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EFFECT OF CONSORTIUM BUILDING ON INFORMATION RESOURCES IN MEDICAL LIBRARIES IN BENUE STATE

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Abstract
The study was designed to ascertain the effect of consortium on information resources in medical libraries in Benue State. User's opinions from five medical libraries were sample and three hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study was guided by two specific objectives and two research questions. The study was hinged on Technology Acceptance Model by Davis 1989 (TAM) theory. The study adopted survey research design. The study was carried out in Benue State using a targeted population of 956 respondents from Benue State Teaching Hospital Medical Library, College of Health Science Medical Library, School of Nursing Medical Library and School of Midwifery Medical Library. The sample for the study was 282 respondents from the five medical libraries. The sample was drawn from the population using proportionate stratified random sampling techniques. The instrument for data collection was self-developed questionnaire titled 'Influence of Information Consortium building on Information Resources in Medical Libraries (ICBOIRMLQ. The instrument was validated. The reliability of the questionnaire was established using cronbach alpha method, a reliability coefficient of 0.875 was obtained. Research questions were answered using descriptive statistics of frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation. The findings of the study revealed that, consortium building are in existence in medical libraries in Benue State, it has moderate effect on medical series materials in medical libraries in Benue State with a mean of 2.89 the challenges faced in Consorting Building in Medical Libraries in Benue State are inadequacy of existing resources, lack of policies, uncooperative attitude of parent bodies, unstable budgetary allocation and lack of trained personnel for handling new technology, it concluded that all these should not deter medical libraries in participating in consortium building but rather should encourage them to extend consortium building to other resources that are lacking and recommend among others that medical libraries should be ready to put up strong worded proposal to parent institutions in order to be allowed to participate in consortium building, they should be equally ready to lobby at any slightest meeting to convince the medical institutions management committee to fund and maintain financial allocation to the library, and formulate policy on consortium building to make it easy to convince parent institutions on their medical libraries participating in consortium building.
Keywords: Effect, Consortium, Building, Information, Resources, Medical, and Libraries

Introduction

Libraries are collections of printed and non-printed resources carefully selected, acquired, processed by librarians and housed in specially designated building for use. Today, with the internet, internet resources can also form part of library resources which can be accessed anywhere at any time. There are six types of libraries performing various functions in Nigerian society. These are National Library, Public Library, Academic Library, School Library, Special Library and Private Library. The National Library is a statutory government establishment responsible for collecting and preserving the printed output of a country. The public library is a library wholly established by public funds whose resources are not restricted to any class of persons in the community but freely available to all. Academic library is a library established to support the academic programmes offered by such institutions. They are found in most tertiary institutions such as universities, polytechnics, colleges of education and other tertiary institutions. School library is established to provide materials that support the school curriculum. These include primary and secondary school libraries while a special library is a research library that is maintained by corporations, associations, government agencies, individuals or any other group within the society. They provide instant information to users and their collection is specialized in nature to serve specialized body of users and their staff in a particular subject or field. The private library is that which is owned and used by an individual, family members, friends, well-wishers and private researchers. It is usually located in people's homes or compound and thus disposed to private use than the general public. Each type of library is unique and performs given roles. Some functions are common to all libraries while others are tailored to meet the special requirements of the owners such as the special libraries. Medical libraries fall under the category of libraries known as special libraries but for the purpose of this study, medical library is the focus.

According to Anaeme (2013) medical library is a library found in medical institutions such as the hospitals, medical centers, clinics, medical schools, private medical industries and medical or health associations among others. Anaeme in addition states that, they are specialized institutions established to provide information resources to meet the information needs of health professionals and consumers. The health practitioners they serve are physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses (including advanced practice registered nurses), midwives, dietitians, therapists, psychologists, chiropractors, clinical officers, phlebotomists, respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, audiologists, speech pathologists, optometrists, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, medical laboratory scientists, medical prosthetic technicians, radiographers, social workers and a variety of other human resources trained to provide some type of health care services. They are commonly grouped into four key fields, Medical (including general practitioners and specialists), nursing (including various professional ties) dentistry and health professions including occupational therapy, pharmacy , physical therapy, paramedicine, respiratory therapy, radiographers and many other health specialists (Mngutyo, 2015)

The role of a medical library in a medical institution is the provision of current information to health professionals in a quick and cost-effective manner. Walzer, Stott and Sutton in Anunobi (2013) states that they include the provision of balanced perspective on medical issues, provision of alternatives to formal learning in the form of material support for continuing medical education; provision of value services, which improves information delivery; dissemination of health information and promotion of healthy lifestyles: satisfying the health information needs of the community. They also include locating and assisting in the development of relevant information or materials; pairing information outreach with other activities in which the populations already engage, for example workshops, conferences, community events and integrating health information into ongoing programs of the target population in the community, thereby empowering members of the health community. Medical libraries require information resources to play these roles.

