

Availability and Accessibility of Information Resources by the University Students in Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Southwest, Nigeria

Adepoju Eunice Olayinka PhD

Department of Vocational and Technical Education,
Faculty of Education, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The study examined the availability and accessibility of information resources by the students in Ekiti State University Library. The purpose of the study is to determine the various types of information resources available, the various forms of information resources and to find out the extent in which the library improve on the accessibility and availability of information resources to its users. Descriptive survey research design was adopted in this study. Questionnaire was employed for this study. The population consisted of all the students of Ekiti State University which include both male and female students from 100 to 500 levels. The sample of the study consisted of 180 students from all the nine (9) Faculties in Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State from the total population of 1,500 students who were regular library users. The data collected were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Based on the findings of this study some recommendations were made that the library must sustain and maintain the current level of the information resources available in the library. Library orientation should be organized on the importance of using the library and mostly how to access the available materials. The library authority should be given more attention as certain percentage should be allocated for the library development to enable the students to access the needed resources. The study concluded that effectiveness of any library depends on the full availability and accessibility of the information resources. Therefore, proper steps for availability and accessibility of the information resources should be the focal point of the library management and staff in order to meet the demand of the users at the right time.

KEYWORDS: Availability, information, accessibility, library, information resources and undergraduate

INTRODUCTION

The word "information" refers to data or a collection of academic ideas. It could also be defined as the result of processed, manipulated and organized data in a way that adds to the knowledge of the receiver. Information therefore, is an essential ingredient in all human endeavor and human survival in any society. Information today is a commodity, package and sold at obtainable price. It is regarded as vital source that must be made to achieve organization goals, objectives and management option in survival technique.

Information seeking is a process in which humans purposefully employ to change their state of knowledge. Information seeking patterns on the other hand refers to attitude demonstrated in a search for ideas that make for academic and human development. Information seeking behaviour is generally used as the attitude exhibited in a search for ideas that make for academic and human development. The term pattern is similarly used as the behavioural manifestation of humans involved in information seeking. Information pattern is a basic activity indulged in by a person and manifested through a particular behaviour. It is also an aspect of scholarly work of most

interest to academic librarians who endeavor to develop collections, services, and organizational structures that facilitate information seeking (Wiberley, 2015). There are problems involved in information seeking especially by students. It is noted that university students encounter barriers like library anxiety, inability to search for needed resources. User's perceptions of the library and its programmes also act as an intervening variable to information utilization in the library. Taylor (1990) noted that after interacting with the information sources in a library what a user actually needs may not tally with what is practically available, due to constraints either within the stock or due to the users own inability to retrieve the needed materials.

Wiklund (2014) posited that the academic community is a stratified social structure built on competition and a need to be acknowledged. Therefore, the academic library should try as much as possible to live up to expectation by making available all the information resources both print and non print that ought to be in the library for the maximum utilization by the library users. Utilisation is one of the

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criteria, which could be used to determine the reason for retaining a document within the collection of a library; and use is essential in guiding the collection development effort of a library. The use of a library can be obtained from the demand of its items. The library tries to meet the needs of its users who may not be satisfied with the output they are getting from the system. The package or item provided to the user may not satisfy these needs. All these are problems that could possibly emanate from the use of a library with the aim to address them. Libraries should be designed to serve actual need as well as anticipation to meet these actual needs. Librarians must be technically and professionally trained.

The main goal and objective of the library is to ensure that the library clients utilize and maximize the exposure of the users to the library resources. According to Ray (2014) remarks that the library should be organized and utilize by users to access the needed information as soon as possible when the need arises. Libraries should be involved in the provision of all kinds of information resources for the use of their client because they play a vital role in transmission of knowledge that could be impacted. It is also a way of providing the users with a total information environment with the development of science and technology. The record of man's achievement come in a wide varieties of forms each equally varied, each capable of giving information in its own unique way and even complementing the other. Normally, it is information that the library client look for and not the library building.

