



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57779

Title: Cognitive Innovative Information Literacy Competencies Required of Information Processing Specialists for Effective Performance of SMEs in Enugu State

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer's ID: JPR-002

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript titled “Cognitive Innovative Information Literacy Competencies Required of Information Processing Specialists for Effective Performance of SMEs in Enugu State” addresses an important and contemporary issue concerning the role of information literacy competencies in enhancing the operational effectiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The study demonstrates good academic relevance because SMEs remain critical contributors to economic development, employment generation, and innovation in Nigeria. The authors effectively establish the importance of cognitive innovative competencies, particularly information retrieval and information management skills, in improving organizational productivity and decision-making. The introduction provides sufficient background information and presents a logical justification for the study by linking SME performance with the competencies of information processing specialists.

The conceptual and theoretical discussions in the manuscript are adequately developed and supported with relevant literature. The authors clearly explain concepts such as cognitive innovative competencies, information literacy, information retrieval competencies, and information management competencies. The review of related studies demonstrates familiarity with existing scholarly work and highlights the relevance of these competencies within modern digital business environments. The statement of the problem is well articulated and clearly identifies the existing gap in empirical evidence regarding the competencies required for effective SME performance in Enugu State. The objectives,

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research questions, and hypotheses are logically aligned with the identified problem and contribute to the overall coherence of the study.

The methodology adopted for the study is appropriate and sufficiently explained. The use of a descriptive survey design aligns well with the objectives of investigating competencies required by information processing specialists. The sampling procedure, population description, instrument validation, and reliability testing are clearly presented. The reliability coefficients obtained through Cronbach's alpha indicate acceptable internal consistency of the research instrument. The statistical tools used for analysis, including mean, standard deviation, t-test, and ANOVA, are suitable for addressing the research questions and hypotheses. Furthermore, the response rate of 95% strengthens the credibility of the findings.

The presentation of results is clear and systematic. The findings reveal that both information retrieval and information management competencies are highly required for effective SME performance. The tables are properly organized and provide meaningful statistical evidence to support the conclusions drawn by the researchers. The discussion section appropriately relates the findings to previous studies and demonstrates consistency with existing literature. The conclusions and recommendations are practical and relevant, particularly the emphasis on curriculum integration, digital training, and continuous professional development for information processing specialists.

Despite the strengths of the manuscript, there are areas requiring improvement before publication. The paper contains several grammatical inconsistencies, spacing issues, punctuation errors, and typographical problems that require careful proofreading and language editing. Some citations and references appear inconsistent in formatting, and there is duplication of certain references such as Bakri et al. (2017). Additionally, the study would benefit from deeper theoretical grounding by incorporating a stronger conceptual or theoretical framework to support the investigation. More explanation regarding how the questionnaire items were developed and operationalized would also improve methodological clarity. The authors may further strengthen the study by discussing possible limitations and implications for future research in greater detail.

Overall, the manuscript contributes valuable insights into information literacy competencies and SME performance within the Nigerian context. The topic is relevant, the methodology is appropriate, and the findings have practical implications for education, management, and professional development. With moderate revisions focusing on language refinement, reference consistency, and deeper analytical

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discussion, the paper can make a meaningful contribution to the field of information management and business education.