Research Article

Usability of Library Resources by University Undergraduate Students for National Sustainability in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the usability of academic library resources by university undergraduates for national sustainability. The study employed a descriptive survey method and questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Undergraduates of the faculty of education and faculty of engineering of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma with a population of five thousand and fifty-one (5051) was selected and used in the study. The sample size of three hundred (300) was randomly selected from the total population. It was revealed from the study that the undergraduates use textbooks to very high extent. It was found from the study that lack of knowledge about the resources, lack of awareness/publicity and Lack of computer training are some of the major challenges militating against undergraduates' use of library resources. The study therefore recommended that university management should organize at regular interval seminar and workshop to sensitize the students on the need to imbibe the habit of constantly utilizing the library resources not only to pass examination but also for self-development in the area of knowledge and skills acquisition that will enable them contribute their quota to national sustainability.

Introduction

Sustainability of any organisation, businesses and institutions to a large extent depend on the availability, accessibility and usability of information. Information is key national sustainability. A library has been defined as a repository of knowledge and librarians are custodians of these knowledge carrying resources. 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 (Abosede and Ibikule, 2011). The academic library is established to support academic activities and enhance teaching-learning and research undertakings consistent with university objectives. Frumkin and Reese (2011) summarized the role of the university library in acquiring and disseminating information resources as a vital responsibility. The primary function of university library includes collection, organization, preservation, and delivery of information resources to the users (Onye, 2016). Onye (2016) further emphasized that academic library serves as an important role in sustaining the primary functions of research and scholarship of higher education. Besides the traditional way of providing access to knowledge, library also offers a congenial ambience as a meeting place that allows users to complete their assignments, undertake their individual projects or revise their studies. As such, the value of the academic library in institutions of higher learning is well-established.

According to Thangapandy (2014), Library resources determine the effectiveness of the library services and operations of an educational institution. The academic libraries should have considerable role to play in teaching, learning and research process. They have also been considered as valued part of the social system. They have been looked upon as a vital factor contributing to research and academic studies. Over the periods library professionals have invented various methods in knowledge management, quality measurement for both conventional and new form of knowledge. Thangapandy further posits that even though academic library users turn in digital world with fast access to the core body of knowledge. Academic librarians' roles have been altered due to changes in the society, many new developments and transfiguring educational environment, introduced by information and communication technologies. They play imperative roles in the changing new environment. To carry on as an institution and to uphold its values of access to high quality information, service, and preservation, the library must consider how to remain trusted and essential in a fast evolving environment while controlling costs. Librarians should volunteer to cooperate not only as a library professional but also with experts in other fields such as information technology, computer architecture. Their

leadership must provide an encouraging environment for appealing with knowledgeable information in all its forms.

Utilization of information depends on the information resources available in the library and also accessible to the student. The condition implies that availability and accessibility must be satisfied for utilization to be achieved. The mere acquisition of information resources by a library does not translate into accessibility. Granting access to library information resources requires a series of protocols (cataloging, indexing, etc.) to ensure that users can identify and locate the resources (Abdulsalami, Nwachukwu and Salami, 2014). It is also important for libraries to consider user-needs during the acquisition stage of information resources to maintain relevance (Aguolu and Aguolu, 2002). A well set educational system relies on the access and use of library resources and services. Libraries in academic institutions are offering information and knowledge sources for learning and teaching process. It also supports and encourages implementing innovative method of learning and teaching process. There were various researches conducted to study the library use by the staff and students of academic institutions (Thangapandy, 2014). Higher institutions of learning are established to provide the professional training for high-level jobs as well as the education necessary for the development of the personality. Students of all field of study need knowledge for sustainability and universities helps in providing knowledge and skills needed for informed decision making and meet the challenges of sustainable development. Academic libraries irrespective of size are expected to make adequate information resources available and accessible to support the universities in providing knowledge and skills needed for informed decision making and sustainable development.

