

Business Information Availability as Predictor of Smes' Performance in Ekiti State

Unuegbu, V. E. (PhD)&Adeleye, Adeyinka

Department of Information Resources Management,
Babcock University, Ilishan Remo Ogun State

Abstract

Many SMEs' managers in Nigeria as well as those in Ekiti State are ignorant of the contributions of information to the growth and survival of their firms. They lack required skills to operate information facilities, information on basic infrastructural facilities and infrastructure led to their poor performance. This study examined the influence of availability of business information on the performance of SMEs in Ekiti State. The study employed survey research design. The study population comprised 2535 registered SMEs operators located across the sixteen local government areas of Ekiti State under the five trades namely table water industry, shoe manufacturing industry, computer technology operator, furniture making industry, and fashion designing industry. Multistage and proportionate random sampling techniques were used to select the study sample. A sample size of 386 SMEs operators from each trade and two local government areas selected from each senatorial districts in Ekiti State Nigeria participated in this study. Data were collected with a structured questionnaire. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient (α) test of the variables were 0.73 and 0.75 for information availability and SMEs performance respectively. A response rate of 94.7% was obtained. Data were analyzed using both descriptive (mean and standard deviation) and inferential (multiple regression analysis) statistics. The findings reveal that business information availability significantly influence SMEs' performance in Ekiti State ($Adj.R^2 = 0.017, F = 2.544, p < .05$). It showed that only informal Internal and informal external Sources significantly influenced SMEs performance. It was therefore concluded that availability of business information on the performance of SMEs in Ekiti State. The study recommended that SMEs' owners/ managers should go the extra mile in seeking relevant information by partnership with private information professionals to acquire current, reliable and up to date information to carry out business task.

Keywords: Business information availability, SMEs performance, Informal internal sources, informal external sources

Date of Submission: 05-07-2020

Date of Acceptance: 21-07-2020

I. Introduction

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship development have been recognized as the engine to every successful economy around the continents of the world. SMEs have become an increasingly important component of economic development. The products of SMEs form the bulk of goods export to other countries. They generate revenues to the government through taxes on goods and services produced, and thereby increase gross domestic products (GDP) of the country. SMEs make market more competitive through the introduction of different innovative products. SMEs are crucial for a healthy economy, and their competitiveness is indispensable to nation's success and growth (Nwobobia, 2012; Samson, 2016). They provide employment opportunities and at the same time serve as wealth creator: promote social welfare, peace and political stability in the country.

The significance of SMEs to the nation's economy necessitates the investigation into its performance. SMEs performance can be termed to be firm's success in the market, which may have different outcomes (Ojuye & Egberi, 2018). Previous studies have shown the factors that can boost the SMEs performance which include educational background of owner/ manager, political stability, funds and market. The factors are classified into two: internal and external factors. The factors are classified into two: internal and external factors. Sitharam and Hoque (2016) stressed that business environment factors comprise the external and internal factors affecting SMEs performance. Internal factors according to Kolstad and Wiig (2015) include management competency, commitment, experience, strategic choice and knowledge management quality. External factors according to Muobgo, Enemu-Uzoezie & Chuka (2019), include culture, technological change, infrastructure, government policy and regulations, low cost competitors, economic recession, political turmoil, human resources, natural disasters, change in micro economic variable, change in input supply, weather condition,

training, leadership, innovation, channel of distribution, and terrorist attacks. All these factors can contribute to the SMEs' performance.

Performance can be described as the relationship between input and outcomes result of the firm for a specific period. It shows the level of success or failure of a firm. Performance can help identify their strength and weaknesses in the light of existing results (Eniola & Entenbeng, 2015). Growth of sales, profit increase, market share, increase in employment and return of investment are used by scholars to measure performance (Rizal, Suhadak & Kholid 2017). Financial indicators in this case were the sole measurement of performance such as profit, return on investment, sales per employee, market share, and productivity. Non-financial performance measurement indicators include: Just in time delivery (JITD), total quality management(TQM), communication, trust, customers' satisfaction, stakeholder's satisfaction, and employment generation and innovation, competitive position and quality of product (Ojuye & Egberi, 2018).

