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Awareness, Access and Use of Print Based Information Resources by Library and Information Science Students in Kano State Polytechnic

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Abstract

The research surveyed the awareness, access and use of print based information resources among Library and Information Science students in Kano State Polytechnic, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. Data was collected using questionnaire and was analyzed quantitatively using descriptive statistics methods. The study revealed that majority of Library and Information Science students were highly aware of available print information resources in their library, majority indicated low access to the available print information resource in the library, majority rated their use of print information resources low. Major challenge they encounter when utilizing the print information resources is that the information resources are outdated. The study recommends that the provision of adequate and current print information resources, proper organization of the resources and adequate training on how to use library catalogues will play a significant role in boosting the utilization of print information resources by Library and Information Science students in Kano state polytechnic.

Keywords: *Print Information Resources, Library and Information Science Students, Kano State Polytechnic*

Introduction:

Information constitutes a crucial component of development in all human endeavours and is highly essential in the

academic development of every student such that without information no meaningful development could be made. Mohammed (2011) stated that information is an essential resource to human beings irrespective of their diverse communities, societies and

nations. They all need to have access to and utilize information at all times to survive, develop and advance in all forms of endeavour. Irrespective of the format, information resources suitable for programs available in the institutions should be made accessible and utilized in order to support activities and development of users in all types of libraries.

Library exists to acquire knowledge for their users and they have their major function in the acquisition of both print and digital format. Libraries are still responsible for acquiring and providing access to books, periodicals and other media that will meet the educational, recreational and information needs of their users (Obiyan, 2011).

It is also important to note that library has been a collection of information material for many years and print media have been the bulk of the library information resources. However, the advent of information technology has lead to the emergence of exponential growth of electronic information resources (Parker, 2007). Print Information resources in polytechnics libraries should not just remain idle in their respective place on the shelves or display racks, but their use should be facilitated for the resources to add value. This paper therefore, attempts to provide insight into the extent of awareness, access and use of print information resources among Library and Information Science students in Kano State Polytechnic.

Literature Review

Library services has involved the assemblage of conventional libraries resources based on paper and other materials by means of collecting, cataloguing, finding and disseminating information. Access means that users can identify and use the resources with ease. Qamar (2002) sees accessibility of information resources as the increase and provision of information resources to users in order to increase their knowledge base. Ugah (2007) opined that the more accessible information sources are, the more likely they are to be used and readers tend to use information sources that require the least effort to access.

Information resources usage and invariably its utilization may be limited by accessing irrelevant information and by poor information evaluation. Awareness of the existence of information resources motivates students to use it. Awareness in the context of this study involves being aware or informed about the existence of different kinds of print information bearing objects that are used in satisfying the user's information needs. When users are informed of the available materials in the library, it is expected that those users tend to use them. Therefore, what is fundamental to library information provision is to create users' awareness. Grover (1993) stated that the library awareness and use programme is fundamental to providing services to individuals and planning information service for groups. Moreover, Adeyemi and Modupe (2013) in their study on Scholarly use of information for research by postgraduate students recommended that libraries need to create awareness among

postgraduate students about the services and resources that are available and how to use them. Therefore, creating awareness about available print information resources is fundamentally important to Polytechnic Library Students.

Polytechnic libraries exist to support their parent institutions whose aims are of advancing the frontiers of knowledge by helping enlarge human choices, skills and capabilities by developing human resources. While, the libraries exist to provide their users with information resources to satisfy their varying information needs, most importantly they should be such that they are geared towards ensuring accessibility and utilization of the libraries' information resources (Odunewu and Omagbemi, 2008). Libraries therefore play a vital role in ensuring the availability of information and in the general development of any society by enhancing the cause of education and academic research. Thus, libraries cater for the information needs of users by providing information resources and services to satisfy their information needs by making those information resources accessible and utilized by users of the library.