Statement of the problem
Academic libraries main objectives are to select, acquire, process, store and distribute information resources to aid effective teaching, learning and research of both staff and students of the parent institution. This represents an important link in the development and acquisition of knowledge. Knowledge is vital for national development and sustainability. Academics need various kinds of information materials to impact knowledge to students. Students, on the other hand, need various kinds of information resources to acquire knowledge and become a better person in the future. Knowing full well that knowledge is power. Academic library therefore is mandated to make available different kinds of information materials to facilitate effective and efficient utilization of the library by the students. Basically, utilization of the library by thee students to a large extent make the students to be well informed and knowledgeable irrespective of the field of study. Information resources usability is key to knowledge acquisition. Students are

the future leaders of any nation. They need access to adequate information to acquire the desire knowledge needed for national development and sustainability because without information nobody or nation has a future. It is against this background that this study attempts to examine the usability of academic library resources by university undergraduates for national sustainability in Nigeria.

Objective of the study
i. find out the extent information resources usage by undergraduates will facilitate national sustainability.
ii. Identify the purpose of information resources usage by undergraduates
iii. Identify the challenges militating against undergraduates' effective use of information resources for national sustainability.

Research Questions
The following research questions are raised for this study
i. What is the extent information resources usability by undergraduates facilitate national sustainability?
ii. What is the purpose of information resources usage by undergraduates?
iii. What are the challenges militating against undergraduates' effective use of information resources for national sustainability?

Review of Related Literature
The information resources in libraries serve different purposes that are in line with the objectives of establishing the University. Therefore, the school library helps the University to achieve the goals and objectives of higher education in making an information literate society. Because charity begins at home, the information literate society espoused here can be narrowed down to the student and University environment. Literarily, information resources include, but are not limited to, print and non-print materials resources (Onye, 2016). The University library has been regarded as the academic heart of the academic Community with essential functions to provide students, students, and entire school Community an enabling environment that supports higher education objectives. Without the information resources provided by the library, teaching, learning, research and other reasons for using library resources will lack requisite support. The libraries are the heart of the university. The library is the barometer for measuring University performance. Therefore, for the library to be relevant to higher education objectives, its functions of information delivery must be executed efficiently and timely (Abdulsalami, Nwachukwu and Salami, 2014). The library is significant to the

academic performance from both student-learner and faculty-teacher perspectives (Popoola and Haliso, 2009).

Utilization of information resources
Library resources determine the effectiveness of the library services and operations of an educational institution. The academic libraries should have considerable role to play in teaching, learning and research process. They have also been considered as valued part of the social system. They have been looked upon as a vital factor contributing to research and academic studies. Over the periods library professionals have invented various methods in knowledge management, quality measurement for both conventional and new form of knowledge. Academic librarians' roles have been altered due to changes in the society, many new developments and transfiguring educational environment, introduced by information and communication technologies. They play imperative roles in the changing new environment. Okello, Obura and Magara (2008) investigate that users derived a lot of benefits from electronic resources gaining access to a wider range of information and improved academic performance as a result of access to quality information. In fact, the possibilities of users locating a physical place called the library that provides information resources justify the library as a place. A library is a place where users visit with the primary intent to consume information. For students, the library is pivotal to academic performance and sustainable national development through utilization of information resources.

The library is therefore, every student to utilize information resources available and accessible to develop analytically in conjunction with classroom instructions in a self-passed capacity. The library should be treated as a laboratory of information necessary and capable of taking classroom instruction to higher levels if adequately utilized by students, researchers, and faculty. Just as it's impossible for scientists to function without a laboratory, the academic library is indispensable to teaching-learning process of students, researchers, teachers, and the entire university community. Students need information resources in the library that can be applied practically to their needs and enrich their knowledge. When it comes to the use of information resources of the library by users, availability and accessibility must be guaranteed before considering utilization. This is based on the premise that since library occupies space, its resources must exist within the said space it occupies (Onye, 2016). According to Ogbebor (2011), information resources help students in planning and implementing of learning programs that will equip students with the skills necessary to succeed in a constantly changing social and economic environment.

