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USE OF LIBRARY INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES BY UNDERGRADUATES IN UNIVERSITIES IN NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The study investigated the use of university library recourses and services by university undergraduates in Nasarawa State. Four research questions were raised to address the aim of the study which include, identifying the resources available and services rendered, examining the extent of use of resources and services rendered. Two hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 levels of significances. The study adopted a survey research design. The sample size for the study is 385 users drawn from a population of the study. The findings of the study revealed that: The university library provides available resources; with the university library having available services; the university undergraduates satisfied the extent of resources used and the university undergraduates satisfied the extent of services rendered. The study further revealed that erratic power supply, inadequate budgetary allocation, poor maintenance culture and low internet access ranked highest among other constraints to use library resources and services. Again, university libraries are faced with little challenges ranging from inadequate funding, lack of professional staff and inter –library loan services. Finally, the study recommends that: University library management should ensure that proper library orientation is put on the priority list, especially for the first year students. alternative sources of power should be provided to ensure that there is uninterrupted power supply to facilitate learning, university should deploy personnel who would be ready to assist users; in order to foster users librarians interaction and there should be provision of adequate budgetary allocation to university libraries to enhance provision of necessary resources and services in universities in Nasarawa State.

Keyword: Library information resources, library services, research, undergraduates in universities.

Introduction

University libraries and indeed, all libraries are dynamic places where librarians help people to find the best sources of information whether it is a book, a website, or database entry. Libraries are the entities which need a systematic progression to be able to meet the growing demands of their users. In the present era, for library development, libraries are required to use the technological advancements for effective storage, processing and dissemination of information by keeping users at the center stage. Libraries exist to collect the record of human experience and to provide intellectual and physical access to that record.

Library is an information agency saddled with the responsibility of creating access to existing information resources and services for the user community. The information provided is dependent, to a large extent, on the types of library. In academic libraries, emphasis is on research, teaching, learning and community development which formed a major part of the responsibility of their parent's institution. Thus, the undergraduates are expected to read further after class instructions to collect relevant information for class assignments, seminars, term papers, dissertations, thesis and projects. The undergraduates of university libraries need information to satisfy their social and psychological needs to promote and enhance their academic pursuit during their course of study in the university. The purpose of the university libraries is to provide adequate and relevant information sources both in print and non-print formats.

Furthermore, in a library the users are the last recipient of the information in the communication cycle. The most crucial component of the library is the user. Access to relevant information is very essential particularly in universities, research and development. Right information sources to the right user can pave the way to new directions to research and progress, it is necessary to achieve this notable objective, we must understand the library user, interact with the information sources, searching pattern and information need of the client.

Statement of the Problem

Library is established to provide information resources and services to meet the users' information sources and services. The major functions of any university library are to facilitate learning and provide the basic information resources to the library users. Therefore, there is no educational programme that can achieve its objectives fully if the library is left out in the implementation of such a programme.

However, despite the significance mentioned above, libraries face enormous challenges which include poor funding, poor relationship to facilitate user information resources, inadequate provision of necessary resources, insufficient services, lack of professional training of staff and administrative lapses. Indeed,

the purpose of a library would be defeated if its users' information sources are not met with the resources and services it provides, Hence, the effort of the researcher to carefully look into the aforementioned problems with a view to finding their solutions.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to assess use of library information resources and services for research activities by Undergraduates in Universities in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Identify the library resources available in Universities in Nasarawa State
2. Identify the library services rendered in Universities in Nasarawa State
3. Determine the extent of use of library resources by undergraduate students in Universities in Nasarawa State
4. Determine the extent of services rendered to undergraduate students in Universities in Nasarawa State

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the library resources available in Universities in Nasarawa State?
2. What are the library services rendered in Universities in Nasarawa State?
3. To what extent are library resources used by undergraduate students in Universities in Nasarawa State?
4. To what extent are library services rendered to undergraduate students in Universities in Nasarawa State

Research Methodology

The design adopted for this study is survey research design. Survey research is defined as "the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions" Check and Schutt (2012). This type of research allows for a variety of methods to recruit participants, collect data, and utilize various methods of instrumentation. The Sample size for the study is 385 users drawn from a population of 9945 using Taro Yamane's formula for the sample size determination.

