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Data Article

Dataset on spatial distribution and location of universities in Nigeria

G.A. Adeyemi [a], S.O. Edeki [b,*]

[a] Department of Civil Engineering, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria
[b] Department of Mathematics, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Access to quality educational system, and the location of educational institutions are of great importance for future prospect of youth in any nation. These in return, have great effects on the economy growth and development of any country. Thus, the dataset contained in this article examines and explains the spatial distribution of universities in the Nigeria system of education. Data from the university commission, Nigeria, as at December 2017 are used. These include all the 40 federal universities, 44 states universities, and 69 private universities making a total of 153 universities in the Nigerian system of education. The data analysis is via the Geographic Information System (GIS) software. The dataset contained in this article will be of immense assistance to the national educational policy makers, parents, and potential students as regards smart and reliable decision making academically.

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Specifications table

Subject area	*Education*
More specific subject area	*University settings and locations*
Type of data	*Tables, maps*
How data was acquired	*University commission, GPS coder*

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: soedeki@yahoo.com (S.O. Edeki).

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Data format	*Raw and Analysed*
Experimental factors	*Spatial concentration analysis*
Experimental features	*Universities distribution and location*
Data source location	*University commission*, Nigeria
Data accessibility	*Within this article, and* Supplementary files

Value of the data

- The data will be of great importance in the Nigerian educational planning since education is a tool of critical value to the well-being of any nation [1,2].
- The dataset can enhance quality decision making in the educational system.
- The dataset can help to know where new universities are needed.
- The dataset will be of great help in resource management [3].
- Availability of this data as being represented in the maps will enable parents and potential students to easily identify universities within their catchment areas thereby making right decision on their choices of universities [3,4].
- Publicizing this data will no doubt bring about development mainly in those areas with reasonable number of institutions because investors and business tycoons will be attracted.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) enhances qualitative transformational graphic data presentation to enhance quick understanding and accurate decision making in a problem solving environment.

1. Data

In any nation, the importance of accessibility to quality educational system, and the location of educational institutions cannot be overlooked. Hence, the need of better descriptive models such as the Geographic Information System (GIS) whose effectiveness in data representation for both qualitative and qualitative decision making in a problem solving environment cannot be over emphasized [5–7]. This research considers a very distinct way of data representation using a case study of Nigerian Universities. This article contains a total of the 153 universities in the Nigerian system of education as at December 2017. This by nature of institutions are the 40 federal universities, 44 states universities, and 69 private universities. The data analysis is via the Geographic Information System (GIS) software. In Tables 1–3, we present a concise descriptions of the nature of universities: Federal, state and private (we make reference to Supplementary files). In Figs. 1–4, the maps obtained via the GIS software are presented. Fig. 5 contains the graphical representation of University-categories in Nigeria.

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

2.1. Data analysis

See Tables 1–3 and Figs. 1–5.

Table 1
Federal universities in the Nigeria setting.

Federal universities in number	Concerned States in number	**Frequency**
1	34	34
2	3	6
Cumulative		**40**

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