Information resource availability includes stocking the library shelf with current, adequate and relevant information materials for users' satisfaction. Among others, one of the most important obligations to any library is making needed information available for use. According to Nwachukwu, (2014) opines that information resource availability in any library can explain the need for it and why such library is important. In other words, the absence of relevant and up-to-date materials will undermine the existence of any academic library. Furthermore, they described information resources availability as the existence of books, serials and journals publications, electronic source documents in the library. In an effort to ensure availability of the resources the library should provide adequate, current and relevant information resources that cut across all users' discipline. This will support and help realise the goals of the parent institution. According to Awana (2018) posited that academic libraries must ensure they acquire and make available relevant information resources to users, this will help develop the library's collection and enhance user satisfaction. The effectiveness of any library is a function of the quality of services rendered, that is, how available and accessible information resources are to users. Therefore, proper organisation of available information resources will no doubt ensure its accessibility and utilization by users and thereby ensuring user's satisfaction. The idea of librarianship in the twenty first century has laid more emphasis on the provision of effective information retrieval strategies to meet the growing demand for easy accessibility to information resources by users.

According to Popoola (2016) views the library as a service organisation responsible for organising information resources in such a way that permits access to users and also turning passive users into committed users. Today's libraries should not just be a store house of information

materials and their preservation but it should devise means by which the content of such materials can be rapidly and effectively be disseminated for use. This was the thought of Adomi (2013) in his study where he posits that today; there is more to libraries than being mere shelves with books. Libraries are increasingly providing access to a vast amount of electronic resources such as CD-ROMs as well as online services. Accessibility is very important, because the relevant and available information resources have been an issue of concern coupled with the increasing rate of literature explosion leading to an abundance of scholarly research materials present on the internet. A library can be stocked with relevant information materials but the absence of effective information retrieval mechanism could render them inaccessible.

Often times, users' find this phenomenon frustrating whenever they visit the library; knowing that what they require is within the holdings of the library but having difficulties in accessing them. The above statement is true because there is trending effort by academic libraries worldwide towards digitization which implies that even the available printed materials are now been digitized and converted to their electronic equivalent for flexibility and ease of access. Users information needs will be satisfied if and when information resources are accessible. Resource accessibility and availability are central to user satisfaction in any academic library setting. The significance of user satisfaction in the library cannot be over emphasised. The availability of information resources in the library without their accessibility will render such library underutilized however; easy accessibility of available information resources will consequently result to user satisfaction. These three variables work simultaneously hence they cannot be isolated. The above view shows the relationship between information resources availability, accessibility and user satisfaction. It is on the above discussion that this study seeks to find out the role of information resources availability and accessibility on user satisfaction.

Statement of the Problem

The aim of every academic library is to support the academic programmes of the institution by providing relevant information with a view to respond to the ever-increasing information demands of the users which comprised the students, researchers, the academic staff and non academic staff of the university. Most academic libraries acquire, organize, store and disseminate information with a view to improve information availability, accessibility and use. However, in recent time, there has been increase decline in the level of library resources' utilization because of the internet.

For a library to be functional, it has to meet its user's needs and ensuring that users make functional use of the information resources and services available at their disposal. In modern world, the progress and development of a country is determined by its educational and information development. All activities, resources and services of the library are geared towards helping the general public to achieve its information needs. There is no discrimination on the bases of education, sex, age, religion and social status. However, as important as this library was it has been observed that information resources are not readily available mainly due to poor budgetary allocation from the state Government. Another problem observed is that accessibility of the information resources seems difficult.

This perhaps might be as a result of poor processing of the information resources. The problem with use of information resources as observed in the library is that users appear not to be aware of the information resources and services available in the library probably because they did not know the library setting, organization and the use of the library. When library resources are not available they cannot be accessed it means that the library itself cannot be adequately utilized. This study therefore sought to investigate the availability and accessibility of information resources among undergraduates in Ekiti State University Library, Ado-Ekiti, Southwest, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to;

1. Determine the various types of information resources available in the Library.
2. Find out the various forms of information resources in Ekiti State University Library.
3. Determine the extent which library improve on the accessibly and availability of information resources to its users.

Research Questions

1. What are the various types of information resources available in the Library?
2. What are the various forms of information resources in Ekiti State University Library?
3. To what extent can the library improve on the accessibly and availability of information resources to its users?