Data Analysis

This section deals with data presentation, analysis, interpretation, and discussion of results findings. The presentation follows the sequence of the research questions answered and research hypotheses tested

Research question one:
What are the library resources available in universities in Nasarawa State?

To answer this research question, data on what the library resources is available in universities in Nasarawa state were collected and analyzed as presented on table 1

Table 1: Library resources available in universities in Nasarawa State, Nigeria

S/No	ITEM	N	FREQUENCY		PERCENTAGE (%)		DECISION
			AV	NAV	AV	NAV	
1.	Textbooks		213	101	67.8	32.2	Available
2.	Journals		245	69	78.0	22.0	Available
3.	Students' long essays(project)		251	63	79.9	20.1	Available
4.	Theses/dissertation		219	95	69.7	30.3	Available
5.	Dictionaries		281	33	89.5	10.5	Available
6.	Internet/CD ROM/data		236	78	75.2	24.8	Available
7.	Newspaper/magazines		226	88	72.0	28.0	Available
8.	Encyclopedias		297	17	94.6	5.4	Available
9.	Government document		131	183	41.7	58.3	Not Available
10.	Atlases/map		294	20	93.6	6.4	Available
11.	Directories/ handbook		283	31	90.1	9.9	Available
12.	Audio-visual		206	108	65.6	34.4	Available
13.	Abstracts/index		220	94	70.1	29.9	Available
14.	Library staff		213	101	67.8	32.2	Available

Source Field Work 2019

Table 1 shows use of library resources in frequencies and percentages. From the table it is seen that item 1 have 213(67.8) availability and 101(32.2%) non availability; item 2 have 243(78.0%) availability and 69(22.0%) non availability;

item 3 have 251(79.9%) availability and 63(20.1%) non availability; item 4 have 219(69.7%) and 95(30.3%) non availability; item 5 have 281(89.5%) availability and 33(10.5%) non availability; item 6 have 236(75.2%) availability and 78(24.8%) non availability; item 7 have 226(72.0%) availability and 88(28.0%) non availability; item 8 have 297(94.6%) availability and 17(5.4%) non availability; item 9 have 131(41.7%) availability and 183(58.3%) non availability; item 10 have 294(93.6%) availability and 20(6.4%) non availability; item 11 have 283(90.1%) availability and 31(9.9%) non availability; item 12 have 206(65.6%) and 108(34.4%) non availability; item 13 have 220(70.1%) availability and 94(29.9%) non availability; while item 14 have 213(67.8%) availability and 101(32.2%) non availability; item From the table item 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13, and 14 are available since they have percentage availability above 50%, while item 9 are non-available since they have percentage availability below 50%.

Research Question Two

What is the library services rendered in universities in Nasarawa State?

To answer this research question, data on what the library services is rendered in universities in Nasarawa State were collected and analyzed as presented on table 2.

Table 2: Library services rendered in universities in Nasarawa State

S/No	Item	Frequency		Percentage (%)		Decision
		AV	NAV	AV	NAV	
1.	Inter –library loan services	54	260	17.2	82.8	Not Available
2.	Selection dissemination of information	180	134	57.3	42.7	Available
3.	Current awareness services	200	114	63.7	36.3	Available
4.	References services	198	116	63.1	36.9	Available
5.	Bibliographic /compilation	183	131	58.3	41.7	Available
6.	Indexing & Abstracting	267	47	85.0	15.0	Available
7.	Bindery & microfilming	225	89	71.7	28.3	Available
8.	Photocopying services	253	61	80.6	19.4	Available
9.	Scanner machines	241	73	76.8	23.2	Available
10.	Internet services	186	128	59.2	40.8	Available
11.	User education	244	70	77.7	22.3	Available
12.	Seat, reading, carrels, a nd space	225	89	71.7	28.3	Available
13.	Statistical data analysis	108	206	34.4	65.6	NotAvailable

Source Field Work 2019.

