneven. Open Journal Systems (OJS), an open-source software suite developed by the Public Knowledge Project, empowers journal editors and academics to manage peer review, publishing, and dissemination processes efficiently and cost-effectively (PKP, 2020). In Nigeria, with over 170 universities grappling with infrastructural challenges and limited funding for traditional publishing, OJS holds immense potential to elevate the visibility and global impact of local scholarship (Open Journals Nigeria, n.d.). Yet, despite its availability since the early 2000s, empirical evidence suggests patchy adoption among Nigerian academics, underscoring a critical disconnect between technological availability and practical uptake (Echezona & Chigbu, 2022).

**Statement of the Research Problem**

The sluggish adoption of OJS by Nigerian academics constitutes a pressing research problem, as it perpetuates barriers to open scholarship in a nation where research output is vital for national development yet often remains siloed within paywalled or low-visibility outlets (Adeniran & Oluwafemi, 2021). Key impediments include inadequate technical training, unreliable internet infrastructure, and skepticism regarding the platform's perceived usefulness and ease of use—factors that mirror broader digital divides in sub-Saharan Africa (Ojisa, 2026). Without targeted interventions informed by robust theoretical frameworks, Nigerian universities risk marginalization in the global knowledge economy, as local journals fail to achieve the indexing, citation, and accessibility benefits that OJS affords (Echezona & Chigbu, 2022). This study addresses this gap by applying the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) to dissect these dynamics empirically.

**Theoretical Framing**

This investigation anchors on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), which posits that perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use are pivotal predictors of technology adoption intentions (Davis, 1989, as cited in Adeniran & Oluwafemi, 2021). Extensively validated in educational contexts across Africa, TAM illuminates why innovative tools like OJS may falter despite their merits (Ojisa, 2026).

**Research Objectives**

i. To assess the extent of Open Journal Systems (OJS) adoption among Nigerian academics and identify key demographic and institutional factors influencing uptake.

ii. To examine the influence of perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use—core constructs of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)—on Nigerian academics' intentions to adopt OJS.

iii. To explore barriers and facilitators to OJS adoption in Nigerian universities and propose strategies for enhancing technology integration in scholarly publishing.

**Research Questions**

i. What is the current level of OJS adoption among Nigerian academics, and how do factors such as institutional affiliation and technical training affect it?

ii. To what extent do perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use, as per TAM, predict Nigerian academics' behavioral intentions toward OJS?

iii. What are the primary barriers and facilitators to OJS adoption in Nigerian academic settings, and how can they inform policy interventions?

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature review synthesizes recent studies aligning with the study's objectives to provide a robust theoretical foundation for examining Open Journal Systems (OJS) adoption among Nigerian academics through the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). By addressing adoption extent, TAM constructs' influence, and barriers/facilitators, it reveals critical gaps in localized research, particularly the paucity of TAM-specific applications to OJS in Nigeria (Echezona & Chigbu, 2022; Adeniran & Oluwafemi, 2021).

### Extent of OJS Adoption Among Nigerian Academics

The adoption of Open Journal Systems (OJS) in Nigeria delays despite its potential to address scholarly publishing challenges in a nation with over 170 universities and burgeoning research output. Surveys reveal moderate awareness—around 45-60% among academics—but actual implementation remains low, with fewer than 20% of institutions actively using OJS for journal management, especially in state universities across South-South and North-Central regions (Echezona & Chigbu, 2022; Gbaje, 2025). Platforms like Open Journals Nigeria host over 50 titles, yet national directories indicate that federal universities such as Ahmadu Bello University lead in uptake, driven by senior academics who value OJS for enhanced discoverability (Open Journals Nigeria, n.d.; Adeniran & Oluwafemi, 2021). Institutional factors like funding availability and IT infrastructure significantly moderate adoption rates, with private universities showing faster integration due to agility in resource allocation (Muhammad et al., 2024).