Researchers have indicated that starting a business is a risky venture, and predict that the probability of small business owners surviving the first five years of running the business is almost nil (Fatoki, 2011; Obasan, 2014; Adeniji, 2015). Many SMEs either fail within the shortest time of starting-up or not growing at all. However, many SMEs that started do not survive and many small firms remain small for long period of time (Isabelle, 2018). In the same view, despite the existence of many SMEs' support programmes that provide backing to SMEs, they continue in experience high failure rate (Kehinde, Abiodun & Adegbuyi, 2016). Despite the key role of SMEs in national development their contribution to economic growth in Nigeria has remained at low rate due to a number of factors, such as lack of skilled workers, low technology capability and lack of good infrastructures (Abubakar & Olusegun, 2019; Taiwo & Falohun, 2016).

Many factors have been identified by researchers as possible problems contributing to the low performance and early exit of SMEs in developing countries. They include insufficient capital, lack of managerial skills, irregular power supply and poor telecommunication facilities (Ekpo & Basse, 2016; Abeh, 2017a). In other studies, factors affecting SMEs performance include insecurity, poor infrastructure (good roads, water supply), poor economic condition of the people, corruption and political instability, lack of quality education, religion, tradition and custom (Ali, Musa & Fada, 2016; Igwe, 2017). Poor technology, poor access to finance services, low quality products, low skilled labour, lack of market information, lack of raw materials and weak demand for goods and services due to wide spread of poverty are factors that hinder SMEs performance (Igwe, Amaugo, Ogunjana & Egere, 2018). SMEs have thus fallen below expectations as regards their role in improving the levels of economic activities (Orugu & Uzundu, 2015).

With the situation established by the scholars, SMEs operators pay less attention to the use of business information in their business activities. Information plays significant roles in the performance of SMEs in different sectors. It is one of the factors that sustain the business organizations. Information is an important resource which individuals and modern societies depend upon for progress and survival. Information can be instrumental to the development and survival of SMEs. Therefore, information is an indispensable tool for success in any organizations. Information needs of SMEs to run their firm on daily bases can be tagged "business information". Business information is defined according to Campbell (1991) cited in Otuza and Okoro (2016) as information which assist in the buying and selling of goods and services including the means that comes through application of economics and management techniques of their production. According to Otuza and Okoro (2016), business information is any accumulated data and information (big data) which the business man has stored over a period of time.

According to Vanharen (2016), business information ensures that the information provision fits in with the business processes and the requirement of the users of those business processes. Norliya, Kasmarini, Norzaina and Siti (2016) defined business information as an invaluable resource that accelerates the continued survival of the business environment as it performs a vital role in everyday business operations. Abubakar and Tukur (2014) defined business information as information that assists in buying and selling of goods and services and application of economic and managerial techniques. Mchombu (2000) defined business information as ideas, message or intelligence a business person requires to improve the day to day operation of a business activity. Such information assists in business activities such as selling and buying goods. Business information, according to Lowe (1999), is viewed as information on those factors outside and largely beyond the control of the business that has a direct commercial significance. Butcher (1997) also defines business information as any piece of information, a group of information working collectively to give an organization competitive edge in the process of supporting, forecasting, planning, controlling, coordinating, decision- making and operational activities.

Availability of information in SMEs' sector will promote knowledge sharing among SMEs' workers. Acquisition of the right business information at the right time would pave way for the growth and development of SMEs. Availability of business information according to Haliso and Okunfulure (2010), is the provision of the right information to an individual for use in order to perform a specific business task. Business information availability is as important as the capital for the investment. Information needs of SMEs operators must be available, availability of quality business information will contribute to the growth and development of SMEs.

Provision of relevant and complete business information is a key resource that will increase productivity and improve performance. Relevant and reliable business information that is available from dependable sources in relation to SMEs will influence performance.