Table 2 shows uses of library services in frequencies and percentages. From the table it is seen that item 1 have 54(17.2) availability and 260(82.8%) non availability; item 2 have 180(57.3%) availability and 134(42.7%) non availability; item 3 have 200(63.7%) availability and 114 (36.3%) non availability; item 4 have 198(63.1%) and 116(36.9%) non availability; item 5 have 183(58.3%) availability and 131(41.7%) non availability; item 6 have 267(85.0%) availability and 47(15.0%) non availability; item 7 have 225(71.7%) availability and 89(28.3%) non availability; item 8 have 253(80.6%) availability and 61(19.4%) non availability; item 9 have 241(76.8%) availability and 73(23.2%) non availability; item 10 have

186(59.2%) availability and 128(40.8%) non availability; item 11 have 244(77.7%) availability and 70(22.3%) non availability; item 12 have 225(71.7%) and 89(28.3%) non availability; while item 13 have 108(34.4%) availability and 206(65.6%) non availability. From the table item 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11, and 12 are available since they have percentage availability above 50%, while items 1, and 13 are non-available since they have percentage availability below 50%.

Research Question Three:

To what extent are library resources used by undergraduates in Universities in Nasarawa State?

To answer this research question, data on what extent are library resources used by undergraduates in universities in Nasarawa State were collected and analyzed as presented on table. 3

Table 3: the extent of library resources uses by undergraduates in universities in Nasarawa State

S/No	Item	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	Textbooks	3.00	.91	Very Great Extent
2.	Journals	2.91	.85	Great Extent
3.	Newspapers/magazines	2.69	.96	Great Extent
4.	Dictionaries	3.07	.84	Very Great Extent
5.	Students' long essays (project)	2.92	.95	Great Extent
6.	Internet / CD-RAM/Data base	2.97	.85	Great Extent
7.	Directories/Handbooks	2.81	.98	Great Extent
8.	Conferences proceedings	3.00	.68	Very Great Extent
9.	Encyclopedias	2.68	.81	Great Extent
10.	Government document	2.67	.85	Great Extent
11.	Abstracts/indexes	2.93	.71	Great Extent
12.	Theses/dissertation	3.33	.72	Very Great Extent
13.	Library staff	3.08	.81	Very Great Extent
	Grand Mean	2.92	0.83	Great Extent

Source Field Work 2019

Table 3 show the means and standard deviations of the extent to which library resources are use in Nasarawa State. The table reveals the mean of item 1,2,,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11, and 13 means as 3.00, 2.91, 2.69, 3.07, 2.92, 2.97, 2.81, 3.00, 2.68, 2.67, 2.93, 3.33 and 3.08 respectively with SD as 0.91, 0.85, 0.96, 0.84, 0.95, 0.85, 0.98, 0.68, 0.81,0.85, 0.71, 0.72 and 0.81 respectively. Thus, the respondents agree with the opinion that library resources such as textbooks, journals, newspaper/magazines, dictionaries, students' long essays (project), internet / CD-RAM/Data base, Directories/Handbooks, conferences proceedings, Encyclopedias, government document, Abstracts/indexes, Theses/dissertation and Library staff are used since they have mean greater than 2.50 which is the cut-off mean. The table reveals the grand mean of the items as 2.92 and SD 0.83 thus answers the research question and show that library resource in Nasarawa State are adequately used.

Research Question Four:

To what extent library services rendered to undergraduate in Universities in Nasarawa State?

