An Empirical Study of Information Resources Indices on Undergraduates Utilization of Library Collections in Nigeria Universities

Luqman Ayanlola Atanda [1,*]
Grace Effiong Etukudo [2]
Victoria Adeola Olukayode [3]
Ajibola Sunmade Gbotosho [4]

_____

[1, 3, 4] Osun State University Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria.
[2] Abia State University, Uturu, Abia State, Nigeria.
[2] Email: graceetukudo6@gmail.com
[3] Email: adeolakunle@yahoo.com
[4] Email: ajibola.gbotosho@uniosun.edu.ng
* Corresponding Author Address: luqman.atanda@uniosun.edu.ng

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES INDICES ON UNDERGRADUATES UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS IN NIGERIA UNIVERSITIES

Abstract:

This study investigated the relationship between information resources indices and undergraduate utilization of library collections in Nigeria Universities. Five objectives and five hypotheses were formulated. Survey research design was adopted. Cluster sampling technique was used in the study and the university used for the study was Osun State University and Federal University Otuoke. The total population used was 297, 159 registered library users from Osun State University and 138 registered library users form the Federal University Otuoke. A fourty items questionnaire developed by the researcher. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient (PPMC) were used to analyse the generated data for the study. The findings of the study indicated that there is a significant relationship between information resources indices and undergraduates utilization of library collections in the university libraries of Osun State University and the Federal University Otuoke. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that library resources should be regularly updated as current resources would enhance users utilization of information resources and librarians should endeavour to acquire relevant library collections that are highly demanded by the users of the university libraries. Sequel to the findings of the study, it was concluded that library users can only derive maximum satisfaction from their utilization of quality library resources that are relevant to their information searches.

Keywords: *information resources indices, undergraduates, utilization, library collections, universities, Nigeria*.

دراسة تجريبية لمؤشرات موارد المعلومات على استخدام طلاب البكالوريوس لمجموعات المكتبات في الجامعات النيجيرية

لقمان أيانلولا أتاندا [*،1]

غريس إفيونغ إيتوكودو [2]

فكتوريا أديولا أولوكايود [3]

أجيبولا صنمادي جبوتشو [4]

الملخـص:

هذه الدراسة بحثت في العلاقة بين مؤشرات موارد المعلومات واستخدام الطلاب الجامعيين لمجموعات المكتبات في الجامعات النيجيرية. تم صياغة خمسة أهداف وخمسة فرضيات. تم اعتماد تصميم البحث الاستقصائي. تم استخدام تقنية العينة العنقودية في الدراسة، والجامعتان المستخدمتان في الدراسة هما جامعة ولاية أوسون وجامعة أوتوكي الفيدرالية. كان إجمالي عدد السكان المستخدمين هو 297، 159 مستخدماً مسجلاً في مكتبة جامعة ولاية أوسون و138 مستخدماً مسجلاً في مكتبة الجامعة الفيدرالية أوتوكي. استبيان مكون من أربعين بنداً تم تطويره من قبل الباحث. تم استخدام معامل ارتباط بيرسون لحظي (PPMC) لتحليل البيانات التي تم جمعها للدراسة. أشارت نتائج الدراسة إلى وجود علاقة كبيرة بين مؤشرات موارد المعلومات واستخدام الطلاب الجامعيين لمجموعات المكتبات في مكتبات جامعة ولاية أوسون وجامعة أوتوك. استناداً إلى النتائج، أوصى من بين أمور أخرى بأن يتم تحديث موارد المكتبة بانتظام حيث ستعزز الموارد الحالية استخدام المستخدمين لموارد المعلومات، ويجب على أمناء المكتبات السعي للحصول على مجموعات مكتبية ذات صلة يطلبها مستخدمو المكتبات الجامعية بشكل كبير. استناداً إلى نتائج الدراسة، تم الاستنتاج أن مستخدمي المكتبة يمكنهم فقط تحقيق أقصى درجات الرضا من استخدامهم لموارد المكتبة عالية الجودة التي تتعلق ببحثهم عن المعلومات.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مؤشرات موارد المعلومات، الطلاب الجامعيون، الاستخدام، مجموعات المكتبات، الجامعات، نيجيريا.

(1) مكتبة الجامعة - جامعة ولاية أوسون أوشو، ولاية أوسون، نيجيريا.

(2) جامعة ولاية أبيا، أوتورو، ولاية أبيا، نيجيريا.

(3) مكتبة الجامعة - جامعة ولاية أوسون أوشو، ولاية أوسون، نيجيريا.

(4) مكتبة الجامعة - جامعة ولاية أوسون أوشوغبو، ولاية أوسون، نيجيريا.

