LAFIA JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
Volume 5, Number 1, 2024.
https://lalibjournals.org/index.php/LJLIS
ISSN: Print - 2814-0702, Online - 2814-0710
LJLIS

INFLUENCE OF READING HABIT ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF LIBRARY USERS IN SOME POLYTECHNIC LIBRARIES IN DELTA STATE

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Abstract
The study investigated the influence of reading habit and academic achievement of library users in some selected polytechnic libraries in Delta State, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey design using questionnaire for data collection. The population of the study consists of 156 regular library users of the polytechnic libraries who were randomly picked. A total of 156 questionnaires were distributed, only 132 were retrieved with 84.6% return rate. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics mean and percentage mean score of 2.5 and above and percentage score of 50% were considered. The study revealed that the information resources read in the polytechnic libraries under study are books, journals, reference materials, and newspapers respectively. The study also shows the effects of reading habit among regular library users of library as academic advancement, recognition and awards, increase in GPA, best performing students, and academic scholarship. The challenges confronting reading habits in the polytechnic libraries under review were obsolete books in the library, poor infrastructures, social life, lack of interest and lack of faith in education. The study recommends that the federal government should make good budgetary provision for polytechnic libraries in order to acquire recent books and other reading materials to encourage reading habits and the institutions should organize orientation on the importance of reading habit as it spurs them to academic achievement.
Keywords: Reading habit, Academic achievement, Library user, Polytechnic libraries

Introduction

The library is the heart of the Polytechnic as it is responsible for the management of resources such as books, journals, electronic materials necessary for academic pursuit. The primary purpose of polytechnic libraries is to assist parent institutions' teaching, learning, and research initiatives. Additionally, students can enroll in full-time and part- time courses of instruction and training in technology, applied science, business and management, and other disciplines of applied learning pertinent to Nigeria's development requirements through the polytechnic libraries. The library is a vibrant location with a wide range of activities for library users and also serves as a portal to information for library users.

The users of these libraries are students and lecturers of the polytechnic. Library users utilized the library by providing free access to relevant materials that will boast their academic pursuit. The Polytechnic libraries help keep the users informed with facts, rather than confused with fiction. This is why the commitment of the other parts of the library to providing top-notch services to users is always reflected in the mission statement of each library. As a result, a library is considered productive when its users are happy. According to Bashir, and Mattoo, (2012), a library users is anyone who utilizes the library, daily, weekly, monthly, yearly with the intention of using its resources to meet his information needs is considered a library user. Dhiman, and Kumar, (2019), defined the term user to everyone who uses the library often and occasionally for academic advancement. This could include clients, information users, information seekers, consumers, readers, etc. are just a few of the words that fall under this umbrella. All of these phrases refer to people who are using a library; therefore they may all be used interchangeably. The circulation librarians keep records of library users who regularly used the library to read and study on a daily basis for proper documentation purpose.

According to Smith and Robinson (2018), reading entails the reader actively trying to decipher the writer's intended meaning by analysis, reasoning, thinking, envisioning, and judgment. Also, Toit (2001), reading is a process of thinking, remembering, and linking concepts while being aided by written words. In addition, Adetunji's (2007), understanding what is seen in the text refers to the reader's capacity to take in information without further processing and derive meaning from it. Reading habits are calculated as how much a person read how often they read, when they read and what do with what they read. Reading may be summed up as a habit that incorporates written materials, electronic content, and books. Each item has a varied potential to influence readers' reading habits. An individual's intellectual and emotional development is impacted by reading. Those who read proficiently stand a greater possibility of expanding their mental boundaries and by enhancing their academic achievement.

Academic achievement refers to the outcomes in the classroom that show how well a student has met their learning objectives. Achieving scholastic milestones like a bachelor's degree can be viewed as academic achievement. Academic achievement is usually evaluated through exams or continual assessments. Kell, Lubinski, and Benbow (2013) asserted that academic performance is the most significant outcome of formal educational experiences. According to Onuoah (2013), there is a link between the presence of libraries and the general learning outcomes of library users. He claimed that students and users who frequently utilized the library performed better on tests than those who did not. It is in the light of the above that this topic the influence of reading habit and academic achievement of library users in some selected polytechnic libraries in Delta State, Nigeria is imperative.