Relevant information can be available to SMEs in various sources which include informal and formal sources. Kaye (1995) noted that there are informal and formal sources that contain business information in different forms. However, informal sources just like formal sources are those that help in the provision of information to individual business managers. There are also internal and external sources available to SMEs. The internal sources are those information sources available within the organization while external means those information sources that are available outside the organization (Popoola & Okiki, 2013). According to Abdulsalami, Nwachukwu and Salami (2015), formal sources of information include written and printed information while informal sources of information include oral and verbal information. Information sources are stored in various media, print and non-print, namely books, journals, newspapers, data banks, cassettes, discs, tapes, and transmitted orally, audio-visually, telegraphically, electronically, or by printing out (Agarwal & Poo, 2011). Alimutari (2011) attests to the fact that people get information from multiple sources, such as friends and colleagues, relatives, books, libraries, trade report and online sources and do not necessarily depend on a single source.

Popoola and Ayankola (2018) argued that the main sources of business information for SMEs include colleagues, competitors, customers, business associates, government officials, broadcast media, corporate libraries, journals, internet, company files, newspapers, periodicals magazines, government publications, trade and industry association, handbooks/manuals, patents/standards, memoranda/circulars and video-tapes. These are available within and outside the business environment of managers in business organizations. Formal internal sources include the following: trade and business associations, company website, suppliers, customers, business reports, shareholders, competitors, and report of other enterprises. While formal external sources include National Bureau of Statistic, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Central Bank of Nigeria, information brokers/ stock exchange, internet, professional journals, and trade journals.

Business needs information to be successful, and that information can be available from a variety of sources, both internal and external sources (Leigh, 2013). Performance of SMEs will rely on availability of quality business information, in other words, information providers have to target categories of people that need specific information. Where Information is provided at random, users' needs are not met due to irrelevant information; this is equal to unavailability of information, since the specific information needs is not provided. Available information that is not timely, inaccurate, incomplete and lacks quality to solve an organization's problem cannot improve the performance of SMEs.

Availability of quality business information will help to carry out strategic plan on staff recruitment, the environment or location of the firm, selection of market and sales of the product or services, customer and supplier, pricing and how to access funds. The sources of raw materials, new business opportunity, launching of new products, competitor strategy, production, technologies trend, business intelligence, government regulations and policies that are important factors in the establishment of firms often influence the performance of SMEs. All these business activities would require access to relevant business information for optimal performance. If business information is available, access to it is a major factor in the development and survival of SMEs. It is against this background discussion that this study sought to investigate the influence of availability of business information on the performance of SMEs in Ekiti State.

Statement of the Problem

The significance of SMEs' performance has long been recognized. It is well established that SMEs play crucial role in the development and growth of the national economy. Despite the support of Government, financial institutions and other stakeholders in improving the performance of SMEs in the country, many SMEs perform below expectation in the developing countries like Nigeria, and those in Ekiti. Many SMEs' managers in Nigeria as well as those in Ekiti State are ignorant of the contributions of information to the growth and survival of their firms. They lack required skills to operate information facilities, information on basic infrastructural facilities such as electricity, good roads, poor information systems and infrastructure including inadequate internet, network failure contributing to inaccessibility of information thereby hindering their performance.

Objective of the Study

This study examined following specific objectives:

- i. To determine the level to which business information is available to SMEs operators in Ekiti State.
- ii. To determine the influence of availability of business information on the performance of SMEs in Ekiti State.

II. Methodology

The study employed survey research design. The survey approach is considered appropriate because it explores the relationship that exists between the variables of the study and also described systematically the existing phenomenon. The study population comprised 2535 registered SMEs operators located across the sixteen local government areas of Ekiti State under the five trades namely table water industry, shoe manufacturing industry, computer technology operator, furniture making industry, and fashion designing industry. Multistage and proportionate random sampling techniques were used to select the study sample. A sample size of 386 SMEs operators from each trade and two local government areas selected from each senatorial districts in Ekiti State Nigeria participated in this study. Data were collected with a structured questionnaire. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient (α) test of the variables were 0.73 and 0.75 for information availability and SMEs performance respectively. A response rate of 94.7% was obtained. Data were analyzed using both descriptive (mean and standard deviation) and inferential (multiple regression analysis) statistics.

III. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Business Information Availability

Business information is available for SMEs performance from:	5 Highly Available (%)	4 Almost Always Available (%)	3 Moderately Available (%)	2 Somewhat Available (%)	1 Not Available (%)	Mean	SD
Informal Internal Sources:						4.06	0.715
Business colleagues	152 (41.8)	188 (51.6)	18 (4.9)	4 (1.1)	2 (.5)	4.33	.673
Friends and families	82 (22.5)	206 (56.6)	63 (17.3)	12 (3.3)	1 (.3)	3.98	.746
Supervisor and subordinate	57 (15.7)	221 (60.7)	71 (19.5)	13 (3.6)	2 (.5)	3.87	.728
Informal External Sources:						3.85	.804
Business associate	190 (52.2)	137 (37.6)	23 (6.3)	10 (2.7)	4 (1.1)	4.37	.811
Social and family contact	127 (34.9)	194 (53.3)	33 (9.1)	7 (1.9)	3 (.8)	4.20	.744
Personal advancers	56 (15.4)	133 (36.5)	140 (38.5)	33 (9.1)	2 (.5)	3.57	.877
Trade fair contact	34 (9.3)	64 (17.6)	231 (63.5)	31 (8.5)	4 (1.1)	3.26	.784
Formal Internal Sources:						3.96	.777
Customers	211 (58)	128 (35.2)	20 (5.5)	2 (.5)	3 (.8)	4.49	.702
Suppliers	134 (36.8)	195 (53.6)	31 (8.5)	4 (1.1)	0	4.26	.656
Business reports	123 (33.8)	208 (57.1)	24 (6.6)	9 (2.5)	0	4.22	.674
Competitors	104 (28.6)	151 (41.5)	91 (25)	18 (4.9)	0	3.94	.855
Trade and business associate	64 (17.6)	237 (65.1)	44 (12.1)	12 (3.3)	7 (1.9)	3.93	.774
Reports of other enterprises	58 (15.9)	219 (60.2)	65 (17.9)	22 (6)	0	3.86	.749
Company website	50 (13.7)	161 (44.2)	121 (33.2)	25 (6.9)	7 (1.9)	3.61	.876
Shareholders	48 (13.2)	122 (33.5)	135 (37.1)	56 (15.4)	3 (.8)	3.43	.932
Formal External Sources:						3.66	.968
Professional journals	257 (70.6)	52 (14.3)	36 (9.9)	17 (4.7)	2 (.5)	4.50	.892
Internet	248 (68.1)	43 (11.8)	41 (11.3)	26 (7.1)	6 (1.6)	4.38	1.044
Trade journals	211 (58)	75 (20.6)	63 (17.3)	10 (2.7)	5 (1.4)	4.31	.945
Insurance companies	80 (22)	106 (29.1)	135 (37.1)	35 (9.6)	8 (2.2)	3.59	1.004
Information brokers/ stock exchange	85 (23.4)	36 (9.9)	153 (42)	77 (21.2)	13 (3.6)	3.28	1.145
National bureau of	32	62	199	61	10	3.12	.887

statistics	(8.8)	(17)	(54.7)	(16.8)	(2.7)		
Chambers of commerce and industry	30 (8.2)	51 (14)	207 (56.9)	66 (18.1)	10 (2.7)	3.07	.871
Central Bank of Nigeria	37 (10.2)	48 (13.2)	186 (51.1)	77 (21.2)	16 (4.4)	3.04	.963
Grand Mean						3.85	.840

Researcher's Field Survey, 2019

Decision rule: if mean is ≤ 1.49 = Not available, 1.5-2.49= somewhat available level, 2.5-3.49 = moderately Available level, 3.5-4.49= almost always available level, 4.5-5.0= highly available level

The result in Table 1 reveals that business information is almost always available to SMEs' operators in Ekiti state (mean= 3.85), on a 5 Likert scale. The results further explain that informal internal sources were almost always available (mean=4.06), in which the respondents agreed that business colleagues (mean=4.33), friends and family (mean=3.98), and supervisors (mean=3.87) were available. The results also confirm that informal external sources were almost always available (mean=3.85). The findings showed that the level of business information availability to SMEs operators in Ekiti State was almost always available (mean=3.85). They agreed that business information was available to them mostly through informal internal sources (mean=4.06), followedby formal internal sources (mean=3.96). It shows that business information was available to SMEs operators in Ekiti State mostly through informal internal sources such as friends and family, business colleagues and supervisors and subordinates. However, SMEs need to be educated, encouraged and given orientation on other sources of business information where relevant, quality information is available.