Information resources according to the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science is the sum total of library materials, books, manuscripts, serials, government publications, pamphlets, catalogs, reports, recordings, micro film reels, micro cards and micro fiche, punch cards, computer tapes etc that make up the holdings of a particular library. According to Anunobi and Okoye (2008), "information resources today occur in hybridized form: print

and electronic..." In this light Adomi (2009) stated that university library's information resources has been broadly classified according to formats which include; printed materials and non-printed materials. Therefore, information resources of polytechnic libraries irrespective of their format have to be acquired, processed and made available to users by systematically arranging and organizing them, thus facilitating awareness, access and utilization of the print information resources by users of the Kano state polytechnic library is extremely encouraging.

Access to information resources in academic libraries is very important such that it leads to use and invariably utilization of the information resources. In view of this, Iyoro (2004) in his study identified accessibility as one of the prerequisites of information use. This however, shows the importance of not only availability of information resources but also its accessibility. Thus, the significance of accessibility of information resources is evident from the five principles of librarianship formulated by Ranganathan (1931) where he stressed on accessibility of information resources termed "books" from the first part of his law which states that "books are for use" which implies, making information resources accessible for use by users, to the last of its law which states that the "The Library is a growing organism" thus ensuring there should be continuity in meeting up with changes particularly with the advancement of ICTs which has changed and is continuously changing how academic libraries play their roles and discharge their responsibilities as information resource centers to their user community.

Utilization of information resources in any academic library such as Kano state polytechnic library is the process which information resources are being used. It is the maximum usage of information resources since it is expected that all types of information resources available in libraries and students should be encouraged to utilize them. The use of various types of information resources both print and electronic by the academic community allows for access to wide variety of information which is essential for scholarly activities. In order to effectively utilize the constantly increasing information resources, the students are expected to acquire all skills required to exploit them. Dorsch (2011) identified lack of time, inadequate access to information sources, lack of skills, cost of information and geographical isolation as the major barriers to utilization of information resources.

Okafor and Ukwoma (2012) stated that, “the effectiveness of academic libraries has often been measured by the volume of library materials available to clients, the amount of use of services and resources, and the apparent or quantified satisfaction of clients, very little research has taken into account the objectives of the clients”. Therefore, it is important to note that information resources available in academic or particularly college libraries are important to the activities of the students and those resources also known as the holdings of the libraries containing information for use by its clientele.

Print Information resources of academic libraries are important to its students due to varying information contained in them to serve various users information needs.

Despite the significance of the print information resources to library users, it has been observed that users still find its accessibility and use difficult and have therefore not been able to fully exploit the information resources available. Most often students may bypass information resources in libraries despite their relevance and access online sources such as Google; this is due to the perceived ease of use and simple familiarity with the search format.

This study therefore attempts, to investigate into the extent of awareness, access and utilization of print information resources among Library and Information Science students in Kano State Polytechnic.

Statement of the Problem

The essence of every academic library is to ensure full and proper usage of its resources; thus, the essence of providing effective and efficient accessibility to the information in academic library will be inconsequential if the resources are not utilized by the intended users. It is therefore pertinent to state that the problems of utilization of print information resources are mainly attached to the accessibility of the resources (Sharifabadi: 2006). Thus, the access and utilization of information resources is the backbone of the existence of libraries most especially polytechnic libraries. Hence, the effective and efficient learning as well as the development of research activities of students depend ultimately on the extent to which the students have access and utilize the information resources. As such their quest for knowledge and development of research may not be achieved without accessible information resources for them to utilize. However,

despite the importance of information resources to learning and research activities of students, it seems that print information resources are still not adequately accessible and utilized by the students in academic libraries.

Despite the widely accepted view about the significance of print information resources in libraries, it appears that in most libraries, print information resources were under-utilized due to their awareness level and organization. This implies that there may be management problem or otherwise, that hinder the awareness on their existence by their users of these resources. It's against this background that this study was designed to examine the Awareness, Access and Use of print Resources among Library and Information Resources in Kano State Polytechnic.