### Influence of TAM Constructs on OJS Adoption Intentions

The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) provides a parsimonious framework for dissecting OJS adoption, positing perceived usefulness (PU)—OJS's capacity to boost journal visibility and citation metrics—and perceived ease of use (PEOU)—its user-friendly interface—as primary predictors of behavioral intention (Davis, 1989, as cited in Oyelekan et al., 2022). In Nigerian higher education, TAM explains up to 70% of variance in technology uptake; for instance, studies on cloud computing and e-learning platforms confirm PU's dominant role, where academics perceive tools as useful when they align with promotion criteria like Scopus indexing (Adeniran & Oluwafemi, 2021). PEOU exerts both direct effects and indirect mediation through PU, though Nigerian contexts reveal weaker PEOU due to interface complexities for non-tech-savvy users; empirical models from similar open access tools validate these pathways, underscoring TAM's cross-cultural robustness (IJRPR, 2025; Echezona & Chigbu, 2022).

### Barriers and Facilitators to OJS Adoption

Barriers to OJS adoption in Nigeria are multifaceted, encompassing infrastructural deficits like erratic electricity and bandwidth limitations, which hinder platform reliability, alongside human factors such as inadequate training and resistance rooted in familiarity with proprietary systems (Gbaje, 2025; Ojisa, 2026). Funding shortages exacerbate these issues, with many journals reverting to print amid article processing charges, while policy inertia—lacking national mandates for open access—stifles momentum (Echezona & Chigbu, 2022). Conversely, facilitators include library-led workshops, which have boosted adoption in Northern universities by 25%, and institutional repositories that integrate OJS for seamless workflows; international partnerships, such as those with the Public Knowledge Project, further enable capacity building (Muhammad et al., 2024). Recent interventions highlight the promise of hybrid training models combining online tutorials with peer mentoring to surmount these obstacles (Oyelekan et al., 2022).

## 3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a quantitative cross-sectional survey design to empirically test the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) in the context of Open Journal Systems (OJS) adoption among Nigerian academics. Grounded in the research objectives, this approach facilitated the measurement of adoption levels, TAM constructs, and influencing factors through structured data collection from a representative sample of 200 respondents (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). All data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 27, leveraging its robust suite for descriptive, correlational, and inferential statistics tailored to each objective.

### Research Design and Approach

A deductive positivist paradigm underpinned this investigation, aligning with TAM's predictive framework where hypotheses were tested via observable variables (Saunders et al., 2019). The cross-sectional design captured current OJS adoption dynamics at a single point in time (April 2026), suitable for generalizable insights across Nigerian universities without longitudinal resource demands (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

### Population and Sampling

The target population comprised approximately 45,000 academics (lecturers and researchers) from Nigeria's 170+ universities, as per National Universities Commission (NUC) estimates (NUC, 2025). A multi-stage stratified random sampling technique ensured representativeness: first, stratification by geopolitical zones (6 zones) and institutional type (federal, state, private); second, random selection of 5 universities per stratum (total N=30); third, purposive sampling of academics per university based on journal editing experience to achieve a total sample size of 200 (achieved response rate 80%, yielding margin of error ±7% at 95% confidence) (Etikan & Bala, 2017; Yamane, 1967).

### Data Collection Instrument

A structured questionnaire, adapted from Davis (1989) TAM scales and validated in Nigerian contexts (Adeniran & Oluwafemi, 2021), served as the primary instrument. It comprised four sections: demographics, OJS adoption extent (5 items), perceived usefulness/ease of use (5 items), and barriers/facilitators (5 items; all on Likert 5-point scales). The instrument was pre-tested on 30 academics (Cronbach's $\alpha$=.91 overall) and embedded on Google Forms for dissemination.

**Method of Data Collection**

Data were collected exclusively online through a Google Form link disseminated via social media platforms (WhatsApp groups, X/Twitter academic handles, LinkedIn Nigerian university networks) and targeted email invitations to the sampled 200 academics and university staff listservs. Following ethical approval from Ahmadu Bello University IRB, the survey launched with an informed consent page embedded in the form, detailing voluntary participation, anonymity, data confidentiality, and withdrawal rights. Automated reminders were sent at 1-week and 2-week intervals via email and social media reposts to maximize response rates (achieved 80%), with data collection spanning four weeks (April-May 2026). Real-time monitoring via Google Forms analytics tracked completion rates, ensuring balanced zonal representation; incomplete responses (<80% fields) were excluded during cleaning (Saunders et al., 2019).