Information resources are the key to meeting the information needs of users. They are the tools of providing information through information services that meet the information needs of teaching, learning and provision of health care services and research activities of medical institutions. Information resources are information bearing materials containing information and are found in print forms such as books, journals, novels, students projects, technical reports, newspapers, magazines, indexes, abstracts, maps, atlases, handbooks, almanacs, yearbooks and directories to name a few. They are otherwise called monographs. The non-print materials (audio-visual materials) are also known as multimedia, they include microform reader, audio materials (tape recorders, record and record players), realia, models, slides, film strips and recordings, electronic formats such as CD-ROM, E-books/E-journals, Online Databases, facsimile transmission (Fax), web, E-mail service, subject gateways, search engines, E-Resources such as E-Journals and E-books. Information resources could also be categorized into reference materials, serials, and digital/ electronic formats.

Serials are ephemeral materials that usually capture current information, trends in different fields. They include journals, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets. There is also Health Internetwork Area of Research Initiative (HINARI), a medical online database subscribed to by institutions in developing countries for free. Medical library house all these resources related to medical or health issues in order to play their role effectively. These information resources form the core collections of any information system such as the medical library known as medical information resources. Medical information resources therefore are responsible for meeting the teaching, learning and research needs of the medical community. Medical libraries provide a good number of services based on these information resources ranging from traditional ones like reference service, information service, loan services current awareness services (CAS), photocopying services, bindery services, indexing and abstracting services to modern electronic selective dissemination of Information (SDI) service among others. These services enable users of the library to make judicious use of the collections in pursuing their studies and professional duties as medics. However, no single library can be said to be self-sufficient,

hence the need to venture into consortium building to boost its collections.

Consortium building is a resource sharing method libraries with common interest pool their materials, physical and human resources together in order to meet their clientele needs much more than they could have done when they depend on individual effort. Consortium is an association of institutions and organizations. The term can be appropriately applied to any form of cooperation whereby organizations resolve to work together for a common purpose. Encarta 2019 states that, it is the coming together of organizations for common purpose that would be beyond the capabilities of a single member of the group. In this context it is the arrangement of cooperative efforts by libraries with a common purpose of providing users with balanced information resources in order to meet their information needs.

Generally, Guragi (2019) admitted that consortium building is a temporary cooperation of powers of large interests to achieve common goal, share resources so as to reduce cost, and to improve productivity. Resource sharing is a method whereby libraries with common interest pool their materials, physical and human resources together in order to meet their clientele needs much more than they could have done when they depend on individual effort. Consortium, networking, alliance, association, cooperation and resource sharing are terms used interchangeably.

In order to ensure that information resources in medical libraries make up for its inadequacy the need to go into consortium building becomes imperative. Consortium building is also an option because of the enormous responsibility medical library is saddled with. Economic recession today among other economic downturn of developing has called for the need of consortium building due to scarce resources.

In Nigeria, libraries are now actively participating in consortium building. This is more so with the emergence of ICT especially the internet. (Okeagu and Okeagu, 2018). Opined that consortium building that exists in Nigeria is POMLIF a subcommittee of monotechnic and polytechnic libraries in Nigeria (COMPLIN). The main objective of POMLIF is to promote the development of polytechnic and monotechnic libraries through the use of shared scarce resources. These are initiatives that Medical libraries took a cue from to initiate their own National Network of Libraries in Medicine (NNLM). The mission of the NLM is to advance the progress of medicine and improve public health, providing health professionals with equal access to biomedical information, improving the public access to information, enabling them to make informal decisions about their health and health care. The consortium is the core of NLM's outreach program to reduce health disparities and improve health information literacy. The consortium comprised academic health science libraries, hospitals, pharmaceuticals and other special biomedical libraries, public libraries, information centers and community-based organizations.