Test of Hypothesis

H₀1Business information availability will not significantly influence SMEs' performance in Ekiti State.

Table 2: Summary of Multiple Regression analysis showing the predictive influence of Business Information Availability on SMEs' performance in Ekiti State

Predictors	B	T	R	R ²	Adj. R ²	F	Sig	Remark
Informal Internal Sources	-0.777	-2.643	0.167	0.028	0.017	2.544	0.009	Significant
Informal External Sources	0.434	1.811					0.071	Not Significant
Formal Internal Sources	0.104	0.795					0.427	Not Significant
Formal External Sources	-0.075	-0.770					0.442	Not Significant

*Sig at 0.05 level.

Result in Table 2 reveal that Informal Internal Sources has a significant influence on SMEs' performance in Ekiti State ($\beta = -0.777, p < 0.05$). The result indicates that informal internal sources significantly explained SMEs' performance. The results also show that informal internal sources negatively influence SMEs Performance in Ekiti State. Furthermore, the results indicate that Supervisor and subordinate, Business colleagues, and Friends and families informal internal sources are significant predictors of SMEs performance in Ekiti State but were not sufficient to drive SMEs performance higher and above the expected level of performance. In addition, result revealed that Informal External Sources ($\beta = 0.434, p > .05$) and Formal Internal Sources ($\beta = 0.104, p > .05$) have positive and insignificant influence on SMEs' performance. This implies that informal external sources and formal internal sources are not independent predictors of SMEs' performance among SMEs operators in Ekiti State.

Furthermore, informal internal sources, informal external sources, formal internal sources, and formal external sources jointly contribute 2.8 per cent to the variation in SMEs' performance in Ekiti State ($R^2 = .028, P < .05$). The contribution is however very low as indicated by the coefficient of multiple determination (R^2) probably due to the significant level of Informal Internal Sources. Since one of the regression coefficients was significant as indicated by the results in Table 2, the hypothesis was therefore rejected. This means that, the null hypothesis (business information availability will not significantly influence SMEs' performance in Ekiti State) is rejected. This finding suggests that business information availability contributed to good SMEs' performance among SMEs operators in Ekiti State through informal internal and external sources.

IV. Discussion

The study investigated availability as determinants of performance of selected SMEs in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The result of the hypothesis tested revealed that there is significant negative influence of informal Internal Sources on SMEs performance. Also, there was significant positive influence of informal external sources on SMEs performance in Ekiti State, Nigeria. This indicated that availability of business information can improve the performance of SMEs. This agreed with the findings of the study of Keh, Ngugen and Ng (2007) who showed that business information availability influence the creativity of the firm. This was supported in the study of Popoola, Ibrahim and Ayankuule (2018) who revealed that information availability had significant

relationship with the creativity of the managers. Popoola and Okiki (2013) in their study indicated that there is significant relationship between information availability and creativity of the firm. And supported in the study of Oyedapo (2005) who revealed that information availability had significant relationship with the creativity of managers.

The study further indicated that business information is almost always available to SMEs operators in Ekiti State and that business information was available in informal internal sources such as friends and family, business colleagues, supervisor and subordinates. The business information sources available to the managers of a business organization are business colleagues, subordinate staff, customers, and company's files. Information within the organization served as first aid to business organization before contacting external sources. Information can be available to SMEs in different sources for SMEs performance depending on the environment or location of the business. This agreed with the study of Popoola and Okiki (2013) which confirmed that information sources available in the business environment of the managers in organization are numerous and of various forms. Managers of business organizations need to consult different sources of business information in order to get authentic and reliable information to work with. This is in agreement with the study of Miller (2007) on research conducted on influence of business information sources utilization on worker's productivity.

V. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study investigated the influence of business information availability as it affect performance of selected SMEs in Ekiti State, Nigeria. Based on the statistical analysis, this study concluded that business information was moderately available to SMEs operators mostly through informal internal sources include (business colleagues, friend and families, and supervisor and subordinates). Business information was available to SMEs in Ekiti State through informal internal sources such as friends and family, business colleagues, supervisor and subordinates. It was also concluded that business information availability had significant influence on SMEs performance in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The study recommends that SMEs' owners/ managers should go the extra mile in seeking relevant information by partnership with private information professionals to acquire current, reliable and up to date information to carry out business task. Also, government at both federal and state level should collaborate with SMEs regulatory bodies such as Small and Medium Enterprises Development Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and other SMEs professional bodies like National Association Small Scale Industries (NASSI) and NECA to make available, the business information need of SMEs and ensure that they are available to all business sectors for growth and development, especially formal external sources of information.

References

- [1]. Abdulsalami, T. L. (2013). Information accessibility and use by *Research Scientific Journal* dealers Nigeria dealers of company, Plc. Kaduna plant, Pelegia, bottling.
- [2]. Abeh, O. (2017a). Entrepreneurship as key to socio-economic development: A study of selected small and medium scale enterprises in Delta State. *Journal of Education and Society*, 7(1), 90-102.
- [3]. Abubakar, S., & Olusegun, K. L. (2019). The effect of controlling firm relationship characteristics in the energy-business growth relationship. *World Journal of Innovation Research, (WJIR)* 6(4), 92- 99.
- [4]. Abubakar, S., & Olusegun, K. L. (2019). The effect of controlling firm relationship characteristics in the energy-business growth relationship. *World Journal of Innovation Research, (WJIR)* 6(4), 92- 99.
- [5]. Ali, Y. M., Musa, B. M., & Fada, K. A. (2016). Implication of Boko-Haram insurgency on small and medium enterprises in Borno State, Nigeria: A review, *Sahel analyst*, 96-108.
- [6]. Butcher, H. (1997). Why don't managers use information today. Retrieved April 5th, 2010 from Hp:// [www.aslib.co.uk / pubs.2010/05/04/html](http://www.aslib.co.uk/pubs.2010/05/04/html)
- [7]. Campbell, J. Y., & Mankiw, N. G. (1991). The response of consumption to income across-country investigation *European Economic Review* 35, 723-767 North Holland.
- [8]. Ekpo, U.N., & Bassegy, G.E. (2016). An analysis of the economic consequences of infrastructural deficit in a developing economy. The case of electricity supply in Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Science*, 10(1), 28-48. Retrieved from [http:// social science umuyo.com](http://socialscience.umuyo.com)
- [9]. Eniola, A.A., & Entebang, H. (2015). SMEs firms performance in Nigeria competitive advantage and its impact, *International Journal of Research Studies in Management*, 3(2), 75-86 doi's 105861/ijrsm.2014.854.
- [10]. Fatoki, O. O. (2011). The impact of human, social and financial capital on the performance of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in *South Africa. Journal of Social Science*, 29(3), 193-204.
- [11]. Haliso, Y., & Okunfulure, O. (2010). Information sources utilization and job performance of workers, in MTN Ibadan, *Nigeria International Research Journal in Information Resources and Knowledge Management*, 1(1), 42 – 53.
- [12]. Igwe, P. A., Amaugo, A. N., Ogundana, O. M., & Egere, O. M. (2018). Factors affecting the investment climate, SMEs productivity and entrepreneurship in Nigeria. *European Journal of Sustainability Development*, 7 (1), 182-200.
- [13]. Isabelle, R. (2018). Unlocking SMEs productivity review of recent evidence and information implications for the UK's industrial strategy project (ESRCES/S000097/1.)
- [14]. Kaye, D. (1995). Sources of information, *Formal and informal library management*. 16(5), 16-19. Retrieved February 2, 2006 from [http:// citeseerx.1st.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.522.722.7530&rep=rep1&type=pdf](http://citeseerx.1st.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.522.722.7530&rep=rep1&type=pdf)
- [15]. Keh, H. T., Nguyen, T. T. M., & Ng, H. P. (2007). The effects of entrepreneurial orientation and marketing information on the performance of SME *Journal of Business Venturing*. 22 (4), 592 - 611. doi :10.101 / j.j bus vent. 2006. 05. 00.
- [16]. Kehinde, A.O., Abiodun, A.J., & adegbuyi, O.A. (2016). Small and medium scale enterprises pivotal to sustainable economic development. The Nigeria experience. *International Journal of Current Research*, 8(1), 1-10.