* عنوان المراسلة: luqman.atanda@uniosun.edu.ng

Introduction:

In the academic community, libraries are vital not only to continuing education and self-development but also to research activities. They are indispensable as they serve as the central hub for all teaching, learning, and research activities within a university. The fact that academic libraries occupy a paramount place in the life of their parent institutions has widely been discussed in much library literature. Libraries in universities are established to help in achieving their primary objectives. Ugah (2011) is also of the opinion that quality in the content of a library is often treated as the quality of service, and the quality of service, which also affects the effectiveness of the library, is important for each library to survive. [10]

Utilizing library collections involves making use of these resources. A library user or patron is someone who uses library materials for their benefit. Barfi (2017) defined a user as "a person who uses one or more of library services at least once a year." [1] Administratively, we can divide library users in universities into internal and external users. The internal users consist of undergraduates, postgraduates, academic staff, research fellows, and other members of the tertiary institutions, while the external users are those who are not members of the institution but are also served by the libraries under certain specific official arrangements (George, 2010). [2]

Academic libraries are mostly made up of subject readers who concentrate their use of library materials on areas of specialty. Students belong to these subgroups of the subject's readers. Subject specialists or academic staff are also included in these subgroups, with students constituting a significant portion of the users of academic libraries. The functions of any academic library are summarised in the promotion of teaching, learning, and research (Magrate 2011). [5] Anything on the contrary renders the institution impotent in achieving its mission (McCaghy & Cary, 2012).[6] Academic libraries are therefore important because they are storehouses of information or records of human experience to which students, academic staff, and researchers can utilise, thereby quenching their information thirst. By offering instruction in the use of library and bibliographical resources, the library participates in the transition of knowledge (Ochai, 2011). [8]

The objective of this study is to determine the relationship between information resource indices and the undergraduate utilization of library collections in Nigeria.

Methodology:

The study employed a descriptive survey design. The population for this study comprised 297 undergraduates of the federal university Otuoke and Osun State University. Cluster sampling technique was used in selecting undergraduates registered as library users from both universities. The entire population of 297 was used as the sample size for the study. The instrument for data collection was developed into 40 structured items.

The researcher retrieved the completed copies of the questionnaire for scoring. However, out of the 297 copies of the instrument distributed, only 295 returned properly completed, hence there was a 98.5% return rate. Product Moment The correlation coefficient was used in testing the hypotheses formulated for the study. The correlation coefficient was calculated and tested at the 0.05 level of significance. The degree of relationship between the two variables determines the magnitude of the correlation coefficient between them, and correlation ranges from +1.00 to -1.00.

Decision Rule:
The calculated r-value was compared with critical R-value to test the stated null-hypotheses. If the calculated r-value is greater than the critical r-value, the null hypothesis is rejected and vice-versa. On the other hand, if the calculated r-value is less than or equal to the critical r-value, the null hypothesis accepted.

Results:
Table 1
There is no significant relationship between availability and undergraduates' utilization of library collections in Osun State University and Federal University Otuoke libraries.

Pearson product moment correlation analysis of relationship between availability and utilization of library collection
N=295

Variables	X Y	X^2 Y^2	Xy Y	r-cal
Availability X	2016	4262	25979	
				.817*
Utilization Y	6375	170062		

*Significant at .05 alpha level, degree of freedom (df) = 293, critical = 139

Data analysis indicates a greater computed r-value of (.817) as against the critical r-value of (.139) at degree of freedom (df) of 293 and .05 level of significant. Therefore a significant relationship exist between availability and undergraduates utilization of library collections.

Table 2
There is no significant relationship between currency and undergraduates utilization of library collections in Osun State University and Federal University Otuoke libraries.
Pearson product moment correlation analysis of relationship between currency and utilization of library collection.

N = 295

Variables	X	X²	Xy	r-cal
	Y	Y²	Y	
Availability (X)	2591	32855	65715	
				.547*
Utilization (Y)	6375	170062		

*Significant at .05 alpha level, degree of freedom (df) = 293, critical = 139

Data analysis shows a greater computed r-value of (.547) as against the critical r-value of (.193) at degree of freedom (df) of 293 and .05 level of significant. Therefore a significant relationship exist between currency and undergraduates utilization of library collections.

Table 3

There is no significant relationship between relevance and undergraduates utilization of library collections in Osun State University and Federal University Otuoke libraries.

Pearson product moment correlation analysis of relationship between relevance and utilization of library collection.

N=295

Variables	X Y	X² Y²	Xy Y	r-cal
Availability X	1049	4257	25883	
				.768*
Utilization Y	6375	170062		

*Significant at .05 alpha level, degree of freedom (df) = 293, critical = 139

Data analysis shows a greater computed r-value of (.786) as against the critical r-value of (.139) at degree of freedom (df) of 293 and .05 levels of significant. Therefore a significant relationship exist between relevance and undergraduates utilization of library collections.

Table 4

There is no significant relationship between scope and undergraduates utilization of library collections in Osun State University and Federal University Otuoke libraries.

Pearson product moment correlation analysis of relationship between scope and utilization of library collection.

N = 295

Variables	X	X²	Xy	r-cal
	Y	Y²	Y	
Availability (X)	3317	41253	77258	
				.573*
Utilization (Y)	6375	170062		

* Significant at .05 alpha level, degree of freedom (df) = 293, critical = 139

Data analysis indicates a greater computed r-value of (.573) as against the critical value of (.139) at degree of freedom (df) of 293 and .05 levels of significant. Therefore a significant relationship exist between scope and undergraduates utilization of library collections.