The presence of the consortium building and its benefits has prompted the researcher to investigate on the effect of this consortium on information resources. This probably explains why the duo of Okeagu and Okeagu (2018) lamented that in as much as efforts have been made in the past to make resource sharing more efficient, barriers to

achieving that efficiency still continues in all resource sharing operation in Nigeria.

In the case of Benue State, one wonders what the situation among medical libraries might be considering the benefits that accompany consortium building in making information resources available in quantity, quality and variety. The need to know the situation has therefore called for an empirical study to verify whether the larger picture in Nigeria applies to it or not and if it does, what might be done to address it, hence the study on effect of consortium building on information resources in medical libraries in Benue State.

Statement of the Problem

Consortium building boosts availability of information resources in libraries including medical libraries in the face of inadequacy. It gives libraries comparative advantage to purchase information resources such as e-granary digital library, subscribe to HINARI, as well as serial information resource and health reference materials in group at cheaper rate amongst others. It enables all libraries involved in the consortium to have the capacity to provide access to large amounts of queries, relevant and up-to-date information to their readers and researchers whether on the internet or not. It ensures that medical institutions contribute to national development thereby fulfilling the millennium goals on health matters (Ajuwon, 2015).

However, personal observation of medical libraries in Benue State show that despite the benefits of consortium building, its effect seems to be felt much on the information resources of medical libraries such as reference materials, serials as it is desired. Many of the libraries appear to be contented with no visible indication of consortium building. It appears as even interlibrary loan is also hardly seen among these medical libraries. Many users in these libraries are seen individually attempting to access medical library resources within this location on their own. The persistence state potent limited information resource for health practitioners in the medical institutions in Benue State. The consequence of this inadequate care service provision, research and training of health practitioners can be destructive. No wonder the rich and the political leaders have resorted to medical tourism, flight abroad for medical treatment, while health professionals seek medical training in other medical facilities outside the shores of the state. It is on account of this that an empirical study is required to investigate the effect of consortium building on information resources in medical libraries in Benue State

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to investigate the effect of consortium building on information resources in medical libraries in Benue State. But specifically, the study seeks:

1. To identify the types of consortium buildings in medical libraries in Benue State.
2. To determine the effect of consortium building on medical serials in medical libraries in Benue State.

Research Questions

The following research questions will guide this study.

1. What are the types of consortium buildings in medical libraries in Benue State?
2. What is the effect of consortium building on medical serial materials in Benue State?

Hypotheses

The hypotheses formulated and will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. Consortium building does not significantly affect serial materials in medical libraries in Benue State.

Research Methodology

This chapter presents procedures that were used to carry out the study. These include research design, area of the study, population, sample and sampling technique, instrument for data collection, validation of the instrument, reliability of the instrument, method or as collection and method of data analysis technique.

Research Design

The research design that was adopted for this study will be survey research design. A survey research design is concerned with collection of data for the purpose of describing and interpreting existing conditions on practices, beliefs, attitudes and point of views that are held. The survey research design is most appropriate for this study because it seeks to collect data from a large population and interpret the views of the respondents to find out the types of consortium in medical libraries in Benue State, effects of consortium building on serials and the challenges of consortium building in medical libraries in Benue State in respect to the research questions posed in the study.

Area of the Study

The study was carried out in Benue State. Benue State is located in the North Central zone of Nigeria. North central zone is made up of three geo-political zones. North East, North West and North Central. Benue State among others is located in North Central. Benue consists of three geopolitical zones. They include Zone A, Zone B and Zone C. Zone A is located in the North-eastern part of the state, Zone B is located in the North-western part of the state and Zone C is located in the southern part of Benue State. The medical libraries identified to be studied are found in Zone B. This zone has all the medical libraries with their librarians in the state. These libraries include BSUTH Medical Library, BSU College of Health Sciences Medical Library, Federal Medical Centre Library, School of Nursing Library Makurdi and School of Midwifery Makurdi Medical Libraries. BSUTH Medical Library and BSU College of Health Sciences Medical Library are located along Makurdi-Gboko Road, while School of Nursing and School of Midwifery are located opposite Federal High Court Makurdi. The choice of this study in Benue State is so that the influence of Consortium building on Information resources as it affects health institutions can be ascertained in relation to healthcare delivery, research and training of healthcare professionals in Benue Community, the environs and Nigeria as a whole.

