Challenges of Utilizing Library Resources by Students in College of Education, Agbor

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Abstract: This study examine the challenges of utilizing college library resources by the students in college of education, Agbor. In carrying out this study four research questions were posed. The study sample population comprised 1,325 (2016/2017) registered users of the library. The instrument used for data collection in this study was questionnaire. Research questions were answered using frequency count and percentages. Findings reveals that 68% were female while 32% were male. Textbooks topped the highest consulted materials 99%; follows by theses/ dissertations 92%, journals 73% and reference materials 68%, computers 67%, newspapers/magazines 52% among others. Major challenges encountered were lack of internet facility, insufficient professional librarians, inadequate funding, lack of photocopying services, inadequate relevant materials, inadequate functional ICT facilities, lack of user's education, unconducive state of the library, lack of awareness of the library resources, poor state of library collections and poor reading environment. Recommendations were made such as administration must sure that the least require for academic libraries should be adhered to; Management should provide funds and committee should be enact to oversee the uses of the funds for the major purpose, more professional librarians should be employ for effective and efficiency service delivery, authority should provide photocopying machine within the library environment to facilitate effective service delivery, Internet should be provided among others.

Keywords: College, Education, Challenges, Utilization, Library, Resources, Institutions.

Introduction

College of Education is one of the chains of higher teaching in Nigeria with crucial role of producing tutors who will be conferred the least teaching requirement of Nigerian Certificate of Education (NCE). The credential eligible individual to impart knowledge in junior secondary schools and technical institutions in Nigeria then it takes three years to complete. These tutors' institutions were officially acknowledged as Advanced Teachers' Colleges and were allied to different institution of higher education in Nigeria. They were converted into Colleges of Education under the control of one authority known as the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) well-known in 1989, (NCCE, 1996, NCCE, 2002).

Therefore, the College of Education, Agbor, came up with a mission of training extremely capable and practice concerned with experts in commercial and professional activities. The library currently serves over 1300 students enrolled at the College and 46 staff (College of Education, Agbor Handbook, 2015), but its seating capacity is 150 students at a time. The library has the capacity of 25000 volumes, 1,968 titles of books, and some of the professional journal titles. The library has five most important parts namely, the general collection with its major components being textbooks and few journals, special reserve for tutors /lecturers and reference collection. The reading room operates from Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 9.00 pm. According to Edoka (2000), the college library's role is to generate knowledge to users in the parent institutions. According to Aina (1998), all academic libraries have to furnish its services in the right way in promoting and motivating students learning, education and business development. Therefore, concern of this study is to determine challenges of utilizing college library resources by the students in college of education, Agbor.

Statement of the Problem

Despite long term existence of the College of Education, Agbor library, the extent to which students access and use library resources is not clearly known. This denotes that student's inability to make use of resources may be lack of ability to identify the resources available or unavailability of the resources in the library. According to Adeyemi (2009), "in higher learning institutions students demand and expect to access and use library resources". As Aina, (1998) observes, the extent and frequent of an individual student accessing and using relevant library resources parallels the extent to which an individual is being informed. Also, according to Fokomogbon et al (2013), "lack of standards in the provision of library services is reported as a major cause of student's failure of accessing and using relevant informational resources; reducing reading morale; and limiting student's innovations". However, it has been noted that students in college of education are under utilizing the library and its resources. Likewise, probably some of them have not been to a library before. It could be as a result of lack of user's education. The active use of library by clients is anticipated to be the major objective of establishing libraries in higher institutions of learning. This study, intends to find out the challenges of utilizing college library resources by

the students in college of education, Agbor.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to determine the challenges of utilizing college library resources by the students in College of Education, Agbor. The study specifically sought to:

1. Identify the type of library resources used by students in college of education, Agbor
2. Establish the suitable and relevance of the library resources.
3. Determine the challenges confronting the utilization of library resources among students in college of education, Agbor
4. Highlight strategies for enhanced library resources utilization in college of education, Agbor

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the types of library resources used among the students in college of education, Agbor
2. How suitable are the library resources
3. What are the challenges confronting the utilization of library resources among students in college of education, Agbor
4. What are the strategies for enhanced library resources utilization in college of education, Agbor