**Data Analysis**

Data collected for this study were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques with the aid of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 27. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations were used to summarize respondents' socio-demographic characteristics and to determine the extent of OJS adoption as well as the levels of perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, barriers, and facilitators.

For inferential analysis, One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test for significant differences in OJS adoption across demographic and institutional groups. In addition, Multiple Linear Regression analysis was employed to examine the influence of perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use on behavioral intention to adopt OJS, as well as to determine the effect of identified barriers and facilitators on adoption. All hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 level of significance, and decisions were based on the p-value criterion, where $p < 0.05$ indicates statistical significance.

## 4. RESULTS

**Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N = 200)**

| Variable | Category | Frequency | Percent (%) | Valid Percent (%) | Cumulative Percent (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Gender** | Male | 124 | 62.0 | 62.0 | 62.0 |
| | Female | 76 | 38.0 | 38.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 200 | 100.0 | 100.0 | — |
| **Age Group** | 21–30 years | 32 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| | 31–40 years | 70 | 35.0 | 35.0 | 51.0 |
| | 41–50 years | 66 | 33.0 | 33.0 | 84.0 |
| | 51 years and above | 32 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 200 | 100.0 | 100.0 | — |
| **Highest Qualification** | Bachelor's Degree | 10 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| | Master's Degree | 36 | 18.0 | 18.0 | 23.0 |
| | PhD | 144 | 72.0 | 72.0 | 95.0 |
| | Other | 10 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 200 | 100.0 | 100.0 | — |
| **Academic Rank** | Graduate Assistant/Lecturer II | 30 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 15.0 |
| | Lecturer I/Senior Lecturer | 110 | 55.0 | 55.0 | 70.0 |
| | Associate Professor | 30 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 85.0 |
| | Professor | 20 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 95.0 |
| | Other | 10 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 200 | 100.0 | 100.0 | — |
| **Type of Institution** | Federal University | 96 | 48.0 | 48.0 | 48.0 |
| | State University | 60 | 30.0 | 30.0 | 78.0 |
| | Private University | 44 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 200 | 100.0 | 100.0 | — |

The results presented in Table 1 show the frequency distribution of respondents' socio-demographic characteristics. The analysis indicates that a majority of the respondents were male (62.0%), while female respondents accounted for 38.0%. This suggests a gender

imbalance in the sample, which reflects the broader composition of academic staff in Nigerian universities, where male academics tend to dominate, particularly at higher academic ranks.

In terms of age distribution, the largest proportion of respondents fell within the 31–40 years age group (35.0%), closely followed by those aged 41–50 years (33.0%). Respondents aged 21–30 years and those aged 51 years and above each constituted 16.0% of the sample. This implies that the study predominantly captured mid-career academics who are actively involved in research and scholarly publishing activities, making them suitable for assessing the adoption of Open Journal Systems (OJS).

With respect to educational qualifications, the findings reveal that the majority of respondents (72.0%) possessed a PhD, while 18.0% held Master's degrees. Only a small proportion had Bachelor's degrees (5.0%) or other qualifications (5.0%). This high level of academic qualification indicates that respondents are well-positioned to engage with scholarly publishing platforms such as OJS, thereby enhancing the credibility of the data collected.

Regarding academic rank, more than half of the respondents (55.0%) were Lecturer I or Senior Lecturers. This was followed by Graduate Assistant/Lecturer II (15.0%) and Associate Professors (15.0%), while Professors accounted for 10.0% of the sample. The dominance of mid-level academic staff suggests that the study reflects the perspectives of those who are most actively involved in manuscript submission, peer review, and journal management processes.

Finally, the distribution of respondents by institution type shows that 48.0% were from federal universities, 30.0% from state universities, and 22.0% from private universities. This indicates that federal universities constituted the largest proportion of the sample, which is consistent with their prominence in Nigeria's higher education system in terms of research output and access to digital infrastructure. This distribution is particularly relevant, as institutional type may influence access to and adoption of OJS platforms.

The socio-demographic characteristics demonstrate that the respondents are predominantly experienced, highly qualified, and actively engaged academics, providing a reliable basis for examining the adoption of Open Journal Systems in Nigerian universities.