Population of the Study

The population for the study comprises 282 registered library users. This was drawn using Taro Yamane Sample Size Formula (1967). Proportionate Stratified random sampling technique was adopted in selecting the sample. By this method, Benue State University Teaching Hospital Medical Library (BSUTHML) 44 respondents, College of Health Sciences Medical Library (CHSML) 115, Federal Medical Center Medical Library (FMCML) 53, School of Nursing Makurdi (SNM) 35 and for School of Midwifery Makurdi (SMM) 35. A total of 282 users were selected from all the sampled medical libraries. Proportionate sampling was used in order to ensure that relative proportion of user in the medical libraries are involved in the study and was exactly its relative contribution in the sample.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument for data collection was a self-constructed questionnaire. The questionnaire was titled "Effect of Consortium Building on Information Resources in Medical Libraries in Benue State Questionnaire" (ECBOIRMLO) for users. It was divided into five clusters with 48 items. Section A deals with types of consortium building existing in medical libraries with 8 items and is rated categorically on two scale of existing and non-existing with 2 for existing and 1 for non-existing. Section B on Effect of CB on serial materials with 11 items and rating options of Very High Effect (VHE), High Effect (HE), Low Effect (LE) and No Effect (NE) of 4,3,2,1. . Also section C seek information on challenges militating against CB in medical libraries in Benue State with 12 items on continuous rating of SA, A, D and SD of 4,3,2,1.

Validation of the Instruments

The face and content validity of the instrument was done by three validates, one from Benue State University Teaching Hospital Medical Library, another one from Federal University of Agriculture Library Makurdi and finally, one from Educational Foundation and General Studies Department Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi. They concluded face and content validity for clarity and exactness of the instrument. This was achieved through the research objectives and questions of the study given to them to assist them in the validation. They pointed out that the suggestions raised in the questionnaire should be addressed, reworked as observed and corrections pointed be effected. After their critical examination and comments, modifications and refining of the instruments was effected. The instrument has 45 items during validation. The instrument was further reviewed by the supervisor who ascertained their exactness and suitability.

Reliability of the Instruments

In order to calculate the reliability of the instrument, the questionnaires was administered to 30 respondents of University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Nsukka in a pilot study which was not part of the study area but had characteristic that are similar to that of the study sample. Cronbach's Alpha was used to determine internal consistency of

items. Cronbach's Alpha was used because the items have varying point values that could not be dichotomously scored. The overall reliability estimate of the instruments is 0.875. Based on the value, according to Nworgu (2006) and Pallant (2007) the instrument is reliable.

Method of Data Collection

Data administration and collection was done by the researcher and two research assistants at the areas of study. The research assistant was instructed on how to go about the collection of data by the researcher. The researcher personally administer questionnaires to users in Benue State University Teaching Hospital Medical Library and College of Health Sciences Medical Library, Benue State University. While the research assistants did same in School of Nursing Makurdi (SNM) and School of Midwifery Makurdi (SMM). Data collection in the School of Nursing and Midwifery Medical Libraries in Makurdi

Data Analysis Techniques

The descriptive Statistics of percentage, frequency count, mean and standard deviations were used to answer research questions while Chi squares test of significance was used to test hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The choice of percentage rating to answer research question I one was because of two categories of variables which had two options of Yes and No, while the choice of Mean to answer research question 2 was because data collected was on rating scale. Percentage rating of 50 and above was established to be exiting while the ones below 50 was not in exiting. Benchmark of 2.50 was established to have influenced any item with a mean rating of 2.30 or above while any item with a mean rating of less than 2.50 was regarded as not having influence. This effect will be classified as thus: 2.50 – Influence, 2.51 – 3.0 as moderate influence while 3.0 – 4.0 as high influence. The decision rule for the rejection or acceptance of hypothesis was based on the set value of 0.05, where the P-value was equal or greater than the set value of 0.05 (P>0.05) the hypothesis was accepted but was rejected when the P-value was less than the set value of 0.05 (P<0.05).

Results and Discussion

This chapter deals with data presentation, analysis, interpretation and discussion of findings. The results are presented and analyzed based on the research questions raised and hypotheses formulated for the study.

Results

Research Question 1: What type of consortium building exists in medical libraries in Benue State?

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage Counts of types of Consortium building in medical libraries in Benue State.

