

Utilization of Library Information Resources by Undergraduate Students of University Of Medical Science Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Library information resources are vital tools in academic libraries. The success of any library depends on its resources and the utilization of the resources. This study examined the utilization of library information resources by undergraduates students of University of Medical Science, Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria. Descriptive research design was employed for the study. The population of the study was the registered users of the library for 2016/2017 academic session. Availability sampling technique was used for the study. In this case only the students library user that were available in the library as at the time of this research were used for the study. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. A total of two hundred and seventy six (276) copies of questionnaire were administered and two hundred and thirty four (234) copies were retrieved from the respondents. The data gathered through the questionnaire were analyzed through the use of frequency count and simple percentage. According to the findings the respondents agreed to the availability of all the listed resources in the questionnaire. Majority of the respondents use the library information resources for the purpose of obtaining general information, for examination, for assignment and for research. The findings also revealed that majority of the respondents use the library information resources occasionally, while textbooks were found to be the most utilized library resources by the respondents. As revealed in the findings, only few respondents indicated that they were having challenges in their utilization of library information resources. Based on the findings of the study, some recommendations were made to enhance better use of the library information resources in the University of Medical Science Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria.

Keywords: Library information resources, Undergraduate, Students, University, Medical Science.

Introduction

Library information resources are essential tools in teaching and learning process of any academic community. Members of the academia need library information resources for teaching, learning research, update of knowledge and personal development. Library information resources are materials or information resources acquired by the library to meet the information needs of library patrons. Barfi, Afful-Athur and Agyapong (2013) define library information resources as the raw materials that provide vital services in the teaching and learning process. The survival and success of any tertiary institution depends on the library. The library is regarded as a pillar that holds institution of higher learning. Agbaje defined library as an organized collection of sources of information and similar resources made accessible to a specific community for references or borrowing. Agbaje explained that the resources may be physical, digital in a physical building or visual space. The relevance of a library in higher institutions of learning such as University, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education cannot be over-emphasized. Onye (2016) acknowledge that the value of library cannot be overemphasized considering that any students no matter how brilliant cannot ignore the library. Onye also note that without the information resources provided by the library, teaching, learning, research and other reasons for using the library resources will lack requisite support.

Okiki (2013) posit that the library is a vital facility for enhancing learning, teaching and research. Okiki affirmed that it is the hub of all academic activities established to prove intellectual excellence. A library can only be regarded as the hub of all academic activities where there are adequate library resources that are well utilized. The worth and impact of a library can be felt through the utilization of the various resources acquired by the library. Effective utilization of the library information resources will no doubt add value to the functions of the library in any society.

Brief History of the University of Medical Science Ondo (UNIMED)

University of Medical Science, Ondo was established 2015 in Ondo, Ondo State Nigeria under the administration of Governor Olusegun Abayomi Rahman Mimiko as the Executive Governor of Ondo State. Ondo state was created from the Old Western Region of Nigeria on February 6, 1976. University of Medical Science Ondo is the Third Specialized Medical University in Africa and Nigeria First Specialized Medical University to be accredited by the National University Commission. Presently, the University has six faculties where courses on medical sciences and other related areas are taught to produce graduates of high standard capable of providing quality services in their various areas of specialization.

Statement of the Problem

The library is regarded as an information centre charged with the responsibility of selecting, acquiring and organizing various information resources to meet the needs of its users. Library renders essential services in tertiary institutions of learning. It supports the academic programmes of the parent body by providing relevant information resources that is capable of ensuring success when utilized. Meaningful academic success can only be achieved when there is a functional library with adequate information resources that are well utilized. Anyanwu (2015) posit that the value of a library collection lies in its effective utilization by the user community. Onifade, Ogbuiyi and Omeluzor (2013) cited in Olajide and Adio (2017) acknowledged that the major aim of any University library is to support teaching, learning and research activities of its parent institution. They emphasized that University must therefore, make sure that their resources are well utilized as this is essential for educational development of students.

In any tertiary institution, students have the largest population than any other members of the academic community and they are also expected to be one of the major users of an academic library. Since students users are expected to be one of the major users of an academic library. There is a need for studies to be conducted regularly on the utilization of the library information resources. This will also serve as a channel to access the impact of the library on the user community. In view of the foregoing, this study therefore attempts to investigate the utilization of library information resources by undergraduate students of the University of Medical Science, Ondo, Ondo state, Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to investigate the utilization of library information resources by undergraduate students of University of Medical Science, Ondo.