Challenges militating against effective use of information resources

Fagbola, Uzoigwe and Ajegbomogun (2011) identified inadequate operational human resources, library staff apathy towards work, poor funding, poor/unreliable public power supply and lack of maintenance culture affect access to information resources in Nigerian colleges of education libraries. Adeoye and Popoola (2011) indicated that a library user may encounter five possible types of inaccessible problems. These are conceptual, linguistic, critical, bibliographic and physical inaccessibility. Olowu (2004) identified natural and artificial barriers to free access to information. The library's poor reputation was attributed to lack of accessibility of information sources. In a similar study by Oyediran-Tidings (2004) at Yaba College of technology, Lagos, low use of the library by student were observed. This was attributed to expressed accessibility problems. This study also addressed the problems holistically by investigating problems associated with awareness, availability and accessibility of information resources are not fully utilized. There are number of obstacles to use information resources such as lack of IT infrastructure, lack of awareness and poor skills are among the primary reasons for their underutilization. Lack of knowledge about the resources, lack of publicity, insufficient time to use the services and lack of computer training coupled with an inadequate training to use on-line resources and services were other reasons that contribute to the low usage. The usage of Information Resources depends on variety of factors, such as information searching skills, training and awareness. Information retrieving skills of users are acquired through a variety of ways. Especially in the academic environment, an improved liaison between academic staff and library is likely to increase their knowledge of library resources, which could consequentially lead to high increased usage of Electronic Information Resources by the students.

Methodology

This study will employ a descriptive survey design to investigate the usability of academic library resources by university undergraduates for national sustainability. A descriptive design would be considered appropriate because it studies both large and small population by selecting and studying samples chosen from the population to discover the relative incidence and distribution. Descriptive research is devoted to the gathering of information about prevailing conditions or situations for the purpose of description and interpretation. This type of research method is not simply amassing and tabulating facts but includes proper analyses, interpretation, comparisons, identification of trends and relationships. It will give the current state of the availability and accessibility to library resources as factors for library use by undergraduates. The population of this study consists of all the undergraduates of the faculty of Education

and Faculty of Engineering of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. This cut across 100 to 400 levels. There are a total of five thousand and fifty-one (5051) undergraduate students of the Faculties of Education and Engineering, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. The sample size of three hundred (300) was randomly selected from the total population of five thousand and fifty-one (5051) undergraduate students of the Faculties of Education and Engineering, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. The principle of Simple random sampling technique is to give everybody in the population a chance to be part of the sample. This study employed the questionnaire method of data collection. The researcher constructed the questionnaire. The questionnaire entitled "The Usability of Library Resources by University Undergraduates for National Sustainability. Questionnaire (ULRUSNSQ)" will be used in this study. The questionnaire is made up of two parts. The first consists of biographical data of the respondents such as categories of respondents, level, age and gender. The second part consists of three sections that contained structured statements aimed at eliciting data on the Usability of Library Resources by University Undergraduates for National Sustainability. The data obtained from the copies of questionnaire retrieved from the respondents was analysed using simple percentage, frequency count and mean for the research questions. The formula for the analysis is presented as follows:

$$\frac{\text{No of Responses}}{\text{Total No Respondents}} * \frac{100}{1}$$

Result and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Analysis of Returned and Unreturned Questionnaire

Returned / Unreturned Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No. of Returned Questionnaire	191	69.45
No. of Unreturned Questionnaire	84	30.55
Total	**275**	**100**

Table 2: Level of Study

Extent	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
100	18	9.42
200	40	20.94
300	30	15.71
400	80	41.88
500	23	12.64
Total	**191**	**100**

From Table 2, 18 respondents representing 9.42% are in 100 extents, 40 respondents representing 20.94% are in 200 extents, 30 respondents representing 15.71% are in 300 extents, 80 respondents representing 41.88% are in 400 extents while 23 respondents representing 12.64% are in 500 extents.

Table3: Gender of Respondents

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	105	54.97
Female	86	45.03
Total	191	100

Table 3, shows 105 respondents representing 54.97% are Male respondents while 86 respondents representing 45.03% are Female respondents. This indicates that the Male students are more than the Female students

Table4: **Extent information resources usability by undergraduates facilitate national   sustainability**