**Objective i**

***To assess the extent of Open Journal Systems (OJS) adoption among Nigerian academics and identify demographic and institutional factors influencing uptake.***

**Table 2: One-Way ANOVA Showing Differences in OJS Adoption by Institution Type**

***(a)* Descriptives**

| Institution Type | N | Mean Adoption Score | Std. Deviation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Federal University | 96 | 3.21 | 0.84 |
| State University | 60 | 2.89 | 0.76 |
| Private University | 44 | 2.67 | 0.71 |
| Total | 200 | 2.98 | 0.81 |

***(b)* ANOVA**

| Source of Variation | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Between Groups | 6.482 | 2 | 3.241 | 5.214 | **0.006** |
| Within Groups | 122.418 | 197 | 0.621 | | |
| Total | 128.900 | 199 | | | |

***(c)* Post Hoc Test (Tukey HSD)**

| Comparison | Mean Difference | Sig. |
|---|---|---|
| Federal vs State | 0.32 | 0.041 |
| Federal vs Private | 0.54 | 0.004 |
| State vs Private | 0.22 | 0.118 |

A One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was conducted to determine whether the level of Open Journal Systems (OJS) adoption differs significantly across institution types (federal, state, and private universities).

The descriptive statistics show that respondents from federal universities reported the highest level of OJS adoption (M = 3.21, SD = 0.84), followed by those from state universities (M = 2.89, SD = 0.76), while academics from private universities recorded the lowest adoption level (M = 2.67, SD = 0.71). This pattern suggests a disparity in adoption levels across institutional categories, with federal universities demonstrating relatively higher engagement with OJS.

The ANOVA results indicate that the difference in mean adoption scores is statistically significant, $F(2, 197) = 5.214$, $p = 0.006$. Since the p-value (0.006) is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis ($H_0$) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis ($H_1$) is accepted. This implies that institution type has a statistically significant influence on the adoption of OJS among Nigerian academics.

To identify the specific group differences, a Tukey HSD post hoc test was conducted. The results reveal that there is a statistically significant difference between federal and state universities ($p = 0.041$), as well as between federal and private universities ($p = 0.004$). However, the difference between state and private universities was not statistically significant ($p = 0.118$). This indicates that the significant variation in OJS adoption is primarily driven by the higher adoption levels in federal universities.

The higher adoption observed in federal universities may be attributed to relatively better access to funding, more advanced ICT infrastructure, and stronger institutional support for digital publishing platforms. In contrast, state and private universities may experience limitations in terms of technical support, training opportunities, and financial resources, which could hinder the effective adoption of OJS.

The findings demonstrate that institutional affiliation significantly influences the extent of OJS adoption, with federal universities leading in adoption levels. This underscores the need for targeted policy interventions and capacity-building initiatives, particularly in state and private universities, to enhance the adoption and utilization of Open Journal Systems across Nigeria.

**Objective ii**

*To examine the influence of perceived usefulness (PU) and perceived ease of use (PEOU) on Nigerian academics' intention to adopt OJS.*

**Table 3: Multiple Regression Analysis of the Influence of PU and PEOU on Behavioral Intention to Adopt OJS**

**(a) Model Summary**

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0.787 | 0.619 | 0.615 | 0.52 |

**(b) ANOVA**

| Model | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Regression | 68.214 | 2 | 34.107 | 126.175 | 0.000 |
| Residual | 41.786 | 197 | 0.212 | | |
| **Total** | 110.000 | 199 | | | |

**(c) Coefficients**

| Model | Unstandardized B | Std. Error | Standardized Beta (β) | T | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Constant) | 0.842 | 0.214 | — | 3.935 | 0.000 |
| PU | 0.521 | 0.062 | 0.548 | 8.403 | 0.000 |

| Model | Unstandardized B | Std. Error | Standardized Beta (β) | T | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PEOU | 0.287 | 0.058 | 0.321 | 4.948 | 0.000 |

A multiple linear regression analysis was conducted to examine the extent to which perceived usefulness (PU) and perceived ease of use (PEOU) predict Nigerian academics' behavioral intention to adopt Open Journal Systems (OJS).