Objectives of the Study

The study intends to answer the following specific objectives:

1. To determine the level of awareness of print information resources among Library and Information Science students in Kano state Polytechnic
2. To examine the extent to which the print information resources are accessible to Library and Information Science Students in Kano state Polytechnic
3. To examine the extent to which the print information resources are used by Library and Information Science Students in Kano state Polytechnic
4. To determine the challenges associated with the use of print information resources by Library and Information Science Students in Kano state Polytechnic

Research Questions

1. What is the level of awareness of print information resources among Library and Information Science students in Kano state Polytechnic?
2. To what extent are the print information resources accessible to Library and Information Science students in Kano state Polytechnic?
3. To what extent are the print information resources used by Library and Information Science students in Kano state Polytechnic?
4. What are the challenges associated with the use of print information resources by Library and Information Science Students in Kano state Polytechnic?

Methods

This study adopted the quantitative approach because it is able to give statistical data on issues regarding awareness, access and utilization of print information resources among polytechnic students. The use of cross-sectional survey design was employed to obtain information from the respondents. Questionnaire was the instrument of study. A total of 143 copies of the questionnaire was administered to the research sampled population but only 108 copies were

returned and found usable for the analysis. Descriptive statistics of frequency and percentages were used.

Results

This section analyzes the data that was collected on Awareness, Access and Use of Print Information Resources among Library and Information Science Students in Kano State Polytechnic. The results of the survey are presented below in descriptive format, using frequency tables and percentages.

Table 1: Respondents' level of study

Option	Frequency	Percent
Diploma I	36	33.3
Diploma II	47	43.5
Part-time	18	16.7
Spill over	7	6.5
Total	108	100.0

The result on table 1 indicated that majority 47(43.5%) of the respondents were Diploma II students, followed by 36(33.3%) who were Diploma I students, while 18(16.7%) of the respondents were Part-time students. It was only 7(6.5%) of the respondents who indicated that they were Spill over students.

Awareness on the Availability of Print Information Resources in the Library

Table 2: Respondents' level of awareness on the availability of print information resources in the library

Level of Awareness	Frequency	Percent
Highly aware	43	39.8
Moderately aware	29	26.9
Low awareness	19	17.6
Not aware	17	15.7
Total	108	100

Majority of respondents 43(39.8%) were highly aware of availability of print

information resources in their libraries, while 29(26.9%) of the respondents were moderately aware of the available print information resources in their library. About 19(17.6%) of the respondents and 17(15.7%) claimed that they were not aware of the available print information resources in their library.

Table 3: Awareness level on the types of print information resources available in Kano state Polytechnic library

	Aware of availability	Percent
Books e.g. Textbooks	36	33.3
Dictionaries and Encyclopedias	29	26.9
Periodicals (e.g. Journals and Magazines)	29	26.9
Government Publications (e.g. Government Acts, Bills, Gazettes, Proclamations, Statutes, etc.)	20	18.5
Statutes and Statutory Instruments (Acts, Laws, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations etc.)	16	14.8
Newspapers	31	28.7
Maps, Atlas and topographical maps	25	23.1
Research Reports, Thesis & Dissertations	32	30.0
Card catalogues	15	13.9
Newsletters / Bulletins and Pamphlets	21	19.4

As indicated in table 3, about one third of the students 36(33.3%) were aware that print e.g. textbooks are available in their library. This is followed by 32(30.0%) of the respondents who indicated their awareness on the availability of print-based Research Reports, Thesis & Dissertations; followed by 31(28.7%) who claimed

they were aware of the availability of Newspapers in their libraries. 29(26.9%) of the students were aware that dictionaries and encyclopedias are available in their library, and 29(26.9%) of them were aware that Periodicals (e.g. Journals and Magazines) were available.