Statement of the Problem

The polytechnic library is a potent educational force that aids each undergraduate student in meeting obligations and pursuing personal growth. Polytechnic libraries provide services that aid postsecondary institutions in achieving their goals of providing education and the workforce needed for a country's growth. Among the academic libraries that make significant contributions to Nigeria's growth are polytechnic libraries. The library's users, which include students, instructors, and staff, utilize it frequently and form reading habits that have an impact on their academic achievement. Reading helps readers in an academic setting becomes more knowledgeable and wise. It improves a person's social, spiritual, and economic position and aids in students' retention of material. When a student's comprehension increases, excellent reading habits are showing their benefits.

It has been observed by the researcher that a good numbers of studies on the influence of reading habit and academic achievement of library users have been conducted, but no study has been carried out on the influence of reading habit and academic achievement of library users, with a particular reference to some polytechnic libraries in Delta State. This study is therefore carried out to unravel the influence of reading habit and academic achievement of library users in Delta State.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine the influence of reading habit and academic achievement of library users in some Polytechnic libraries in Delta State,the specific objectives are:

1. To examine the types of information resources mostly read in the library by library users in some selected polytechnic libraries in Delta State
2. To examine the effect of reading habits on the academic achievements of library users in some selected polytechnic libraries in Delta State
3. To find out the challenges affecting reading habit of library users in some selected polytechnic libraries in Delta State

Literature Review

In order to establish a firm framework for the study, the researcher critically analysed literature done on the following area: Polytechnic libraries, library users, reading habit and academic achievement

Polytechnic Libraries

Polytechnic libraries play pivotal roles in the sustenance and advancement of the academic activities of their parent institutions. Through their services, they fill the gap between the massive information resources accessible in many fields. Polytechnic libraries are collections of knowledge and learning materials that have been purposefully gathered, conserved, and made accessible for use by members of institutions. They are the

only group at the polytechnic capable of imparting all information to its students (Ogbodo, 2011). By meeting the varied information needs of the students and faculty at polytechnics, polytechnic libraries promote and enhance polytechnic education. Training skilled professionals who will serve as the human race's labor force is the primary goal of polytechnic education (Abdulsalami & Salami, 2013). The services provided by polytechnic libraries are therefore adapted to the requirements of their clienteles, which includes students, professors, technicians, and administrative employees of the schools.

According to Omekwu and Eruvwe (2014), the services provided by polytechnic libraries continue to expand to include the purchase of books and other media, reference services, serials control, cataloguing and categorization, and finally making them accessible to information searchers. By choosing and collecting information resources in accordance with their collection development policies, polytechnic libraries make sure of this. Unquestionably, polytechnic libraries continue to be an integral element of the infrastructure of these schools, providing the necessary knowledge to support and further their intellectual pursuits. According to Ita (2017), the polytechnic library's goals are inextricably linked to those of its parent institution because it is only one of the polytechnic's units.

The academic programs at polytechnics are held together by the libraries at such institutions. A lively polytechnic library system, according to Todd et al. (2012), serves as a cost-effective and significant tool that enables students to develop as reflective learners capable of locating, evaluating, and gaining knowledge from material presented in a variety of media. An efficient polytechnic library, according to Kachel (2013), should contain a librarian, current reading resources, and information technology tools to assist reading and literacy abilities.

Library Users

A user, according to Whittaker (2009), is someone who utilizes one or more library services at least once per year. Users are people who can be categorized into several groups based on the duties that are allocated to them in a library organization. The services that libraries offer to its users in order to meet their informational requirements are referred to as library and information services. Numerous libraries claim that user's surveys have helped to advance library services throughout time. (2002 Hitchingham & Kenney). According to Sewa (2011), an information service user is someone who gains a quantifiable benefit from it. It is essential that polytechnic libraries are accessible for usage. To satisfy their information demands, the library should always be accessible to their users. When there is a strike, accessing the academic library is one of the biggest obstacles.

Groupings of library users have existed historically. They were divided as general readers, topic readers, special readers, and non-readers by Whitakers (2009). Aina (2004) further divided users into categories including children, school children, students, adults,

professionals, researchers, policymakers, craftsmen, the hearing and visually impaired, and the physically challenged. Whatever you use the library for; the library is fundamentally being used for information-related purposes. According to Aina (2004), the most crucial knowledge is that which can help the person overcome uncertainties or difficulties or assist in making wise judgments. It is crucial to note right away how much high-quality material is available to library users in the twenty-first century. However, a big part of accessibility is the user's duty.