Literature Review

The need for library resources availability and accessibility in academic libraries has long been recognized. Academic libraries foster information literacy and provide resources to students, researchers and staff. These Libraries provide numerous services to users, addressing their diverse needs, characteristics, and interest (Andaleeb, 2011). In view of this, it is expected that librarians and information professionals create a balance between specific research and information needs and a usable collection of information materials to meet the needs of the institutions and that of the users. According to Mason (2015), an academic library has the mission to build and maintain a collection that will support and enhance the instructional needs of the institution. He also posits that academic libraries are to provide access to all sources of information.

Information resources availability, accessibility and use are important factors in knowledge acquisition, learning and research. Indeed, every academic library regardless of size is expected to have adequate information resources available for its community for reading, learning and research. According to Aina (2011) states that accessibility determines the speed at which an information output in any format is obtained. Therefore, good information resources should be received and retrieved to meet the desired need. University libraries support universities in discharging their responsibilities by acquiring all the relevant information resources necessary for sustaining the teaching, learning, research and the academic service functions of their universities. According to Popoola and Haliso (2009) as cited by Ugba, Tondo, Tofi, Akosu, Akaaima (2019) described library information resources as those information bearing materials in both printed and electronic formats, such as textbooks, journals, indexes, abstracts, newspapers and magazines, reports, CD-ROM databases, Internet/E-mail,

video tapes/cassettes, diskettes, magnetic disk, computers, micro forms and others These information materials are the raw materials that libraries acquire, catalogue, process, stock, and make available to their users, as well as use to provide various other services for effective utilization of the library

How to improve information resources among undergraduate

Academic libraries are committed to providing access to electronic and print resources to support the research and curricula activities since effective and conscious utilization of Information Communication Technology (ICT) applications results to the rise of e-resource access and utility (Adisa, 2011). ICT has become one dominant feature in academic libraries its applications of computers, Internet-based facilities, printers, laminators, faxes and photocopiers have resulted to improved library services such as circulation, reference, interlibrary loans and information services being rendered more efficiently, timely and accurately (Ndwandwe, 2014). As such, libraries' users access information through searching the library online catalogue; use a subject guide or database to access a citation from the Internet or access a full text article from Web-based journals; they may browse an electronic journal; e-mail a reference question via the ask-a-librarian service or borrow an e-book all by remote access (Bashorun, Adaja and Gbolagun, 2011). Therefore, it implies that library users are no longer obliged to visit the library at regular open hours before their information needs could be met. Adepoju (2019) revealed that ICT affords university students, researchers, and lecturers the opportunity to acquire the same knowledge that their counterparts in the developed countries can acquire online. Adepoju (2019) also revealed that the university management provides ICT facilities in the libraries to compliment the available resources in order to meet the information needs of the students. She also discovered that the students also used the ICT facilities in the cybercafé in and outside their campuses while some students have their own personal computers which were connected to the internet

E-resources are embedded with a wealth of information whose exploitation can positively transform research world and propagate academic research management, foster teaching and learning, comply with university legislations and cater for university modes of government officials and the ruling class in general and minimum involvement of academic institutions in the networks building in Africa. According to Adepoju, Opele, Olajide and Iyanda (2018) revealed that undergraduate in Lagos State Polytechnic have very little interest in library use due to a number of challenges ranging from poor access to constant power failure. They concluded that the users had preference for electronic resources more than the print resources in the library. Welch (2015), observes that, keeping the library close to the surface on an organization's website can help connect users, especially newcomers, with library resources. Also adds that cataloguing of electronic information resources facilitates easy access which would result in high usage of electronic information resources following a standard classification scheme. Whithers, (2014). Library is established to provide materials, which communicate experience and ideas from one person to another and make them easily and freely available to all people. Information can come from virtually anywhere social media, blogs,

personal experiences, books, journal and magazine articles, expert opinions, encyclopaedias, and web pages and the type of information you need will change depending on the question you are trying to answer. The study discussed concept of Information Resources, accessibly and availability of information resources and how to improve information resources among undergraduate.

Research Method

Descriptive survey research design was adopted in this study. Questionnaire was employed to for this study. The population consisted of all the students of Ekiti State University which include both male and female students from 100 to 500 level. The sample of the study consisted of 180 students from all the nine (9) faculties in Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State from the total population of 1, 500 students who were regular library users. The data collected were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Tables mean and standard deviation was used to test the research questions for the research. Frequencies and percentages were also employed in presenting the result for this study.