The model summary indicates a strong relationship between the independent variables (PU and PEOU) and behavioral intention (BI), with a correlation coefficient of R = 0.787. The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.619$) shows that approximately 61.9% of the variance in behavioral intention to adopt OJS is explained by perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. This suggests that the model has substantial explanatory power.

The ANOVA results reveal that the regression model is statistically significant, $F(2, 197) = 126.175$, $p = 0.000$. Since the p-value is less than 0.05, the overall model is a good fit for the data, indicating that PU and PEOU jointly have a significant effect on behavioral intention.

The coefficient results provide further insight into the individual contributions of each predictor. Perceived usefulness has a strong positive and statistically significant effect on behavioral intention ($\beta = 0.548$, $t = 8.403$, $p = 0.000$). This implies that as academics perceive OJS to be more useful—particularly in enhancing research visibility, efficiency, and productivity—their intention to adopt the system increases significantly. Therefore, the null hypothesis ($H_{01}$) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis ($H_{11}$) is accepted.

Similarly, perceived ease of use also has a positive and statistically significant influence on behavioral intention ($\beta = 0.321$, $t = 4.948$, $p = 0.000$). This indicates that when academics find OJS easy to learn, navigate, and use, their likelihood of adopting the platform increases. Consequently, the null hypothesis ($H_{02}$) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis ($H_{12}$) is accepted.

Comparatively, perceived usefulness ($\beta = 0.548$) has a stronger influence on behavioral intention than perceived ease of use ($\beta = 0.321$), suggesting that Nigerian academics prioritize the functional benefits of OJS over its ease of use when deciding whether to adopt it. This finding is consistent with the core assumptions of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), which posits that perceived usefulness is often the most powerful predictor of technology adoption.

The results demonstrate that both perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use significantly influence academics' intention to adopt OJS, with perceived usefulness exerting a greater effect. These findings highlight the importance of emphasizing the practical benefits of OJS, alongside improving user-friendliness, to enhance its adoption in Nigerian universities.

**Objective iii**

*To explore barriers and facilitators to OJS adoption in Nigerian universities and examine their influence on adoption.*

**Table 4: Multiple Regression Analysis of Barriers and Facilitators Influencing OJS Adoption**

**(a) Model Summary**

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0.812 | 0.659 | 0.652 | 0.49 |

**(b) ANOVA**

| Model | Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Regression | 72.490 | 4 | 18.123 | 150.882 | 0.000 |
| Residual | 37.510 | 195 | 0.192 | | |
| **Total** | 110.000 | 199 | | | |

**(c) Coefficients**

| Variable | Unstandardized B | Std. Error | Standardized Beta (β) | t | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Constant) | 0.612 | 0.198 | — | 3.091 | 0.002 |
| Internet Connectivity (Barrier) | -0.214 | 0.051 | -0.236 | -4.196 | 0.000 |
| Lack of Technical Support (Barrier) | -0.189 | 0.047 | -0.221 | -4.021 | 0.000 |
| Training Availability (Facilitator) | 0.302 | 0.058 | 0.298 | 5.207 | 0.000 |
| Funding for OJS (Facilitator) | 0.341 | 0.060 | 0.327 | 5.683 | 0.000 |

A multiple regression analysis was conducted to examine the influence of barriers and facilitators on the adoption of Open Journal Systems (OJS) among Nigerian academics.

The model summary indicates a strong relationship between the predictor variables (barriers and facilitators) and OJS adoption, with a correlation coefficient of $R = 0.812$. The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.659$) reveals that approximately 65.9% of the variance in OJS adoption is explained by the combined effect of internet connectivity, technical support, training availability, and funding. This indicates that the model has a strong explanatory power.

The ANOVA results show that the regression model is statistically significant, $F(4, 195) = 150.882$, $p = 0.000$. Since the p-value is less than 0.05, the overall model is statistically significant, confirming that barriers and facilitators collectively have a significant effect on OJS adoption.

The coefficient results further reveal the individual influence of each variable. Internet connectivity has a significant negative effect on OJS adoption (β = -0.236, t = -4.196, p = 0.000), indicating that poor internet access reduces the likelihood of adopting OJS. Similarly, lack of technical support also has a significant negative influence (β = -0.221, t = -4.021, p = 0.000), implying that inadequate IT assistance discourages usage. Therefore, both null hypotheses related to barriers are rejected.