Review of Related Literature

Sansui (2006) revealed that Colleges of Education cannot achieve their responsibilities except with extra help, support and serviceable libraries. Therefore, Colleges of Education Nationwide were instructed to have serviceable libraries in directive to attain the educational drive. College of Education Libraries have the aims of

supporting their institutions via inculcating knowledge as well as academic resources in mandate to accomplish the purposes of generating well prepared educators in their selected areas. Though, to be serviceable, fruitful and effective service delivery, library deserve trained, capable and suitable workforce (Egunjobi 2006). In addition, Oriowo (2001) asserted that achievement of a reading room hinge on talent and capabilities of individuals. Therefore, workforce's need to be adequate so as to accomplish their targets and purposes of establishment. However, Oyewusi and Oyebode (2009) in their study, reveals that respondents used books, journals and internet resources in the library for their academic pursuits. Similarly, Mozeh and Ubwa (2017) in their study challenges of utilizing academia library resources. It revealed that textbooks are rated high with 82.72% and dissertation with 99%. In the same study challenges identified were lack of orientation, poor state of library, poor reading environment, and inadequate function of ICT among others.

Also, Bosah and Amadasu (2014), in their study, revealed that academic level of students does not affect their use of library resources. The study acclaims that male learners should be targeted in a struggle to improve the use of reading room besides teachers should occupy learners with serious tasks that could inspire them to use the library frequently. More so, Nwezeh and Shabi (2011) emphasised that normal library orientation for freshmen should be revolutionized to allow learners comprehend the use of library and it resources. Arua and Chinaka (2011) in their study recommended

that suitable grant is necessary for the provision of contemporary information resources and the engagement of competent and trained teacher – librarian. In spite of availability and use of library resources, Attama (2005) affirmed that "professional duties are now left with the non-professionals who are ill equipped for the job. More so, the inadequacy in the number and quality of staff in academic libraries result in severe handicapped libraries offering minimal services which are by no means compatible with the needs of users for more information for their academic output". Perera (2005) affirmed that sustaining client needs is vital to the administration of libraries. The organization workforces of a reading room should be cognisant of the modern desires of their clients, which may disagree from one library to another as well as from time to time. Therefore, carrying out consistent appraisals on user needs at consistent intervals on various aspects of library usage will be a helpful guide in

influential the upcoming guidelines of library improvements.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study and the instrument used for data collection was questionnaire which was distributed to the respondents faced to face at the colleges library with the assistance of three library officers. The population of the study was 1,325 (2016/2017) registered users of the library. Sample size of 665 was drawn from the total population using proportionate stratified random sampling technique. Questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents and descriptive analysis of the responses was made using the statistic package for social science (SPSS) research. Out of the 665 questionnaire that were distributed to the respondents, a total of 623 was duly completed and found usable, thus, 94% response rate. The data collected for this study was analysed using simple percentage and frequency counts.

Presentation of Results

Table 1: Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	201	32%
Female	422	68%
Total	623	100%

Table 1 shows that 68% of the participants are female while 32% are male. Higher population of the female could be as a result of courses offer and certificates provided by the institution. However, this finding supported with the finding of Bosah

and Amadasu (2014), recommended that male students should be targeted in an determination to expand the use of reading room resources then teachers must involve the learners with thoughtful tasks that could inspire them to use the library frequently.

Table 2: Types of Library Resources Used among the Students
in College of Education, Agbor

Library Resources Often Used	Frequency	Percentage
Textbooks	619	99%
Computers	421	67%
Journals	456	73%
Electronic resources	213	34%
Newspapers/ Magazines	321	52%
CD-ROM	211	34%
Online database	204	33%
Government report	96	15%
Audio-visuals	211	34%
Theses and dissertations	573	92%
References materials	421	68%
Others	105	17%

Source field work

Table 2 shows that the most consulted resources in the library were textbooks 99% .This was followed by theses and dissertations 92%, journals materials73%, reference materials 68%, computers 67%, newspapers and magazines 52%, among others. This is supported by Mozeh and Ubwa (2017), in their study, it shows that textbooks are rated high with 82.72% and dissertation with 99%.