Results and Discussion

This chapter presents the analysis of data from the administration of research instrument (questionnaire) and discussion of result of the findings.

Demographic Information of respondents

Table 1: This section clarified demographic information of the respondents.

S/N	Faculties	Number
1	Education	20
2	Arts	20
3	Science	20
4	Medicine	20
5	Social Science	20
6	Agricultural Science	20
7	Management Science	20
8	Law	20
9	College of Medicine	20
	Total	180

Table 1 shows the distribution of the respondents by faculties. Simple random techniques were used to select twenty (20) students from each faculty totaling 180 respondents who were both males and females.

Table 2: Descriptive Analysis showing the various types of information resources available in the Library

S/N	ITEMS	Yes	%	No	%
1	Books	114	63	66	37
2	Indexes and Abstracts	82	46	98	54
3	References	112	62	68	38
4	Monographs	118	65	62	35
5	Journal and magazine articles	111	62	69	38
6	Dictionaries	114	63	66	37
7	Encyclopedias	116	64	64	36
8	Official Publications	134	74	46	26
9	Newspapers	124	69	56	31
10	Dairies	99	55	81	45

The result in table 2 reveals that 114(63%) agreed that books are one of the types of information resources available in the library while 66(37%) disagreed. Also, 82(46%) agreed that index and abstract are available while 98(54%) disagreed with the statement. 112(62%) agreed that references while 68(38%) said no. Moreover, 118(65%) agreed that they have journal and magazine in the library while 69(38%) have contrary opinion. 111(62%) agreed on availability of dictionaries while 66(37%) disagreed. 116(64%) agreed that there is encyclopedias while 64(36%) disagreed. 134(74%) agreed that official publication are available while 46(26%) disagreed with the statement. 124(69%) agreed that newspapers are available while 56(31%) have contrary opinion. The last item shows that 99(55%) agreed that dairies were available while 81(45%) have contrary opinion. This implies that the information resources are available in the library under study. Majority of the students agreed that information resources were available.

Table 3: Descriptive Analysis showing the forms of Electronics information resources available in the library

S/N	ITEMS	Yes	%	No	%
1	Audio recording	102	57	78	43
2	Projector	98	55	82	45
3	Internet communications on email and list serves	127	71	53	29
4	Video recording	110	61	70	39
5	Electronics Books	107	59	73	41
6	Computers	101	52	87	48
7	Storage devices	118	66	62	34
8	Images and sound resources	121	67	59	33
9	CD-ROMs	97	54	83	46
10	OPAC	107	60	73	40

The result in table 3 reveals that 102(57%) agreed that audio recording is one of the form of electronics information resources available in the library while 78(43%) have contrary opinion. Also, 98(55%) agreed that projector are available while 82(45%) disagreed with the statement. 127(71%) agreed that there is availability of internet communications on email and list serves while 53(29%) disagreed with the statement. 110(61%) agreed that there are availability of video recording while 70(39%) disagreed with the statement. 107(59%) agreed that there are availability of electronic books while 73(41%) disagreed with the statement. 101(52%) agreed that computers are available while 87(47%) have contrary opinion. 118(66%) agreed that storage devices are available while 62(34%) disagreed with the statement. 121(67%) agreed that images and sound resources are available while 59(33%) disagreed with the statement. 97(54%) agreed on CD-ROMs are available while 83(46%) disagreed with the statement. The last item showed that 107(60%) agreed on availability of OPAC while 73(40%) have contrary opinion. The findings shows that the electronic information resources available in the library moderately available.

Table 4: Descriptive Analysis showing whether printed and electronic information resources are accessible

S/N	ITEMS	Yes	%	No	%	Remarks
1	Books	115	63	65	37	Accessible
2	Indexes and Abstracts	98	54	82	46	Accessible
3	References	112	62	68	38	Accessible
4	Monographs	118	65	62	35	Accessible
5	Journal and magazine articles	111	62	69	38	Accessible
6	Dictionaries	114	63	66	37	Accessible
7	Encyclopedias	102	57	78	43	Accessible
8	Official Publications	72	45	98	55	Not Accessible
9	Newspapers	127	71	53	29	Accessible
10	Dairies	110	63	70	37	Accessible
11	Audio recording	107	59	73	41	Accessible
12	Projector	118	66	62	34	Accessible
13	Internet communications on email and list serves	116	64	64	36	Accessible
14	Video recording	134	74	46	26	Accessible
15	Electronics Books	56	31	124	69	Not Accessible
16	Computers	121	67	59	33	Accessible
17	Storage devices	99	55	81	45	Accessible
18	Images and sound resources	134	74	46	26	Accessible
19	CD-ROMs	124	69	56	31	Accessible
20	OPAC	99	55	81	45	Accessible