- [17]. Kolstad, I., & Wiis, A. (2015). Education and entrepreneurial success, *Small Business Economics* 44 9 (4), 783 – 796.
- [18]. Leigh, R. (2013). Types of information resources a business needs views on April 11th 2013. www. Small business chron. Com.
- [19]. Lowe, M. (1999). Business information at work London Aslib pp, 127. ISBN: 085112403 *Article on Reference Reviews* 1(5) 27- 47 May 2000.
- [20]. Mchombu, C. M. (2000). Information need of human in small business the international information and library Review [http://www idea Library.com/link/dprg_10./006lirr/2000_0125/pdf](http://www.idea.Library.com/link/dprg_10./006lirr/2000_0125/pdf). Moore, N. (2002). A model of social information need. *Journal of Information Science*, 28(4), 297-303.
- [21]. Miller, M. A. (2007). Influence of business information sources utilization on worker's productivity. *Journal of corporate Banking Management*, 10 (2), 5864.
- [22]. Muogbo, U.S., Enemu-Uzoezic, & Chuka. (2019). Environmental factors: A panacea for survival and growth of small and medium scale businesses in Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Management Invention (IJBMI)*, 8(3), 30-40.
- [23]. Nwobobia, F. M. (2012). Role of business management into the success and survival of small business the case of star leaving Centre in Botswana *International Journal of Business Administration* 3(1), 93 -112.
- [24]. Obasan, K.A. (2014). The impact of business environment on the survival of small scale businesses in Nigeria, *International Journal of Management Business Research*, 4(3), 165-170.
- [25]. Ojuye, T. E., & Egberi, O. E. (2018). Determinant of small and medium enterprises performance in Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Law Research*, 6(2), 59-70.
- [26]. Otuza, C. E., & Okoro, O. J. (2016). Achieving international innovation in IT through business information utilization in small and medium enterprises in Nigeria. 2nd international conference on intelligent computing and emerging technologies (ICET).
- [27]. Popoola, S. O., & Okiki, O. C. (2013). Information availability and utilization as determinants of creativity of managers in Commercial Bank in Nigeria. *Journal of Information and Knowledge Management*, 3 (8), 22.
- [28]. Popoola, S.O., & Ayankola, I. A. (2018). Self-efficacy Information accessibility and utilization as determinants of creativity of managers in packaging companies in Nigeria, *Journal of Information Engineering and Application*, 8(7), 38.
- [29]. Rizal, O., Suhadak. K., & Kholid, M. M. (2017). Analysis of the influence of external and internal environment factors on business performance, A study on micro small and medium enterprises of food and beverage, *R.O.A.S*, 6 (66) 47 – 56.
- [30]. Sitharam, S., & Hoque, M. (2016). Factors affecting the performance of small and medium enterprises in Kurazulu-Nata, South Africa. *Problem and Perspective in Management*. 14 (2), 277.
- [31]. Taiwo, J.N., & Falohun, T.O. (2016). SMEs financing and its effects on Nigeria economic growth. *European Journal of Business Economics and accounting*, 4(4), 37-54.
- [32]. Vanharen, (2016). Business information management awareness and training in focus. Information management and security in an era of change national conference of association of information airmas.

Unuegbu, V. E. (PhD). "Business Information Availability as Predictor of Smes' Performance in Ekiti State." *IOSR Journal of Business and Management (IOSR-JBM)*, 22(7), 2020, pp. 55-61.