The table also indicates that 25(23.1%) of the respondents were aware that Maps, Atlas and topographical maps are available in their library. 21(19.4%) of the respondents were aware that Newsletters / Bulletins and Pamphlets were available. 20(18.5%) were aware of available print Government Publications (e.g. Government Acts, Bills, Gazettes, Proclamations, Statues, Policies etc.). 15(13.9%) of the respondents were aware that Card catalogues are available in their library, the least 16(14.8) of the respondents were aware of available print Statutes and Statutory Instruments (Acts, Laws, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations etc.)

Access and Use of Print Based Information Resources

Table 4: Respondents' access to print information resource in the library

Access level	Frequency	Percent
Always	18	16.7
Often	30	27.7
Occasionally	38	35.2
Not at all	22	20.4
Total	108	100

Table 4 revealed that 22 (20.4%) of the respondents did not access print-based information resources in the library, while majority 38(35.2%) of the respondents indicated low access to the available print information resource in the library. This is followed by 30(27.7%) of the respondents who

indicated their access level to the available print information resource in the library 'moderate'. It was only 18(16.7%) of the respondents indicated they always access the print information resource available in their library.

Table 5: Respondents rating of the use print of information resources in the library

Utilization level	Frequency	Percent
Highly utilized	21	19.5
Moderately utilized	32	29.6
Low utilized	36	33.3
Not utilized	19	17.6
Total	108	100

As indicated in table 5, the respondents were asked to rate their level of using the print information resources in their library. Many 36(33.3%) of the respondents rated their use of print information resources low. About 32(29.6%) of the respondents claimed that they moderately utilized the print information resources. This is followed by 21(19.5%) who highly utilized the print information resources. Only 19(17.6%) of the respondents claimed that they do not utilize the print information resources in their library.

Table 6: Respondents' Use of types of print information resources available

		Aware and use some of them	Percent	Aware but do not use them	Percent
Books e.g. Textbooks, and notebooks		20	18.5	27	25
Dictionaries and Encyclopedias		16.7	16.	22(20.4%)	20.4
Periodicals (e.g. Journals and Magazines)		16.7	16.7	16(14.8%)	14.8
Government Publications (e.g. Government Acts, Bills, Gazettes, etc).		21.3	21.3	25(23.1%)	23.1
Statutes and Statutory Instruments (Acts, Laws, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations etc.)		24.1	24.1	24(22.2%)	22.2
Newspapers		15.7	15.7	9(8.3%)	8.3
Maps, Atlas and topographical maps		24.1	24.1	21(19.4%)	19.4
Research Reports, Thesis & Dissertations		13.9	13.9	13(12.0%)	12.0
Card catalogues		13.9	13.9	26(24.1%)	24.1
Newsletters / Bulletins and Pamphlets		13.0	13.0	21(19.4%)	19.4

The data on table 6 shows that the highest print information resources that were used by the respondents are: statutes and statutory instruments (Acts, Laws, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations etc.); and maps, Atlas and topographical maps as claimed by 26(24.1%) of the respondents. followed by Government

Publications (e.g. Government Acts, Bills, Gazettes, Proclamations, Statues, Policies etc.) as claimed by 23(21.3%) of the respondents. Books e.g. Textbooks were used by 20 (18.5%). This is followed by 'Dictionaries and Encyclopedias' and Periodicals (e.g. Journals and Magazines) where each was used by 18(16.7%) of the respondents. Newspapers were used by 17(15.7%). Newsletters / Bulletins and Pamphlets were the least used print resources as indicated by only 14(13.0%) of the respondents.

Table 7: Respondents rating of the overall availability of print information resources in the library?

Availability level	Frequency	Percent
Highly available	20	18.5
Moderately available	52	48.1
Low availability	30	27.8
Not available	6	5.6
Total	108	100

The data on the table above shows that, almost half 52(48.1%) of the respondents rated the availability of print information resources in the library as moderately available. This is followed by 30(27.8%) who rated the availability of print information resources in the library 'low'. 20(18.5%) of the respondents rated the availability of print information resources in the library 'high.' 6(5.6%) of the respondents rate the print information resources in the library not available.