Table 3: Adequacy of Library Resources

Adequate of Materials	Frequency	Percentage
Suitable	178	29%
Unstable	431	69%
Indifferent	14	2%
Total	623	100%

Source field work

Table 3 shows that 29% respondents establish that information sources provided by the libraries were suitable, whereas 69% of the respondents establish unsuitable, and 14% remained indifferent in their opinions. This is in line with Oriowo (2001), asserted that achievement of a reading room hinge on talent and capabilities of individuals. This shows that the majority 69% of the users found the reading room resources insufficient. This could be as a result of insufficient of professional librarians in the college or negligence of the library by the authority in terms of capital for the reading room to acquire the wanted materials.

Table 4: Challenges Confronting the Utilization of Library Resources
among Students in College of Education, Agbor

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate relevant materials	461	74%
Unfavourable state of the library	421	68%
Lukewarm attitude of the staff	102	16%
Inadequate functional ICT facilities	457	73%
Lack of Internet facility	571	92%
Lack of user education	457	73%
No provision of photocopying services within the library	571	92%
Lack of awareness of the library resources	391	63%
Poor reading environment	321	52%
Poor state of library collection	351	56%
Others	53	9%

Source field work

A numbers of challenges were identified in **table 4** theses includes lack of internet facility, photocopying services within the library 92%, inadequate relevant materials 74%, inadequate functional ICT facilities/lack of user education, unfavourable state of the library 68%, lack of awareness of the library resources 63%, poor reading environment 52% among. This is in line with findings of Fokomogbon et al (2013), affirmed that "lack of standards in the provision of library services is reported as a major cause of students' failure of accessing and using relevant informational resources; reducing reading morale; and limiting students' innovations". Likewise, Mozeh and Ubwa (2017), in their study the challenges identified were lack of orientation, poor state of library, poor reading environment, and inadequate function of ICT among others.

Table 5: Strategies for Enhanced Library Resources Utilization in
College of Education, Agbor

Strategies for Enhanced Library Resources	Frequency	Percentage
There should be adequate and functional ICT facilities in the library	576	92%
State of the library should be improved	457	73%
Library staff should be friendly	301	48%
User education should be inculcated to the school curriculum	576	92%
The newly arrival library resources should be communicated to us.	321	52%
Conducive reading environment should be provided	391	63%
Photocopying services should be made available within the library	571	92%
Internet facility should be provided	611	98%

Library staff should be friendly	78	13%
Authority concern should provide funds		95%
Insufficient of professional librarians	571	92%
Others	31	5%

Source field work

Table 5 shows suggestions proffered for effective and efficiency utilizing of library resources by students of College of Education, Agbor. The highest suggestion acknowledged is that internet should be provided, followed by authority should provide funds, insufficient professional librarians, photocopying services, users education services, adequate functional ICT facilities 92%, followed by state of the library should be improved 73%, conducive reading environment 63% and newly arrival library resources should be communicated 52%, among others. This finding is collaborate with the study of Nwezeh and Shabi (2011), emphasised that normal library orientation for freshmen must be revolutionized to permit students understand the use of library and it resources.

Conclusion

From these survey results, we can draw a fair number of conclusions about the challenges of utilizing college library resources by students in college of education, Agbor. The most consulted materials were textbook, theses and dissertation, journals reference materials etc. However, the major challenges confronting the use of library and resources available were lack of internet facility, insufficient professional librarians, lack of photocopying services within the library, inadequate relevant materials, inadequate functional ICT facilities/lack of user education, unfavourable state of the library, lack of awareness of the library resources and poor reading environment. It may be concluded based on the study's findings therefore that College of Education, Library Agbor, did not fit the description of contemporary academic library.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the researchers recommend as follows, that

➢ Administration must sure that the least required for academic libraries should be adhered to.

➢ Management should provide funds and committee should be enact to oversee the uses of the funds for the major purpose.

➢ More professional librarians should be employed or effective and efficiency service delivery.

➢ Authority should provide photocopying machine within the library environment to facilitate effective service delivery.

➢ Relevant information materials should be provided for the students and appropriate ICT facilities. This would enable universal access to and use of computers infrastructure in academic libraries.

➢ User's orientation programme should be organized by the library for all new students in Institution.

➢ Management should ensure that library environment is conducive for reading as well as internet facility should be made available.

➢ Use of library should be inculcated in the school curriculum.

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