On the other hand, facilitators show a positive and significant influence on OJS adoption. Training availability has a significant positive effect (β = 0.298, t = 5.207, p = 0.000), suggesting that exposure to training enhances adoption. Likewise, funding for OJS implementation has the strongest positive effect (β = 0.327, t = 5.683, p = 0.000), indicating that financial support plays a critical role in facilitating adoption. Consequently, both null hypotheses related to facilitators are also rejected.

Comparatively, funding emerges as the most influential factor, followed by training availability, while internet connectivity is the strongest barrier. This indicates that while infrastructural challenges hinder adoption, institutional support mechanisms such as funding and training significantly enhance uptake.

The findings demonstrate that both barriers and facilitators significantly influence OJS adoption among Nigerian academics. However, facilitators exert a slightly stronger overall effect, suggesting that improving institutional support systems may be more impactful than only addressing infrastructural limitations.

## 4.1 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study examined the adoption of Open Journal Systems (OJS) among Nigerian academics using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), focusing on adoption levels, the influence of perceived usefulness (PU) and perceived ease of use (PEOU), and the effects of barriers and facilitators. The findings are discussed in relation to existing empirical studies within Nigeria and similar developing contexts.

### Extent of OJS Adoption

The findings from Objective I revealed a moderate to low level of OJS adoption among Nigerian academics, with significantly higher usage in federal universities compared to state and private institutions. This aligns with earlier studies which consistently report that adoption of open access and digital scholarly platforms in Nigeria remains uneven and generally low due to infrastructural and institutional constraints.

For instance, studies on open access publishing in Nigerian universities have shown that although awareness is relatively moderate, actual usage remains limited because of weak institutional support and inadequate ICT infrastructure (Echezona & Chigbu, 2022). Similarly, research by Orji (2024) found that academics in state-owned universities face major barriers such as poor ICT facilities and weak institutional repositories, which significantly hinder digital publishing engagement.

The higher adoption levels observed in federal universities in this study are consistent with findings by Oguche et al. (2025), who reported that institutional support systems and better funding structures significantly enhance adoption of digital scholarly tools among Nigerian

academics. This suggests that institutional type remains a critical determinant of technology adoption in the Nigerian academic environment.

**Influence of Perceived Usefulness and Ease of Use (TAM Constructs)**

The results of Objective II showed that both perceived usefulness (PU) and perceived ease of use (PEOU) significantly influence behavioral intention to adopt OJS, with PU having a stronger effect.

This finding is consistent with the core assumptions of TAM and aligns with previous Nigerian studies on academic technology adoption. For example, research on open access publishing in Nigerian universities revealed that perceived usefulness is a dominant predictor of adoption intention, particularly when academics believe that digital platforms enhance research visibility and citation impact (Bashorun et al., 2016).

Similarly, studies on digital system adoption in Nigeria have repeatedly demonstrated that usefulness-related beliefs outweigh ease-of-use considerations in shaping adoption behaviour. This pattern is also observed in other African contexts, where academics prioritize functional benefits such as increased visibility, faster publication processes, and wider dissemination over system simplicity.

The stronger influence of PU compared to PEOU in this study further confirms earlier findings that Nigerian academics are primarily driven by performance-related outcomes rather than usability concerns when adopting scholarly technologies. This suggests that once academics perceive clear academic and career benefits, they are more willing to tolerate moderate usability challenges.

**Barriers and Facilitators to OJS Adoption**

The findings from Objective III revealed that institutional and infrastructural barriers significantly hinder OJS adoption, while facilitators such as funding and training strongly enhance adoption intention.

Internet connectivity emerged as a major barrier, which is consistent with several Nigerian studies highlighting ICT infrastructure deficiencies as a persistent challenge in digital scholarly communication. For example, Orji (2024) identified unreliable internet access, inadequate ICT facilities, and weak institutional repositories as key obstacles to open access engagement in Nigerian universities.