Items	VHE		HE		LE		VLE		Mean(ẍ)
Text Books	100	52.36%	50	26.18%	21	10.99%	20	10.47%	3.20
Newspapers	40	20.94%	52	27.23%	74	38.74%	25	13.09%	2.56
Scholarly Journals	20	10.47%	60	31.41%	61	31.94%	50	26.18%	2.26
Magazines	14	7.33%	30	15.71%	100	52.36%	47	24.61%	2.06
Reference Material	55	28.79%	70	36.65%	30	15.71%	36	18.85%	2.75
Past Project	111	58.12%	40	20.94%	19	9.95%	21	10.99%	3.26
Government Publication	16	8.38%	60	31.41%	40	20.94%	75	39.27%	2.09
Bulletins/ Prospectus	90	47.12%	55	28.79%	20	10.47%	26	13.61%	3.09
Electronic Resources	50	26.18%	85	44.50%	56	29.31%	41	21.47%	3.18
Online databases	65	34.03%	75	39.26%	15	7.85%	30	15.71%	2.85
Dissertations/ Thesis	11	5.76%	36	18.85%	100	52.36%	44	21.47%	2.07
Grand Mean									**2.67**

Criterion mean = 2.50, VHE=Very High Extent, HE=High Extent, LE=Low Extent, VLE=Very Low Extent

Table 4 shows the extent of use of information resources by Undergraduate students in Ambrose Alli Library, Ekpoma. 100(52.36%) uses Text Books, to a Very high extent, 20(10.47%) indicated very low extent. 52(27.23%) uses Newspapers to a high extent, 25(13.09%) indicated very low extent. 60(31.41%) uses Scholarly Journals to a high extent, 50 (26.18%) indicated very low extent. 30 (15.71%) uses Magazines to a high extent, 47 (24.61%) develop very low extent. 70 (36.65%) had high extent uses to Reference Materials, 30 (15.71%) had low extent.111 (58.12%) had very high extent uses to Past Project,19 (9.95%) had low extent. 60(31.41%) has high extent uses to Government Publications, 40 (20.94%) develop low extent.90 (47.12%) had high extent uses to Bulletins/Prospectus, 20 (10.47%) had low extent. 85 (44.50%) had high extent uses to Electronic- Resources, 41 (21.47%) had very low extent. 75 (39.26%) had high extent uses to Online Databases, 15(5.23%) had low extent. 36 (18.85%) had high extent uses to Dissertations/ Thesis, 44 (21.47%) had low extent. Hence the grand mean is 2.67.

Table 5: Purpose of Use of Information Resources

Purpose of Use	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Disagreed		Strongly Disagreed		Mean(ẍ)
Examination	100	52.36%	50	26.18%	21	10.99%	20	10.47%	3.20
For personal research	65	34.03%	70	36.64%	30	15.71%	26	13.61%	2.87
For my Assignment	70	36.65%	61	31.93%	20	10.47%	40	20.94%	284
For current awareness	45	23.56%	85	44.50%	31	16.23%	30	15.71%	2.76
To prepare for seminar	68	35.60%	90	47.12%	10	5.23%	23	12.04%	3.06
For personal development	41	21.47%	100	52.36%	40	20.94%	10	5.23%	2.90
For recreational activities	15	7.85%	15	7.85%	85	44.50%	76	39.79%	1.84
Grand Mean									**2.78**

Criterion mean = 2.50

Table 5 shows the purposes of use of library by undergraduates in Ambrose Ali University Ekpoma. It is evident from the table that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that one of purpose of use of library by undergraduates in Ambrose Ali University is for examination with (52.36%), respondents also strongly agreed that personal research

Table 6: Challenges militating against undergraduates' effective use of information   resources for national sustainability

Challenges	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Disagreed		Strongly Disagreed		Mean(ẍ)
Inadequate operational human resources	97	50.78%	60	31.41%	30	15.71%	4	2.09%	3.15
Library staff apathy towards work	70	36.65%	40	20.94%	61	31.94%	20	10.47%	2.84
Poor funding	55	28.79%	61	31.94%	39	20.41%	36	18.85%	2.71
Poor/ unreliable public power supply	60	%31.41	90	47.12%	10	5.23%	31	16.23%	2.94
Insufficient time to use the service	45	23.56%	75	39.27%	31	16.23%	46	24.08%	2.69
Lack of awareness/publicity	109	57.0%	40	20.94%	22	11.51%	20	10.47%	3.25
Lack of knowledge about the resources	112	58.64%	55	28.79%	15	7.85%	9	4.71%	3.41
Inadequate training to use online resources and services	58	30.37%	72	37.69%	28	14.66%	33	17.28%	2.81
Lack of information search skills	95	49.7%	25	13.08%	25	13.08%	46	24.08%	2.88
Lack of computer training	100	52.36%	51	26.70%	25	13.09%	15	7.85%	3.24
Grand Mean									2.99