The study has the following specific objectives;

- i. To find out the available library information resources in University of Medical Science, Ondo, Ondo State.
- ii. To identify the purpose for which the students utilized the library information resources in their institution library
- iii. To determine how frequent the students use the library information resources.
- iv. To find out the most utilized library information resources.
- v. To investigate the challenges hindering the effective utilization of the library information resources in the University of Medical Science Ondo.

Research Questions

This study is guided by the following research questions;

- i. What are the available library information resources in the University of Medical Science Ondo, Ondo State?
- ii. For what purpose do the students of the University of Medical Science Ondo use the library information resources in their institution library.
- iii. How frequent do the students utilized the library information resources in their institution library?

- iv. Which of the library information resources do the students utilized most?
- v. What are the challenges hindering the effective utilization of the library information resources in the University of medical science Ondo?

Literature Review

Library plays a significant role in academic community. The place of libraries and its information resources in tertiary institutions cannot be relegated. Aladeniyi & Arikawe (2017) acknowledged that libraries are very essential in any organization, especially in higher institutions of learning. Library information resources are vital ingredients in the library. They enable libraries to render their services to the user community. A library without resources will lose its relevance in the society. Jegede (2010) defined library resources as those materials made up of books, audio-visual materials, software media, audio-visual hardware and other materials used in teaching and learning process in the library. Adomi (2006) opine that library resources are the information bearing materials that enable the library to fulfill its goals of meeting the information needs of its users.

According to Ojedokun (2007) Basically library resources are materials that user consult in making decision and also for problem solving these sources could be primary or secondary. The relevance of a library depends on the utilization of its resources. Agboola & Bamigboye (2011) agreed that the need for good libraries in higher institutions of learning cannot be over-emphasized, as the quality of any education depends on the library, not the library as a magnificent building but the use of it. They note that, it is important that libraries serving academic communities have the broadest possible collections of books and other essential materials.

Mamo & Amidu carried out a study on the determinant of library resources use by lecturers of College of Agriculture, Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. They maintained that the advancement of an academic staff unlike other staff depends largely, if not entirely on his research output which depends critically on the availability of suitable facilities, including adequate library resources. Barfi, Afful-Authur and Agyapong (2017) affirmed that availability of library resources create an enabling environment for the utilization of library resources and this will provide teaching and learning. Uzoagba, Ezukwuoke and Chiagbu (2012) affirmed that library resources in print, non-print and electronic forms are the major components of any library. Onye (2016) observed that the objectives of library may not be realizable unless its resources reach optical capacity and use by faculty and students who depend on its information resources for different purposes.

Regarding the type of information resources available Onye reported that all the participants in their study (100%) indicated that textbooks are available in the library while 572 (84%) confirmed that the library has computers, 314 (46.1%) show the presence of internet and 90 (13.2%) indicated that the library possessed films (audio-visual). Olajide & Adio (2017) examined the effective utilization of University library resources by under-graduate students at the Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria. They found that library resources like abstract, indexes, yearbooks, atlas were neither satisfactory nor readily available for use. In tertiary institutions, library information resources are use for different purpose. Agyekummer and Filson (2012) found in their study that most of the students use library resources and services to supplement their class notes, assignment and helped them in examination preparation.

Clabo, (2002) pointed out that students use library resources for recreational readings, for reference purposes, doing their assignment and reading news from newspapers Foloruso & Njoku (2016) study shows that most prominent purpose of using the library resources was to study and read for examinations. Many of the students also use the library to search for materials for assignments and to do research work, as well to read newspaper or participate in a group discussion. Amusa & Iyoro (2013) observed in their study that majority of the students (60%) used the library resources to study, read and also for research.

Agboola & Bamigboye (2011) in their study they reported the extent of use of library resources either in print or electronic form in each of the three University they examined. Their findings shows that at U.I 181 (49%) respondents said they made use of it very often, 120 (32%) said often, 40 (11%) said occasionally while only 31 (8%) said they made use of resources in the library. At UNAAB, 110 (40%) indicated very often, 95 (34%) said often, 53 (19%) said occasionally while 20 (7%) indicated never. In OOU, 60 (23%) indicated very often, 56 (21%) said often, 88 (34%) said occasionally while 58 (22%) said never. Oluwatobi, Ehiogbae, Aluko-Arowolo and Onasote (2014) study revealed that most frequently used library materials is online database and this is followed by Dictionaries, books, encyclopedia which are used daily while the least use materials is CD-ROM database. Okiy (2000) study indicated that respondents used books more than other materials.