To answer this research question, data on what extent library services rendered to undergraduates in universities in Nasarawa State were collected and analyzed as presented on table. 4

Table 4: the extent of library Services rendered to undergraduates in universities in Nasarawa State

S/No	Item	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	Inter –library loan services	1.29	.57	Very Low Extent
2.	Selection Dissemination of Information	2.93	.87	Great Extent
3.	Current Awareness Services	3.04	.86	Very Great Extent
4.	References Services	2.89	.84	Great Extent
5.	Bibliographic compilation	2.79	.97	Great Extent
6.	Indexing & Abstracting	2.96	.99	Great Extent
7.	Bindery & Microfilming	1.95	.89	Very Low Extent
8.	Photocopying Services	2.99	.84	Great Extent
9.	Scanning Machines	2.92	.87	Great Extent
10.	Internet Services	2.88	.88	Great Extent
11.	User Education	3.02	.81	Very Great Extent
12.	Seat, reading, carrels, and space	3.07	.92	Very Great Extent
13.	Statistical data analysis	1.88	.55	Very Low Extent
	Grand Mean	**2.66**	**.83**	Great Extent

Source Field Work 2019

Table 4 shows the means and standard deviations of the extent to which library services are used in Nasarawa State. The table reveals the mean of item 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11, 12 and 13 means as 1.29, 2.93, 3.04, 2.89, 2.79, 2.96, 1.95, 2.99, 2.92, 2.88, 3.02, 3.07 and 1.88 respectively with SD as 0.57, 0.87, 0.86, 0.84, 0.97, 0.99, 0.89, 0.84, 0.87, 0.88, 0.81, 0.92 and 0.55 respectively. Thus, the respondents agree with the opinion that library services such as selection dissemination of information, current awareness services, references services, bibliographic compilation, indexing & abstracting, photocopying services, scanning machines, internet services, user Education and seat, reading, carrels, and space are used since they have mean greater than 2.50 which is the cut-off mean. The respondents disagree with the opinion that library services such as Inter –library loan services,

bindery & microfilming and Statistical data analysis is used since it has mean less than 2.50 which is the cut-off mean. The table reveals the grand mean of the items as 2.66 and SD 0.83 thus answers the research question and shows that library services in Nasarawa State are used in a great extent.

Summary of Major Findings of the study

Based on the findings derived from the results of the study, the following are discussed.

1. Majority of the undergraduate students revealed that the library provides available information resources which include, Textbooks, Journals, S t u d e n t s l o n g s e s s a y s , T h e s i s / d i s s e r t a t i o n , D i c t i o n a r y , Internet/CDRom/Data, Newspaper/Magazines, Encyclopedias, Government document, Atlases/handbook, Audio-visual, Abstract/index, among others in Universities in Nasarawa State.
2. The study found that, University library in Nasarawa State has available services. These include Inter-Library Loan Service, Selection Dissemination of Information, current Awareness Services, References Service, Bibliographic/Compilation, Indexing and Abstracting, Bindery and Microfilming, Photocopying Services, Scanner Machines, Internet Services, User Education and Statistical Data Analysis,
3. The extent which library resources are used by undergraduate students satisfied with different kinds of resources used in universities in Nasarawa State; these include Textbooks, Journals, Newspaper/Magazines, Dictionaries, Students' long Essays (project), internet / CD RAM/Data base, Directories/Handbooks, Conference Proceedings, Encyclopedias, Government documents, Abstracts/Indexes, Theses/Dissertations and Library Staff
4. The extent to which library services rendered to undergraduate students, findings from this study revealed that majority of university students satisfied with the high extent of services rendered in universities in Nasarawa State, which includes, Selection Dissemination of Information, Current Awareness Services, References Services, Bibliographic, Compilation, Indexing & Abstracting, Photocopying Services, Scanning Machines, Internet Services, User Education among others.