Reading Habit

Reading is a fundamental tool of education and the art of comprehending written and printed words. A healthy reading habit is a major tool for the growth of personalities and learning ability. The study by Eluwole, Shorunke, and Makinde (2017) offers insightful data on undergraduates' reading preferences and library usage at a private institution in Nigeria. The study found that reading habits had a positive effect on respondents' usage of libraries and that undergraduate students read relatively little. The reading habits of English major students at Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan, were evaluated by Dorji (2020). He arrived to the conclusion that compared to male students, who read more for academic goals, female students read more for pleasure. Sadly, informal interviews revealed that individuals who were reading for scholastic objectives simply read the prescribed texts. It has also been demonstrated that pupils who spend too much time on social media don't read enough. He also suggested that tutors use innovative techniques in a concerted attempt to encourage their students to read. Tutors might undoubtedly play a significant role in inspiring and motivating students to form a habit of reading.

Reddy and Narayana (2018) investigated the college students at Hyderabad's RRS College of Engineering and Technology's newspaper reading habits. They went on to say that newspapers are in charge of influencing college students' reading habits. Alvi (2016) performed a survey to learn more about Delhi Public Library's patrons' reading preferences. Analyzing the data demonstrates that a sizable population still frequents public libraries, despite the fact that technology has mostly taken over peoples' free time in the digital age. They still have good reading habits and a favorable attitude about reading, though. The authors also discovered that men visit libraries more frequently than women, and that working-class and college students use libraries more frequently since they can find the knowledge they need there. Teenagers, stay-at-home moms, and elderly or retired folks all like reading at the library.

Malipatil (2021) focuses on how Karnataka's public libraries may help foster reading habits in kids at the elementary school level and how technology can be used to make reading more enjoyable. In addition, the author made the suggestion that citizens, especially kids, should be encouraged to read. Samsuddin and Aspura (2021) looked at students' reading habits and attitudes in a Malaysian research university library. The

authors discovered alterations in the habits, viewpoints, and reading material preferences of academic library patrons. The reading habits of University of Jammu, Jammu faculty members, postgraduate students, and research researchers who utilize the library were evaluated by Dhiman and Kumar (2019). They showed how avid readers once were at the University of Jammu library. According to this report, 69.2% of postgraduate students utilize libraries to prepare for examinations. Faculty personnel (52.2%) and research scholars (70.9%) are the two groups who use libraries the most. According to Owusu-Acheaw's (2014) study of the reading preferences of Koforidua Polytechnic students in Nebraska, 62% of the 1000 students chose to read their lecture notes when they went to the library. 25% of them, as opposed to 62% of the students, prefer to study textbooks at the library. As for the remaining 3% and 10%, they are more inclined to read books and other library resources. According to the aforementioned figures, the majority of students like academic reading materials notes, particularly when they are in the library. This is one of the factors contributing to their strong academic success. They choose to use their free time to concentrate on and advance their academic achievement.

Academic Achievement

Academic achievement represents performance outcomes that indicate the extent to which a person has accomplished specific goals. Academic achievement refers to the amount of information a person has learned in school (Bashir & Mattoo, 2012).Singh (2011) looked at higher secondary pupils' academic performance and study techniques. One hundred (100) individuals from two higher secondary schools were randomly selected for the study. According to the findings, there are considerable differences between males and girls' study habits and academic performance. The study methods and academic achievement of pupils from both scheduled caste groups and unscheduled caste groups were examined by Bhan and Gupta (2010), on the other hand, the findings showed that sex had no discernible influence on students' study habits or academic achievement.

The amount to which students succeed academically is heavily influenced by their reading habits. Academic achievement and reading are tied to and rely upon one another. Students from various backgrounds and locations frequently have varying degrees of intellectual success. The optimum time to develop a reading habit is in school when one is still young and impressionable, but once established, it may last a lifetime (Green, 2001). Reading and academic achievement are crucial for researchers and educators to understand that each child, regardless of whether he or she is gifted, average, normal, or backward, etc., should be educated in his or her own way. However, if a child has good study habits, he or she can perform well in academics and in any situation.