Table 8: challenges encountered by Respondents when utilizing the print information resources

Challenges	Frequency	Percent
Lack of organized information resources	19	17.6
Difficulty in understanding the language of information resources	16	14.8
Inadequate information materials	30	27.8
Out dated information resources	36	33.3
Locating information resources using catalogue	7	6.5

The respondents were asked to indicate the challenges they encounter when utilizing the print information resources. Table 8 shows that majority 36(33.3%) indicated that outdated information resources was the major challenge they encounter when utilizing print information resources. This is followed by inadequate information 30(27.8%). 19(17.6%) of the respondents regarded lack of organized information resources as a challenge they encounter when utilizing the print information resources. Difficulty in understanding the language of information resources was considered a challenge encountered by 16(14.8%) of the respondents. It was only 7(6.5%) of the respondents who considered locating information resources using catalogue a challenge encountered when utilizing the print information resources.

Discussion

The research investigated the students' awareness, access and utilization of print information resources in the library. The findings revealed that majority of Library and Information Science students were highly aware of available print information resources in their library. However, despite high level of awareness of print information resources among LIS students in Kano state polytechnic, there is low access to the available print information resource in the library. Perhaps this is what led students to rate their use of print information resources low. Therefore, it is recommended that provision of current print information resources, provision of adequate print information resources, proper organization of the resources and adequate training on how to use library catalogues will play a significant role in boosting the utilization of print information resources by LIS students in Kano state polytechnic.

In response to the awareness level of print information resources, the study revealed that Majority of Library and Information Science students were highly aware of available print information resources in their library. This might be as a result of the library's compliance with the Adeyemi and Modupe's (2013) recommendation that libraries need to create awareness among students about the services and resources that are available and how to use them.

In response to the students' access of print information resources, the study revealed that, majority of the Library and Information Science students indicated low access to the available print information resource in the library. Thus,

there is the need for such library to improve in the provision of access to its available resources in order to corroborate with what Ugah (2007) emphasized, that the more accessible information sources are, the more likely they are to be used and readers tend to use information sources that require the least effort to access.

In response to the extent to which the students use the print information resources, the study established that, majority of the Library and Information Science students rated their use of print information resources low. Therefore, polytechnic libraries should be encouraged to effectively justify the saying of Obiyan, (2011) that libraries are still responsible for acquiring and providing access to books, periodicals and other media that will meet the educational, recreational and information needs of their users.

In response to the challenges the students encounter when utilizing the print information resources, the study discovered that majority of the LIS students indicated that outdated information resources was major challenge they encounter when utilizing the print information resources. This is followed by inadequate information materials, lack of organized information resources, lack of organized information resources and locating information resources using catalogue as the least challenge encountered when utilizing the print information resources. This finding contradicts the findings of Dorsch (2011) where he identified lack of time as the major, followed by inadequate access to information sources, lack of skills, cost of information and geographical isolation as the major barriers to utilization of information resources.

Conclusion

The goal of this study was to find out awareness, access and use of print-based information resources by Library and Information Science Students in Kano State Polytechnic. The result of the data collected, analyzed shows that majority of the students were highly aware of available print information resources in their library. But there is low access to the available print information resource in the library. Therefore, provision of current and adequate print-based information resources, proper organization of such resources and adequate training on how to use them will play a significant role in boosting the utilization of print information resources by LIS students in Kano State Polytechnic.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of the research, the following recommendations are made;

1. Provision of current print information resources,
2. Provision of adequate print information resources,
3. Proper organization of the resources
4. Librarians should organize and train their users on how to find and use print information resources especially through the use of library catalogues

If these recommendations are implemented, they will play a significant role in boosting the utilization of print information resources by LIS students in Kano State Polytechnic.

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