Table 5

There is no significant relationship between accessibility and undergraduates utilization of library collections in Osun State University and Federal University Otuoke libraries.

Pearson product moment correlation analysis of relationship between accessibility and utilization of library collection

N=295

Variables	X	X2	Xy	r-cal
	Y	Y2	Y	
Accessibility (X)	1148	4445	24978	
				.817*
Utilization (Y)	6375	170062		

*Significant at .05 alpha level, degree of freedom (df) = 293, critical = 139

Data analysis indicates a greater computed r-value of (.670) as against the critical value of (.139) at degree of freedom (df) of 293 and .05 level of significant. Therefore a significant relationship exists between accessibility and undergraduates utilization of library collections.

Discussion of Findings:

The study's specific objectives inform the discussion of its findings.

The study reveals a significant relationship between the availability of information resources and the utilisation of library collections among undergraduates. The study's findings align with Lee and Pow's (1996) assertion that information quality, including availability, accuracy, precision, reliability, currency, and completeness, influences user satisfaction. [4] Therefore, it follows from the above premise that using the library collections available in university libraries enhances user satisfaction.

Regarding the relationship between currency and undergraduates' use of library collections, the results showed a significant correlation. This implies that university libraries should regularly update their library collections by adding newer information resources, and they should do this adequately to ensure the continuous satisfaction of their clientele. This result aligns with Raganathan's (1988) observation that a lack of currency in information resources led to user dissatisfaction and fewer users, ultimately affecting output. Therefore, it's crucial to emphasise that the currency of information resources plays a crucial role in fostering and maintaining library user satisfaction. [9]

With regard to the relationship between relevance and undergraduates utilisation of library collections, the result indicated a significant relationship between relevance and undergraduates utilisation of library cThe findings align with the findings of Xishi & Peter's (2004) study on the satisfaction information process in library users, where they confirmed that quality factors such as relevance, currency, precision, and accuracy of information resources enhance performance outcomes. collections. [11] The effectiveness of communication depended on the quality or relevance of the informatBy implication, users are likely to consult library collections that can provide them with relevant information. This implies that users of library collections will be satisfied if the resources they find in the library meet their immediate information needs.ing and need.

Furthermore, the relationship between scope and undergraduates' utilization utilisation collections is also examined. The results indicate a significant correlation between the scope and undergraduates' utilization and utilisation collections. ollections. Kumar, Hussain, and Singh (2008) state that it specifies the scope of the collection, authority for selection, criteria for allocation of funds and for selection of various types of materials, priorities in selection, and criteria for weeding. [3]

Nevertheless, with regard to the relationship between accessibility and undergraduates utilisation of library collections. The result shows a significant relationship between accessibility and undergraduates utilisation of library cNeelameegham (1981) agrees with the above premise, identifying accessibility as a key requirement for library usage. The greater the accessibility of library collections, the higher the probability of their utilization. be utilized. [7]
Users are interested in information resources that are useful to them and can be accessed whenever they are available.

Conclusion

This study concludes that an empirical analysis of information resource indices significantly influences undergraduates' use of these collections. Undergraduates derive maximum satisfaction from current library collections that span a wide range of subject areas and are easily accessible. This finding suggests that users can only derive maximum satisfaction from using library collections that are relevant to their information needs.

References

Barfi, F. A. (Ed.). (2017). *Manual for Nigerian school libraries.* Ibadan: Abadina Media Resource Centre, University of Ibadan.

George, M. (2010). Libraries: Agents of academic development. Lecture delivered at the 14th convocation ceremony of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

Kumar, K., Hussain, A., & Singh, N. A. (2008). Survey of collection development practices in technical institutes in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India. *Library Philosophy and Practice.*

Lee, E. E., & Pow, S. E. (2002). The integration of information satisfaction and utilization of resources to library services. *A Journal of Library and Information Science, 5*(2), 31-42.

Magrate, H. (2011). Utilization of services by the students of the Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto. (Unpublished M.L.S. thesis). Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria.

McCaghy, D., & Cary, R. P. (2012). The effect of financial stringency on a Nigerian university library system: A case study of the Ahmadu Bello University Libraries. (Unpublished M.L.S. thesis). University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Neelamegham, A. (1981). Some issues in information transfer: A third world perspective. *International Federation of Library Association Journal, 7*(1), 9-13.

Ochai, A. (2011). Library building standards. Paper presented at the Nigerian Teachers Institute, Kaduna.

Ranganathan, S. R. (1998). *Library manual for library authorities: Librarian and library worker.* Bangalore: Guilford Publication.

Ugah, A. D. (2008). Availability and accessibility of information sources and the use of library services at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture.

Xishi, P., & Peter, J. (2004). Satisfaction formation processes in library users: Understanding multi-science effects. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship, 30*(2), 122-124.