On the challenges hindering the effective utilization of library in formation resources Uzogbu, Ezukwuoke and Chingbu (2012) reported in their study that factors such as unavailability of resources ranked highest with 42%, power failure followed with 27% while disorganized materials ranked third with 17%, while those who claimed that there was no problem were 11% of the respondents. Mamo & Amidu (2016) found that lack of current information resources and improper shelving of information resources are the major factors hindering the effective use of library resources. Olajide & Otunla (2015) findings show that the major challenge faced by respondents is lack of time. The study of Barfi, Afful-Arthur and Agyupong (2018) indicated that non-involvement of lecturers in book selection, few up-to-date materials, users not informed of new arrivals, poor library instruction, unavailability of automatic generator to power sockets and inadequate library staff are factors that actually hinder or impede the use of library materials by lecturers.

Methodology

Descriptive survey method was adopted for this study. The study population is the undergraduate registered library users of University of Medical Science Ondo, Ondo State Nigeria for 2016/2017 academic session. The total population of the registered users according to the data obtained as at the time of this research was five hundred and sixty (560). This comprises students from all the faculties of the Institution. Availability sampling technique was used in selecting the sample size for this study. In this case undergraduate users that were present in the library were used as the sample size. The sample size was 276. Questionnaire was used as the only instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was in two parts. Section A was on demographic characteristics of respondent and Section B was based on the research questions. A total of two hundred and seventy six (276) questionnaire were administered and two hundred and thirty four (234) were retrieved from the respondents. This was carried out for a period of two days. The data gathered from the respondents were analyzed through the use of frequency count and simple percentage.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1 revealed the number of respondents according to gender. The analysis shows that the female respondents were more than the male respondents, having 155 (66.2%) while the male respondents has 79 (33.8%). This finding therefore shows that the female undergraduate library users are more than their male counterparts.

Table 1: Gender of Respondents

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Male	79	33.8
Female	155	66.2
Total	234	100%

As indicated in table 2, 100 level recorded a total of 161 (68.8%) response rate, 200 level 73 (31.2%). However, there was no respondents from 300 level. This is because they were not available on campus when the questionnaires were administered. It is worthy to note that the pioneer students of the institution at the time of this research were in 300 level, being a new school established in 2015.

Table 2: Level of Respondents

Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
100	161	68.8
200	73	31.2
300	-	-
Total	234	100%

Table 3 revealed the response rate of respondent on the available library resources in University of Medical Science Library Ondo. As indicated in the table majority of the respondents agreed to the availability of all the listed resources in the library. The table also shows that all the respondents agreed that textbooks are available in their library having 234 (100%) response rate.

Table 3: Available Library Resources

Research Question 1: What are the available Library Resources in your Library?

Available Library Resources	Agree	%	Disagree	%
Textbook	234	100	-	-
Journal	216	92.3	18	7.7
Directories	201	85.9	33	14.1
Handbook	213	91.0	21	9.0
Manuals	199	85.0	35	15.0
Newspaper & Magazines	214	91.5	20	8.5
Report	181	77.4	53	22.5
Atlases/Maps	186	79.5	48	20.5
Dictionary	228	97.4	6	2.6
Internet	226	96.6	8	3.4
Computer	217	92.7	17	7.3
Biographies	189	80.8	45	19.2
Abstract/Indexes	163	69.7	71	30.3
Encyclopedia	210	89.7	24	10.3
Audio-visual material	188	80.3	46	19.7

Table 4 revealed the various purpose of utilizing library information resources by the students of the University of Medical Science, Ondo. From the analysis, majority of the respondents agreed that they use the library resources for the purpose of obtaining general information, for examination, for assignment and for research having 231 (98.7%), 224 (95.7%), 220 (95%) and 217 (92.7%) respectively.

Table 4: Purpose of Utilizing the Library Information Resources

Research Question 2: What are your Purpose of Utilizing the Library information Resources in your institution library?