Criterion mean = 2.50

is another purpose for use of library (36.64%). It was also found that majority of the respondent agreed that one of the purpose they use the library is to prepare for seminar (47.12%). Therefore, from the analysis, the highest average mean ($\bar{x}$) is 3.66 shows that respondents strongly agreed that Examination is the reason they use the library. Hence the grand mean is 2.78

Table 6 shows challenges militating against undergraduates' student's effective use of Ambrose Alli University Library, Ekpoma. It is evident from the table that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that Lack of knowledge about the resources is a challenges (58.64%), respondents also strongly agreed that Lack of awareness/publicity is also a challenge (57.0%). It was also found that majority of the respondent Strongly Agreed that Lack of computer training is also challenges militating against the use of library (52.36%). Therefore, from the analysis, the highest average mean ($\bar{x}$) is 3.41 shows that respondents strongly agreed that lack of knowledge about the resources is a challenge militating against the use of library by undergraduate students in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma. Hence, the grand mean is 2.99.

Discussion of findings

Findings revealed that the undergraduates use textbooks to very high extent. This corroborates with the findings of Ladoke Akintola University, Ogbomoso by Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) who found that undergraduates have more accessibility and use of library resources in the institution. It further corresponds with the findings of Kumar, Singh and Yadave (2011) who asserted that access to the right information is a difficult task because information is abundant, but users do not know whether it is available and where to locate it". Therefore, librarians must ensure maximum utilization of the few resources the library acquires to justify the cost in acquiring them.

Findings revealed that the undergraduates use information resources for examinations purpose. This is in congruence with the findings of Pradham (2004) who stated that one of the objectives of a university is to encourage acquisition of knowledge, that is, to encourage and promote scholarship and research in all fields of learning and human endeavour and library provide information resources to actualise the objectives of the university.

Findings from the study also found that lack of knowledge about the resources, lack of awareness/publicity and Lack of computer training are some of the major challenges militating against undergraduates use of library resources. This agrees with the findings

of Fagbola, Uzoigwe and Ajegbomogun (2011) who identified inadequate operational human resources, library staff apathy towards work, poor funding, poor/unreliable public power supply and lack of maintenance culture affect access to information resources in Nigerian colleges of education libraries. In a related development, Adeoye and Popoola (2011) indicated that a library user may encounter five possible types of inaccessible problems. These are conceptual, linguistic, critical, bibliographic and physical inaccessibility.

Conclusion

We are living in era of information and knowledge explosion. Access to the unprecedented growth of information and knowledge to a large extent will tremendously enhance national sustainability. There is no doubt that the usability of information resources for undergraduate students' academic performance has helped to enhance the general academic performance of undergraduate students in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. Libraries are the repositories of knowledge and integral part of education. It was found from the study that undergraduates use textbooks to very high extent to acquire the adequate information. The library acquires, process, organised information resources in any format to enable the undergraduates read to pass examination in order to become better citizens. Lack of knowledge, Lack of awareness/publicity and Lack of computer training are some of the major challenges militating against undergraduates' use of library resources to acquire adequate information and knowledge that would enable them contributes meaningfully to national sustainability.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were stated as follows.
1. The university management should give the library management the necessary support to create massive awareness/publicity on the availability of information resources in the library for undergraduates' usage to enable them acquire adequate information that will enhance their contribution to national sustainability.
2. The university management should organize at regular interval seminar and workshop to sensitize the students on the need to imbibe the habit of constantly utilizing the library resources not only to pass examination but also for self-development in the area of knowledge and skills acquisition that will enable them contribute their quota to national sustainability.

3. The university management should ensure that the use of computer as a course should be made compulsory to all first year undergraduate students in all the departments and faculties of the university to enable them acquire computer skills and knowledge to access the library electronic resources for adequate information and knowledge that will propel them make meaningful contributions to national sustainability.

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