Discussion of Findings

The findings on research question 1 in Table 1 revealed that there are several Library Resources Available such as Textbooks, Journals, Students long Essays, Thesis/dissertation, Dictionary, Internet/CDRoms data, Newspaper/Magazine,

Encyclopedias, Government Document, Atlases/handbook, Audio-Visual, Abstract/index, among others in Universities in Nasarawa State. This is at agreed with the findings of Onuoha and Subair (2013) whose study revealed that undergraduates visit the library one to five times a week. This finding also opposed the study of Emokiniovo and Ogunrombi (2012) which revealed that faculty libraries are being used maximally. This finding opposed the study of Suleiman and Basakar (2015), which shown the inadequate state of library resources in the school library, Ningi.

The findings on research question 2 in Table 2 revealed that different kinds of Library Services rendered in Universities in Nasarawa State. These include Inter-library loan service, Selection dissemination of information, current awareness services, References Service, Bibliographic/compilation, indexing and abstracting, Bindery and microfilming, Photocopying services, Scanner Machines, Internet services, User Education and Statistical data analysis. On users' opinion of library services, respondents rate the services rendered of university libraries as "good". This result corroborates that of Ugah (2017) the students rate University library services as good. This agrees with Gambari (2017), who attested that Library Resources are those varieties of materials in print and non-print forms and other information bearing materials in the library. They include textbooks, periodicals, encyclopedias, dictionaries, audio-visual aids, video tapes, video disc, *CDROM,* software tools, hardware tools, with other computer networking and other communication tools.

The findings on research question 3 in Table 3 revealed that library resources such as textbooks, journals, newspaper/magazines, dictionaries, students' long essays (project), internet / CD ROM/Data base, Directories/Handbooks, conferences proceedings, Encyclopedias, government document, Abstracts/indexes, Theses/dissertation and Library staff are used. This is in line with Onuoha, Omokoje and Bamidele (2013), who attested that the library as a whole can be referred from its services provision. Harvey (2004) shares a similar opinion but add that it is the extent to which an activity fulfills its intended purpose or function. A well-stocked and efficient services library act as eyes or path finder for researchers and provide them the inspiration to venture into new areas of research.

The findings on research question 4 in Table 4 revealed that library services such as selection dissemination of information, current awareness services, references services, bibliographic compilation, indexing & abstracting, photocopying services, scanning machines, internet services, user Education and seat, reading, carrels, and space are in use in university libraries in Nasarawa State.

This is in line with Adam (2017), agreed undergraduate's students perceive that university libraries render different types of services to its users such as reference services, personal services, photocopy services, internet services.

From the fore-going discussion or results findings, it is apparent that the situation of university library resources and services in universities in Nasarawa State still leaves much to be desired. It is not in doubt that there exist considerable needs for improvements in this direction, to achieve this, library as the storehouse of information must also be properly funded to address major constraints such as erratic power supply, inter-library loan services, inadequate information and communication technologies, poor maintenance culture and low internet access.

Conclusion

On the basis of the data presentation and Analyses, it was revealed that, Undergraduate students were satisfied with high extent of library resources and services in Universities in Nasarawa State. However, there is need for improvement in the resources and services of university library. The purpose of this study is to enable the libraries to improve on their resources and services it renders to the undergraduates' students. Improved library resources and services would no doubt guarantee continuous patronage by the university undergraduate students. To achieve this, library as a scholarly workshop must be adequately funded to address major challenges such as erratic power supply, inadequate information and communication technologies, inter-library loan services, poor maintenance culture and low bandwidth of internet access.

Recommendations

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

1. University library management should ensure that proper library orientation is put on the priority list, especially for the first-year students. and there should be maintenance of that culture of the new students
2. The collections of the university libraries should integrate both print and non-print resources and there should be regular maintenance of electronic information sources and access facilities in the libraries
3. Computer rooms or ICT centers should be created in faculties and departments to ease congestion and make it easily accessible to students. This would no doubt; enable the students to have wider access to more and current electronic information resources without restriction of space and time.

4. University libraries should give more education to users on the available electronic information resources. Current awareness services, selection dissemination of information on electronic information resources should be intensified by library staff to users of the libraries.

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