Purpose of Utilizing	Agree	%	Disagree	%
For research	217	92.7	17	7.2
For obtaining general information	231	98.7	3	1.2
For current affairs	174	74.3	60	25.6
For examination purpose	224	95.7	10	4.2
For assignment purpose	220	94	14	6
For sport information	110	47	124	53
For personal development	137	58.5	23	9.8

The findings also shows that respondents who use the library information resources for the purpose of obtaining information on sport has the lowest response rate with 110 (47%). Table 5 shows that majority of the respondents 119 (50.9%) agreed that they use the library information resources occasionally. This is followed by respondents that indicated that they use the library information resources often 73 (31.2%).

Table 5: Frequency of use of Library Information Resources

Research Question 3: How often do the students use the library information resources?

Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Very often	42	17.9
Often	73	31.2
Occasionally	119	50.9
Never	0	0
Total	234	100%

Respondents that use the library information resources very often recorded 47 (17.9%). The analysis also shows that non of the respondents indicated that they never use the library resources. The findings in table 6 shows that textbooks are the most consulted library information resources, having 118 (50.4%).

This is followed by internet (12.8%).this findings corroborate Okiy (2000) which indicated that respondents use books more than other materials.

Table 6: Most Utilized Library information Resources

Research Question 4: Which of the Library Information Resources do you Utilized most?

Most Utilized Library Information Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Textbook	118	50.4
Journals	12	5.1
Directories	3	1.3
Handbook	13	5.6
Manuals	6	2.6
Newspapers & Magazines	14	6.0
Reports	-	-
Atlas and Maps	5	2.1
Directories	15	6.4
Audio-visual materials	3	1.3
Internet	30	12.8
Computer	5	2.1
Biographies	-	-
Abstract & Indexes	-	-
Encyclopedia	10	4.3

Table 7 indicated the challenges that respondents faced in their utilizations of library information resources. It can be seen from the table that only few respondents agreed that they were having challenges, while majority of the respondents indicated that they were not having challenges.

Table 7: Challenges Hindering the Effective Utilization of Library Information Resources in university of medical science, Ondo

Research Question 5: What are the challenges hindering the effective utilization of library information resources

Challenges Hindering the effective Utilization of Library Information Resources	Agree	%	Disagree	%
Lack of adequate resources on my field of study	41	17.5	193	82.5
Noise from fellow students	48	20.5	186	77.5
Inadequate sitting facilities	34	14.5	200	85.5
Lack of information retrieval skills	44	18.8	190	81.2
Inadequate personnel in the library to assist in getting needed information	47	20.1	187	79.9
Lack of internet facilities	24	10.3	210	89.7
Lack of up-to-date resources	20	8.5	214	91.5
Inadequate power supply in the library	18	7.7	216	92.3
Poor arrangement of the library materials	23	9.8	211	90.2

Conclusion

Library information resources are vital ingredients in academic libraries. Its function's cannot be over emphasized when it is full utilized this study has provided data on the utilization of library information resources by undergraduate students of the University of Medical Science, Ondo, Ondo state Nigeria. The major findings of the study are

- i. The female respondents are more than the male respondents
- ii. 100 level has the highest number of respondents
- iii. Majority of the respondents agreed that Books, Journals, Directories, Handbook, Manuals, Newspapers and Magazines, Reports, Atlases/Maps, Dictionary, Internet, Computer, Abstracts/Indexes, Encyclopedia and Audio-Visual materials are available in their Institution libraries.

- iv. Majority of the respondents agreed that they use the library information resources for the purpose of obtaining general information, for examination, for assignment and for research while those that indicated that they use it to obtain information on sport recorded the lowest response rate.
- v. Textbooks are the most utilized library information resources by the respondents.
- vi. Only few respondents agreed that they are having challenges in the utilization of library information resources.

Recommendations

Following the findings of this study the following recommendations were made to enhance better use of the library information resources in the University of Medical Science Ondo, Ondo state.

- i. Male students should be encouraged to use the library like their female counterparts
- ii. The students should also be encouraged to use other resources that are underutilized.
- iii. Some of the challenges hindering the use of library information resources such as noise from fellow students, Inadequate personnel in the library to assist in getting needed information as indicated by few of the respondents should be addressed by the management of the library and the management of the institutions.

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