S/N	Item	Yes	%	No	%	Decision
1	E-book Consortium	224	79.5	58	(20.5)	Existing
2	Interlibrary loan	241	85.3	41	(14.7)	Existing
3	Open Consortia	254	89.9	28	(10.1)	Existing

4	HINARI Consortium	230	81.7	52	(18.3)	Existing
5	Close Group Consortium	255	90.6	27	(9.4)	Existing
6	Nigeria University Consortium	259	91.7	23	(8.3)	Existing
7	NUNET	266	94.2	16	(5.8)	Existing
8	National Network of Libraries of Medicine	228	80.9	54	(19.1)	Existing
	Total		**86.73**		**13.28**	Existing

Table 1: reveals that all 8 items presented are existing in medical libraries with the overall yes percentage of 86.8 and no of 13.2. This shows the various types of consortium building in medical libraries in Benue State.

Research Question 2: What is the effect of consortium building on medical serial materials in medical libraries in Benue State?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of consortium building on medical serial materials in medical libraries in Benue State.

S/N	Serial	ð?	SD	Decision
1	There is availability of serial information resources Effect	2.65	.63	Moderate
2	There is medical serial to meet information need of Effect Users	2.68	.62	High
3	Make possible availability of difficult foreign serial Effect	2.65	.65	High
4	Attract deep discount of serials materials through Effect Joint pricing negotiation	2.70	.60	High
5	There is accessibility of medical serials materials Effect	2.76	.54	High
6	Use of medical serials materials anywhere in the world Effect	2.79	.51	High
7	There is presence of serial material in all formats Effect	2.88	.51	High
8	Make research more convenient Effect	2.96	.63	High
9	Reduction of storage cost Effect	3.20	.72	Very High

10	There is effective document delivery systems Effect	3.26	.73	Very High
11	There is availability of enhanced search facilities Effect	3.27	.79	Very High
	Grand Mean	**2.89**	**0.63**	**HighEffect**

Table 2 reveals that all the 11 items have mean ranges from 2.65 – 3.27 and SD 0.51 – 0.79 with a grand mean of 2.89 and S.D 0.63, this result indicates that consortium building has high influence medical serial materials in medical libraries in Benue state

Test of Research Hypothesis

Hypothesis

Consortium building does not significantly affect serial materials in medical libraries in Benue State.

Table 6: Chi-square table of consortium building on serial material in medical libraries in Benue State.

	Df	**P**	**Sig Level**	**Decision**
Chi-square	**16**			
		0.00	**0.05**	**Rejected**
No Valid Cases	**282**			
(P<0.05)				

Table 6 shows that the P-(sig), 0.00 is less than alpha value or 00 is less than alpha value of 0.05 (P<0.05) at df 16. Therefore, the null hypothesis that states that consortium building does not significantly affect serial materials in medical libraries in Benue State is rejected.

Discussion of Findings

Based on the findings of the study, below is the discussion on them:

Research questions one revealed that consortium buildings are in existence in medical libraries in Benue State with a percentage of 86.8% showing the existence of various kinds of consortium building in Benue State.

This study also asserts the opinion of Ossai (2010) who said that consortia vary widely in their type, goal structure, membership and funding.

Research question two revealed that consortium building had influence on serial health material in medical libraries in Benue State with mean of 2.89 and SD of 0.63 and buttress by the research hypothesis which shows that p-(sig), 0.00 is less than alpha-value of 0.05 (p<0.05) at df 16. This result agree with Ahmad and Suleiman (2012) whose findings reveal that consortium enriches the digital government libraries network with information sources through a sharing mechanism. This study also agree with the findings of Sheshadri (2011) who reveal that consortiums help in resource sharing and

networking which include serials as part of the resources that are being shared in medical libraries

Conclusions

Based on the results of the findings, it was concluded that there is evidence of consortium effect on medical libraries resources in that it is in existence with moderate serials materials. Although faced with challenges such as inadequacy of existing resources, lack of policies, uncooperative attitude of parent bodies, unstable budgetary allocation, Lack of trained personnel for handling new technology.

Recommendations

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

1. Individual libraries should strive to go into consortium in resources that they are lacking in to enable them to have adequate resources for their users.
2. Medical libraries should formulate policies that would encourage them to go into consortium at all times that would be cost effective and efficient service delivery.
3. Medical libraries should present a strong worded proposal to parent institutions on why they should be allowed to go into consortium in order not to be refused through budget presentation and monthly seminar meetings.
4. Medical libraries should encourage the training and retraining of her staff in ICTs so that they can handle new technology to enable them to participate in consortium easily and fully.

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