The respondents agreed that they have access to books, indexes and abstracts, references, monographs, journal and magazine articles, dictionaries, encyclopedias, newspapers, dairies, audio recording, projector, internet communications on email and list serves, video, recording computers, storage devices, images and sound resources, CD-ROMs and OPAC while official publication and electronics books are not accessible. This may be due to the fact that the students might have not been using them and lack of power supply on regular basis.

Discussion

From the analysis above, based on the finding of the study, it was observed that there are various types of information resources available in the library which are books, references, monographs, journal and magazine articles, dictionaries, official publications, newspaper and dairies. The finding is in line with Aina (2011) stated that accessibility determines the speed at which an information output in any format is obtained. Therefore, good information resources should be received and retrieved to meet the desired need. University libraries support universities in discharging their responsibilities by acquiring all the relevant information resources necessary for sustaining the teaching, learning, research and the academic service functions of their universities.

Moreover, the finding revealed that there are many forms of electronics information resources which are audio recording, projector, internet communications on email and list serves, video recording, electronics books, computers, storage devices, images and sound resources, CD-ROMs and OPAC. This implies that majority of the electronics information resources are available in the library. The finding is in line with Yumba, (2017) stated that e-resources are embedded with a wealth of information whose exploitation can positively transform research world and propagate academic research management, foster teaching and learning, comply with university legislations and cater for university modes of government officials and the ruling class in general and minimum involvement of academic institutions in the networks building in Africa.

Finally, the finding also revealed that books, indexes and abstracts, references, monographs, journal and magazine articles, dictionaries, encyclopedias, newspapers, dairies, audio recording, projector, internet communications on email, video, recording computers, storage devices, images

and sound resources, CD-ROMs and OPAC are accessible in the library. This implies that most of the printed and non-printed materials are accessible in the library. The finding is in line with Mason (2015) he opined that academic library has the mission to build and maintain a collection that will support and enhance the instructional needs of the institution. He also posited that academic libraries are to provide access to all sources of information. The accessibility of the information resources will encourage the students to make adequate use of the resources in the library.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the availability and accessibility of information resources among undergraduates in Ekiti State University. The purpose of the study is to determine the various types of information resources available in the library, the various forms of information resources in Ekiti State University Library and to find out the extent which library improve on the accessibly and availability of information resources to its users.

The research design for this study was descriptive research. Descriptive survey research is concerned with studying a part of the population, by selecting samples chosen from this population in order to discover the relative distribution and relationship between its variables and the population was made up of all the students of Ekiti State University which include both male and female students from 100 to 500 levels. The sample of the study made up of 180 students from all the nine (9) faculties in Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State. The data collected were analysed using frequency count and percentage to answer all the research questions.

The finding reveals that there are various types of information resources available in the library which is books, references, monographs, journal and magazine articles, dictionaries, official publications, newspaper and

diaries. Also, there are many forms of electronics information resources which are audio recording, projector, internet communications on email and list serves, video recording, electronics books, computers, storage devices, images and sound resources, CD-ROMs and OPAC are adequately available and accessible in the library.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that effectiveness of any library depends on the full availability, accessibility and utilization of its information resources. Therefore, proper arrangement for availability and accessibility of its information resources should be the focus point of the library staff in order to meet the demand of the users. Non availability of information resources lead to poor availability of information. Consequently, it is hoped that the library management upon implementation of some of the recommendations stated below, proper means of accessibility to library resources will no doubt improved.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made.

- The library must sustain and maintain the current level of the information resources available in the library.
- The available information resources must be adequately conserved and preserved to avoid deterioration of the library resources.
- Library orientation should be organized on regular basis on the importance of using the library and mostly how to access the available materials.
- Efforts should be made to ensure implementation of the library policies and automate the library fully.

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