A case study of Rajshahi University was used in an investigation by Akanda, Hoq, and Hasan (2013) on the reading preferences of students in the social sciences and arts. 260

30.38% of students use the Internet to send and receive emails, followed by 28.85% for research, 12.69% for downloading significant documents, and 9.62% for reading online journals. According to the study's findings, reading and learning both contribute to academic achievement. Additionally, reading habits and academic achievement were found to have a substantial favourable link by Horbec (2012) and Singh (2011). Through quantitative measurements, Tahamtani et al. (2017) and Naqvi et al. (2018) reported a slight negative relationship between achievement and reading habit that was challenged by Gormley et al. (2018), who discovered a strong positive relationship between reading habit and achievement.

Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey design using questionnaire for data collection. The population of the study consists of 156 regular users of the polytechnic libraries who were randomly picked. The breakdown of the population of the study includes: Oghara Polytechnic library users 56, Ogwashi-Uku Poplytechnic is 61 users, while Marine Polytechnic Burutu is 39 users respectively. A total of the 156 questionnaires were distributed, only 132 were retrieved, which represent 84.6% return rate. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics mean and percentage mean score of 2.5 and above and percentage score of 50% were considered.

Table 1: Population of the Study

S/N	Institutions	Number of library users
1	OgharaPolyechnic library	56
2	Ogwashi-Uku poplytechnic library	61
3	Marine Polytechnic Burutu	39
	Total	**156**

The table 1 shows the population of the study. Oghara polytechnic library has 56 regular users of the library followed by Ogwashi-Uku who has 61users respectively. The newly created Marine polytechnic Bomadi has 39 regular users. This information is gotten from the circulation unit of the libraries under study who are in charge of statistics taking in May 2023.

Table 2: Data Analysis and Presentations
Information resources mostly read in the library-by library users

S/N	Items Statement	A	SA	D	SD	X
1	Books	34	52	23	23	2.7
2	Journals	65	41	21	5	3.2
3	Reference materials	23	44	45	20	2.5
4	Newspapers	49	42	19	22	2.8
5	Institutional repository materials	21	23	43	45	2.1

From table 2, it shows that the library users consulted the following information resources in the polytechnic libraries under study: books (2.7), journals (3.2), reference materials (2.5), newspapers (2.8), and institutional repositories (2.1). The implication of these results is that regular library users in the polytechnic libraries under study consults all other materials except institutional repository as indicated in the findings.

Table 3: The effect of reading habits on the academic achievements of library users

S/N	Items Statement	A	SA	D	SD	X
1	Academic advancement	56	45	23	8	3.1
2	Recognition and awards	66	43	19	4	3.2
3	Increase in GPA	58	56	16	2	3.2
4	Best performing student	54	53	21	4	3.1
5	Academic sponsorship	61	54	10	7	3.2

Table 3 shows the effects of reading habit among regular library users of the library, thus academic advancement (3.1), recognition and awards (3.2), increase in GPA (3.2), best performing students (3.1), and academic sponsorship (3.2) respectively. One can infer from the results that the effects of reading habits on academic achievement of library users drastically spur them to a greater height.

Table 4: Challenges affecting reading habit of library users

S/N	Items Statement	A	SA	D	SD	X
1	Obsolete books in the library	56	58	10	8	3.2
2	Poor infrastructures	67	54	9	2	3.4
3	Social life	49	51	25	7	3.0
4	Lack of interest	50	54	23	5	3.1
5	Lack faith in education	45	45	29	13	2.9

Table 4 shows the challenges affecting reading habit of library users in the following ways: obsolete books in the library (3.2), poor infrastructures (3.4), social life (3.0) lack of interest (3.1) and lack of faith in education (2.9) respectively. One can deduce from the findings that the challenges affecting reading habits of library users are enormous.

Discussion of Results

The title is on the influence of reading habit and academic achievement of library users in some Polytechnic libraries in Delta State. The importance of reading habit among library users was discussed exhaustively, and how reading habits influences academic achievement was equally deduced from the study. Three research questions were formulated to guide the study. The results revealed that the information resources read in the polytechnic libraries under study are books, journals reference materials, and newspapers respectively. The study also shown the effects of reading habit among regular library users of the library as academic advancement, recognition and awards, increase in GPA, best performing students, and academic sponsorship. The challenges confronting reading habits in the polytechnic libraries were also spelt out as obsolete books in the library, poor infrastructures, social life, lack of interest and lack of faith in education.

Recommendations

The study recommends thus:

1. The federal government should make good budgetary provision for polytechnic libraries in order to acquire recent books and other library materials to encourage reading habits.
2. The institutions should organize orientation on the importance of reading habit as it spurs them to academic achievement.

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