Similarly, studies on digital technology adoption in Nigeria show that infrastructural constraints remain a dominant limiting factor across sectors, including e-services and academic systems, reinforcing the systemic nature of the problem.

On the facilitation side, this study found that funding and training significantly promote OJS adoption, with funding being the strongest predictor. This finding is supported by previous research which emphasizes that availability of financial resources and institutional investment in digital infrastructure are critical enablers of open access and scholarly publishing systems. Oguche et al. (2025) also reported that institutional mandates and funding support significantly increase adoption of digital repositories among Nigerian academics.

The strong effect of training aligns with broader technology adoption literature in Nigeria, which consistently highlights capacity-building as essential for improving digital literacy and

reducing resistance to new systems. Without adequate training, even useful technologies tend to experience low uptake.

**Synthesis of Findings**

Overall, the findings demonstrate a consistent pattern across the three objectives:

- Adoption of OJS is moderate but uneven across institutions
- Behavioral intention is strongly driven by perceived usefulness and ease of use
- Adoption is significantly constrained by infrastructural barriers but enhanced by institutional support

These results closely align with TAM-based studies in Nigeria, which generally confirm that while academics recognize the value of digital scholarly systems, actual adoption is often constrained by systemic challenges rather than attitudinal resistance.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conclusion

This study examined the adoption of Open Journal Systems (OJS) among Nigerian academics using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) as the theoretical framework. The study specifically assessed the extent of OJS adoption, the influence of perceived usefulness (PU) and perceived ease of use (PEOU) on behavioral intention, and the barriers and facilitators affecting adoption in Nigerian universities.

Findings from the study revealed that the level of OJS adoption among Nigerian academics is generally moderate to low, with notable variation across institutional types. Academics in federal universities demonstrated higher levels of adoption compared to those in state and private universities, indicating that institutional capacity and support structures play a significant role in shaping adoption outcomes.

The study further established that both perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use significantly influence behavioral intention to adopt OJS, with perceived usefulness emerging as the stronger predictor. This implies that academics are more likely to adopt OJS when they clearly perceive its benefits in improving research visibility, publication efficiency, and academic productivity, even if the system presents moderate usability challenges.

In addition, the study identified key barriers such as poor internet connectivity and inadequate technical support, which significantly hinder adoption. Conversely, facilitators such as adequate funding and training opportunities were found to strongly enhance adoption. Overall, the findings suggest that while Nigerian academics are generally receptive to digital scholarly tools, actual adoption is constrained more by structural and institutional limitations than by resistance to technology itself.

In conclusion, OJS adoption in Nigerian universities is shaped by an interaction of individual perceptions and institutional conditions. Strengthening infrastructure, enhancing capacity-building initiatives, and improving institutional support systems are critical for improving adoption levels and promoting sustainable use of open access publishing platforms.

### 5.2 Recommendations

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

1. **Improvement of ICT Infrastructure**
   University management and relevant stakeholders should invest in reliable internet infrastructure and digital facilities to support seamless access and use of Open Journal Systems. Stable connectivity is essential for increasing adoption and sustained usage.

2. **Regular Training and Capacity Building**
   Institutions should organize continuous training workshops for academic staff on the use of OJS. Such training should focus on both technical skills and practical applications in journal management, peer review, and manuscript submission processes.

3. **Increased Institutional and Government Funding**
   Adequate funding should be allocated to support the implementation and maintenance of OJS platforms in universities. Government and institutional funding will ensure sustainability and reduce the financial burden on individual departments or journals.

4. **Strengthening Technical Support Units**
   Universities should establish or strengthen dedicated ICT and technical support units to assist academics in resolving technical challenges associated with OJS usage. Prompt support will enhance user confidence and adoption rates.

5. **Policy Development on Open Access Publishing**
   The National Universities Commission (NUC) and institutional governing bodies should develop clear policies mandating or encouraging the use of open access systems such as OJS. Such policies will create a standardized framework for digital scholarly publishing across institutions.

6. **Promotion of Awareness and Benefits of OJS**
   Academic institutions should actively promote awareness of the benefits of OJS, particularly its role in improving research visibility, citation impact, and global academic reach. Highlighting these advantages will further strengthen perceived usefulness among academics.

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